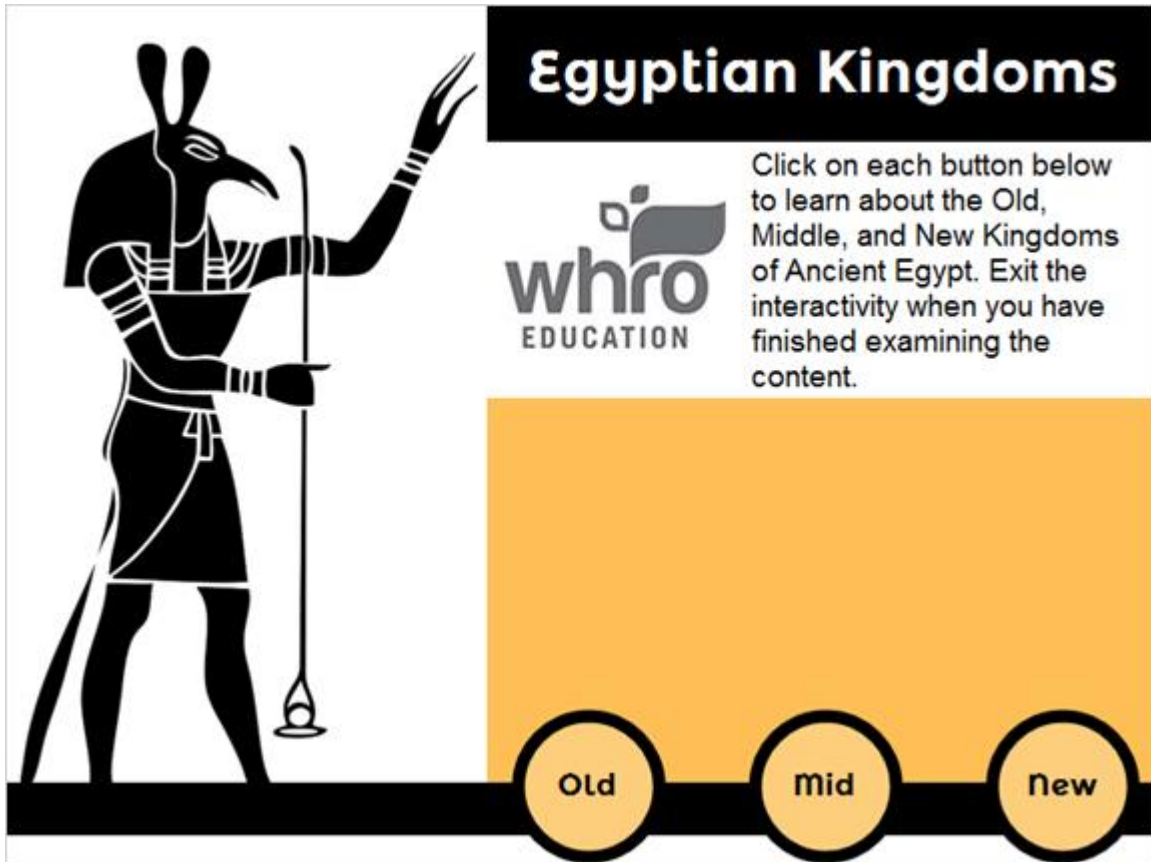


Module 2: Ancient River Valley Civilizations

Topic 2 Content: Egyptian Kingdoms

Introduction



The graphic features a stylized black silhouette of an Egyptian deity with a falcon head and a crocodile body, holding a staff. To the right, a black banner contains the title "Egyptian Kingdoms". Below the banner is the "whro EDUCATION" logo and a block of instructional text. At the bottom, three yellow circular buttons labeled "Old", "Mid", and "New" are set against a yellow background.

Egyptian Kingdoms

whro
EDUCATION

Click on each button below to learn about the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms of Ancient Egypt. Exit the interactivity when you have finished examining the content.

Old Mid New

Click on the buttons below to learn about the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms of Ancient Egypt. Exit the interactivity when you have finished examining the content.

Module 2: Ancient River Valley Civilizations

Topic 2 Content: Egyptian Kingdoms

Old Kingdom



Old Kingdom

2700 – 2200 B.C. (B.C.E)

Building, art, and technology

Bureaucracy led by vizier

Regional governors challenged pharaoh

Old Mid New


Image: The Great Pyramid at Giza

The Old Kingdom lasted from about 2700 until 2200 B.C. (B.C.E.). Advancements in agriculture during this time allowed for increased building, art, and technology. Major construction projects, like the Great Pyramid at Giza, were built during the Old Kingdom. The pharaoh was assisted in government duties by a large bureaucracy, or an aspect of government where decisions are made by non-elected state officials who handle the daily functions of running a government. The bureaucracy was led by a steward called the vizier, who answered only to the pharaoh. The Old Kingdom collapsed when regional governors challenged the authority of the pharaoh and the country experienced extreme drought.

Module 2: Ancient River Valley Civilizations

Topic 2 Content: Egyptian Kingdoms

Middle Kingdom



Middle Kingdom

2050 – 1652 B.C. (B.C.E)

Period of stability, expansion, and trade

Public works, art, architecture, and agriculture flourished

Hyksos seized control and brought new weapons and technologies

Old Mid New

Image: Statue of Pharaoh Mentuhotep II

After an intermediate period, the Middle Kingdom began around 2050 B.C. (B.C.E.) and lasted until 1652 B.C. (B.C.E.). The Middle Kingdom was a period of stability after a new ruling dynasty gained control of Egypt. Due to the strength that comes from stability, Egypt was able to expand its lands and increase trade with other cultures. Pharaohs expanded public works for the good of the people, and art and architecture flourished. Pharaohs instituted agricultural projects like irrigation and land reclamation, or the process of creating new land for farming. The Middle Kingdom ended when Egypt was invaded by a group from Asia known as the Hyksos, who seized control. The Hyksos brought with them new instruments of warfare, like bows and horse-drawn chariots. For the next hundred years, the Egyptians lived under the rule of the Hyksos and learned new technologies, like mastering the use of bronze for farm tools and weapons.

Module 2: Ancient River Valley Civilizations

Topic 2 Content: Egyptian Kingdoms

New Kingdom



New Kingdom

1567 – 1085 B.C. (B.C.E)

Wealthy dynasty under Ahmose I

Hatshepsut built Deir el-Bahri and her stepson Thutmose III took over lands in Syria, Palestine, and Libya

Rames II tried to regain Egyptian losses



Image: Mummy of Ramses II

The New Kingdom began in 1567 B.C. (B.C.E.), when a new dynasty of pharaohs under the leadership of Ahmose I expelled the Hyksos and took control of Egypt. The wealth acquired by the pharaohs during this time allowed for new, grand construction projects. When the first female pharaoh, Hatshepsut, ruled during part of this time period, she built a grand mortuary temple in Deir el-Bahri near Thebes. Her heir and stepson, Thutmose III, created an empire and took over lands in Syria, Palestine, and Libya through military campaigns.

After religious upheavals and territory losses during the mid-New Kingdom, the pharaoh Ramses II, who ruled from 1279 until 1213 B.C. (B.C.E.), sought to regain Egypt's losses. While Egypt was able to regain some territory, the New Kingdom came to an end around 1085 B.C. (B.C.E.) after outside invasions during the latter part of the time period.