Goal: To explore the various elements of ancient civilizations of the Near East

Objectives:

- Understand the history of ancient Egypt and the Near East.
- Examine the importance of Mesopotamia as the cradle of civilization.
- Describe the importance of the Tigris, Euphrates, and the Nile Rivers.
- Examine the development of writing.
- Recognize the gallery of Egyptian Gods
- Briefly outline the steps for mummification.
- Explain the conventions of Egyptian Art.
- Investigate the mystery of the Egyptian Hieroglyphics.
- Describe civilizations such as the Hittites, Canaanites, Phoenicians, and the Israelites.
**Geography**

- **Nile River Valley:**
  - Two main tributaries: Blue (Ethiopia) and White Nile
  - Blue Nile fed by monsoon rains
  - Flooded annually (July-October)
  - Flooding predictable, planting and harvest coincided with the inundation.

- **Nile Delta:**
  - At the mouth of the Nile where it empties into the Mediterranean.
  - Largest cultivatable land
  - The large Egyptian centres were located here.

- **The Faiyum:**
  - The oasis that surrounded Lake Moeris
  - The third largest cultivatable area
  - Extensive irrigation was used in this area.
Delta & Faiyum

EGYPT

Rosetta
Alexandria
Sais
thekratis
Buto
Tanis
Qantir
Giza
Heliopolis
Cairo
Memphis
Faiyum
Bahariya
Herakleopolis

DELTA & FAIYUM
Geography

Desert:
- Flanked the Nile on both sides (Eastern & Western Deserts)
- Protected the Nile from external influence
- Isolationism resulted in a conservative and stable society
- Desert also provided resources: copper, gold, tin, alabaster (gypsum-like), limestone, amethyst and natron (sodium carbonate)

The Mediterranean:
- An essential point for the im/export of goods and culture
Before Unification

- Before 3100 BCE, Egypt was divided into two:
  - Lower Egypt which was the delta region—red crown
  - Upper Egypt—white crown
OLD KINGDOM - KING MENES (NARMER) & HEIRS

- Two kingdoms first united between 3100 and 2700 BCE
- Double crown symbolized the unification
- King Menes et al. had absolute rule in Egypt
- King Menes was deified and supreme ruler of all secular and religious affairs.
- Period known for pyramid building
Old Kingdom - 4th Dynasty Golden Age

- Old Kingdom peaked in the 4th Dynasty.
- Achieved by extensive trade in the Mediterranean
- Copper (Sinai), Timber (Syria), Wine & Oil (Crete), and the Potter’s Wheel (Mesopotamia)
- Pyramids @ Giza built (2600-2500 BCE)
- Built by Khufu (Cheops), Khafre, and Menkure.
**First Intermediate Period - ca. 2200 BCE**

- Towards the end of the Old Kingdom, local and provincial powers became more powerful.
- Internal struggles of power became a problem.
- This led to civil wars.
- Drought and led to fail crops and then famine.
- Resulted in 150 years of chaos: aka the First Intermediate Period.
Egypt reunited by Theban kings by 2050 BCE.
Theban monarchs ruled for 250 years.
Centre was Thebes, then moved into Memphis
Their chosen god was Amon
Amon was combined with Ra to become Amon-Ra (Egypt’s national god)

Middle Kingdom was a period of territorial and economic expansion (Libya, Palestine, and Nubia)
Amenemhat I credited with conquering Nubia and moving the capital to Memphis from Thebes
Second Intermediate Period - ca. 1786-1567 BCE

- Hyksos invasion
  - From Syria and Palestine
  - War-like people (What does this mean? Is this biased?)
  - Conquered with the use of superior technology: bows, horse-drawn chariots, and bronze weapons.
- The Hyksos took over for two dynasties (150 years)
- They were driven out with their own weapons.
New Kingdom - The Golden Age

- Characterized by empire building, fine works of art and larger than life leaders.
- Hatshepsut - powerful female leader
  - Husband Thutmose II died, step-son too young to rule, so she assumed the throne.
  - Her statues have false beards to show power.
  - She reestablished trading routes disrupted by the Hyksos
  - Building projects: 2 obelisks @ the Temple of Karnak, the Red Chapel
  - Her reign was known for peace, stability, and prosperity.
- She was replaced by her stepson Thutmose III
New Kingdom - The Golden Age

- Thutmose III - Egypt’s Napoleon
  - Credited with creating the largest Egyptian empire
  - Controlled Anatolia, Syria, and parts of Mesopotamia.
  - They paid tribute
  - His reign was known for the conquest of Egypt’s neighbours.
  - He was succeeded by Amenhotep
Amarna Period - Religion Reform

- Amenhotep - later Akhenaton
- His wife was Nefertiti
- Started a religious revolution
- Disliked the worship of Amon-Ra
- Replaced Amon-Ra with Aton - the Sun Disk
- Non-Aton temples were closed
- Capital moved to Akhetaton
- The new “cult” was monetheistic

- Akhenaton was preoccupied with his new religion and neglected his empire.
- His empire was weak and began to crumble
- Thus starts the decline of the Egyptian empire, with which he is credited
- He is succeeded by the famous boy king
Religious Restoration

- Tutankhamon
  - Started his reign at the age of 8/9
  - Died @ 18
  - He destroyed the Aton cult and restored traditional religion
  - He is better known for the wealth in his tomb.
New Kingdom Pharaoh Timeline
Late Dynasty

- After the New Kingdom was the weakening end of the Egyptian empire.
- The 19th and 20th Dynasties
- Notable King was Ramses II
  - Reigned for 62 years
  - Lots of buildings built (eg. Abu Simbel)
  - Defaced many building in an attempt to erase the Amarna Period from history
  - Took part in one of the first peace treaties (with Kadesh)
**Egyptian Beliefs**

- Simple society = simple worship
  - i.e. nature deities: animals
- Complex society = complex worship
  - i.e. anthropomorphic deities: animal attributes with human bodies
- Animals were used for their characteristics:
  - hawks/falcons = swiftness; crocodiles = fear;
  - ichneumon = ferocity; dog/cat = loyalty
What is *ka*?

What is *ba*?

What is *akh*?

What is *maat*?
The After Life

How do Egyptians view the afterlife?

How is a deceased Egyptian prepared for the afterlife? (two things)

What is dessication?
**Mastabas**

Flat-roofed tombs intended to imitate palace facades.

Mastabas on top each other produced the Step Pyramid of Saqqara.

The Step Pyramid led to the regular pyramid.
Duamutef, the jackal-headed god representing the east, whose jar contained the stomach and was protected by the goddess Neith.

Qebehsenuef, the falcon-headed god representing the west, whose jar contained the intestines and was protected by the goddess Selket.

Hapi, the baboon-headed god representing the north, whose jar contained the lungs and was protected by the goddess Nephthys.

Imseti, the human-headed god representing the south, whose jar contained the liver and was protected by the goddess Isis.
Pharaohs moved away from Pyramid building because it invited grave robbers.

Burial valleys were started at Luxor.
Does this work exhibit the conventions of Egyptian art?
Egyptian Trade

- The New Kingdom had a vast trading network: (where?)

- What are some examples of the goods they traded?