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 1<sup>st</sup>- 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

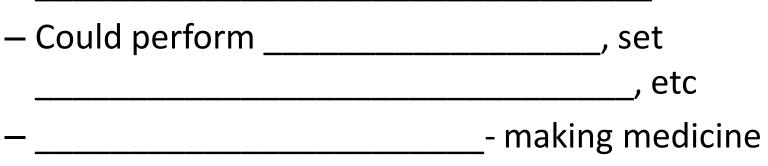
to measure area for

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