Ancient Egyptian Culture

SECTION 4

Social Classes

_ helps us learn about Egyptian society

- Most people were busy and hard-working, still had a sense of fun and beauty
- Social classes like a pyramid
 - 1. ____
 - 2. Small upper class- priests, nobles, members of court
 - 3. middle class- merchants, artisans
 - 4. peasants- _____-- farmers, builders, etc
- You could rise classes (or lower classes)

- Slavery
 - Separate class, not large
 - Slaves had rights- could own personal items, inherit land from masters, and be

- Lives of the Peasants
 - Could own land, but usually
 - During flood season, worked on roads, temples, etc
 - When floods passed, _____ began quickly
 - Harvest was very busy
 - Sunrise to sunset- men women and children
 - When harvest was complete, time to feast to the gods

- Women of Egypt
 - Looked as living models of
 - Pretty much ______ to men
 - Noble women were very important
 - In charge of temples
 - Influenced the pharaoh
 - Were often regents

Writing in Ancient Egypt

• A New System of Writing

- picture-like

symbols

- Some pictures represent things or ideas (2 legs = go)
- Others represent sounds (owl = "m")
- Hieroglyphics began in order to track

– As the empire grew, so did the # of hieroglyphs

Writing in Ancient Egypt

- Writing Materials
 - At 1st- wrote on clay

Writing in Ancient Egypt

- Unlocking a Mystery
 - After 400s AD- hieroglyphic meaning lost
 - 1799- soldier digging fort near Nile- found large black stone w/ 3 writings- hieroglyphics, demotic (a later Egyptian script), Greek
 - All three writings had the same meaning- tried to break the code
 - 1820s- Francois Champollion figured it out

Science and Medicine

- Keeping Track of Time
 - Time important for
 - Nile flooded when they saw Sirius- dog starbefore sunrise

(scientists who

study the stars and other objects)

 Figured time between star sightings- 365 daysbecame their year

Science and Medicine

- Mathematics
 - They could add, subtract, multiply, and divide
 - Simple
 - Measured stones to be cut for pyramids

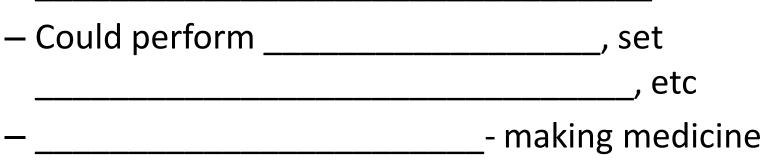
to measure area for

property tax

Science and Medicine

• Medicine

- Religion and medicine related- priests tried to



from plants

- For stomach aches, headaches, fevers, etc
- Written on papyrus, used later by Greeks and Romans