

# Seven Aspects of a Civilization

<p><b>Cities &amp; Food Supply</b></p>	<p>One of the most <u>important</u> basic needs of a civilization is a <u>stable</u> food supply. Ancient Egypt <u>depended</u> on the Nile River for a steady food supply. The Nile <u>irrigated</u> the Egyptian's crops so the peasants and <u>farmers</u> were able to make sure that the crops were <u>maintained</u> and made into food. The Egyptians grew crops such as <u>wheat</u>, barley, vegetables, <u>figs</u>, melons, pomegranates and flax. Flax was turned into <u>linen</u> and used to make clothes. The most important crop was grain, which was used to make <u>bread</u>, porridge and <u>beer</u>.</p>
<p><b>Social Class &amp; Job Specialization</b></p>	<p>The ancient Egyptians believed that their social <u>pyramid</u> kept their civilization <u>organized</u>. The social structure of ancient Egypt consisted of <u>7</u> main classes: <u>peasants</u>, artisans, scribes, <u>priests</u>, government officials, and the <u>pharaoh</u>. Artisans worked as sculptures, <u>architects</u>, and artists. It was the <u>scribes</u> job to record important events on <u>papyrus</u> scrolls. Government officials helped the pharaoh with the task of <u>running</u> the empire. Pharaohs were the <u>rulers</u> of Egypt and were in charge of pleasing the gods and making the <u>laws</u> for all citizens to follow.</p>
<p><b>Government &amp; Public Works</b></p>	<p><u>Pharaohs</u> were the leaders of ancient Egypt. Pharaohs often <u>inherited</u> their position from their <u>father</u> because ancient Egypt was a <u>dynasty</u>. A dynasty is where leadership is <u>passed</u> down from generation to <u>generation</u>. The most important government officials were called <u>viziers</u>. Viziers advised the pharaoh and served as <u>judges</u>. Below them were the chief <u>treasurer</u> and army <u>general</u>. The treasurers oversaw the <u>wealth</u> of Egypt and their main job was to collect <u>taxes</u>. The generals obviously <u>controlled</u> the armies and <u>advised</u> the pharaoh with the security and <u>military</u> campaigns. They all helped <u>enforce</u> laws made by the pharaoh.</p>
<p><b>Technology &amp; Contributions</b></p>	<p>Peasants used many <u>advanced</u> tools to help them in the fields. To <u>soften</u> the ground they used a <u>plow</u> pulled by cattle. A second person would follow behind and <u>scatter</u> seeds in the loose soil. When <u>harvest</u> season started they would use <u>sickles</u> to cut down tall stalks of grain. The Egyptians created a kind of <u>paper</u> called <u>papyrus</u> out of a common plant that grew near the banks of the <u>Nile</u>. Kush learned to make <u>iron</u> weapons because they had many rich iron <u>deposits</u> and enough wood for <u>charcoal</u>.</p>
<p><b>Culture, Art &amp; Architecture</b></p>	<p><u>Artisans</u> created beautiful art of the Egyptians. This included <u>tomb</u> paintings, jewelry, stone <u>carving</u> and many other types of artwork. When the Nile flooded it's banks, the peasants and farmers were instructed to help with the pharaohs massive <u>building</u> projects. The Egyptians were known for making distinct 2-<u>dimensional</u> paintings where their <u>body</u> and <u>eye</u> was shown straight on and their <u>legs</u>, arms and <u>head</u> were show from the side or in profile view. They painted scenes of <u>everyday</u> life, along with important events and <u>war</u>s.</p>
<p><b>Complex Religion &amp; Beliefs</b></p>	<p><u>Religion</u> in ancient Egypt was a part of everybody's life on every level of the social pyramid. The religion of ancient Egypt was <u>polytheistic</u>. They worshiped many gods, and even believed that the <u>pharaohs</u> were chosen by the gods to rule. They even believed the pharaohs were <u>gods</u> themselves. This was because the Egyptians believed that there was an <u>after life</u>. They <u>embalmed</u> bodies of the wealthier people or anyone who could afford it so that they may live on after their death. When pharaohs died, their bodies were preserved through <u>mummification</u> in order for them to live on in the after life.</p>
<p><b>Writing System &amp; Communication</b></p>	<p>The Egyptians wrote in a language that used <u>symbols</u> and <u>characters</u> instead of using letters like in an <u>alphabet</u>. Egyptians created a writing system called <u>hieroglyphics</u>. This language had over <u>700</u> characters. <u>Scribes</u> spent many years learning how to read and write hieroglyphics. Over time, the knowledge of how to read and write hieroglyphics was <u>lost</u> after the <u>Romans</u> conquered Egypt. The key to deciphering hieroglyphics was the discovery of the <u>Rosetta</u> Stone. This artifact was discovered in 1799 and had the same text carved on a stone in three different languages; <u>hieroglyphics</u>, demotic, and <u>Greek</u>.</p>