

## The Daily Life of Ancient Egyptians

1. The domestication of plants and animals was one of the most influential developments in human history. Wheat and barley were Egypt's two staple crops. How did the domestication and harvest of these two crops lead to the development of a complex society in Egypt?
2. While most rivers flow from north to south, the Nile River flows from south to north, and it floods during the months of August and September. Egyptian agriculture depends on the Nile's flood cycle. What technological innovations were used to counteract the river's fluctuations?
3. Egypt's Old Kingdom suffered a drastic decline some 4,000 years ago, after approximately 500 years of prosperity. Chaos ensued in the form of war, disease, and famine. Since there are no written records of the decline of the Old Kingdom, one must search for answers through archaeology. What archaeological evidence indicates that Mendes suffered a catastrophic end? What does the fall of Mendes reveal about the collapse of the Old Kingdom?
4. The Egyptologist Dr. Donald Redford uncovered an Old Kingdom temple in Mendes that was destroyed by a fire. Below the layer of ash, Dr. Redford came across the remains of three individuals lying side by side in contorted positions. What are the implications of these findings?

5. Makeup played an important role in Egyptian daily life. Poor and rich individuals of both sexes wore makeup. What were the practical and cultural functions of makeup in ancient Egyptian society? What role does makeup play in today's Western society?
  
6. Egyptian women experienced legal equality as far back as 2700 BCE. What were some of the benefits Egyptian women enjoyed, and what were some of the duties Egyptian women had to carry out? Compare the benefits and duties that ancient Egyptian women had with the benefits and duties shared by Egyptian men.
  
7. According to the Egyptologist Dr. Lesko, "the Egyptian woman, who was regarded by her state as a fully independent legal personality, had more legal rights than some women in the United States up until the 1950s." Do you agree with this statement? Support your argument with specific examples.
  
8. Marriage and family played an important role in ancient Egyptian society. Describe the significance of marriage to the average Egyptian. What was the accepted opinion of divorce? How is the ancient Egyptian institution of marriage different from concepts of marriage in Ancient Greece and Rome, or even in modern Western societies?

9. Analyze in detail the spatial pattern of an Egyptian residential site. How is an Egyptologist able to recognize a kitchen space, a bedroom area, or a common living quarter inside an ancient Egyptian residential site?

10. Why are ancient rubbish dumps so important to archaeologists? What types of artifacts can an archaeologist typically find inside ancient Egyptian garbage?

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# Women in Ancient Egypt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Using Chapter Two from *Echoes from the Past: World History to the 16th Century*, fill in the following diagram.

