WORLD HISTORY Day 3 Notes

Ancient Egypt

PYRAMIDS – place of ascent to meet “Ra”

* originally tombs were not grand enough for the kings began to build pyramids
* also symbols of Royal Power
* +100 pyramids exist today 🡪all were built on western side of Nile
	+ symbolic of setting sun into underworld

1st “pyramid = Step Pyramid **(Djoser)**

Largest pyramid = “Great Pyramid @ Giza” **(Khufu)**

* 481 feet tall
* sides are about 760 feet long
* 2.3 million stones (avg 2 ½ tons)
* Herodotus est. 100,000 workers – 20 years
* built by peasants

\*\*according to legend, Khufu used his daughter as a prostitute to help pay for his pyramid

\*Sphinx

* \*body of lion / head of King Khafre (240’ long)
* guard pyramids [Great Pyramid]
* **Thutmose** was on expedition sat down in shade of **Sphinx** – although he did not know it was the Sphinx because it was covered in sand
	+ fell asleep and had a dream in which the Sphinx talked to Thutmose telling him that if Thutmose would clear the sand away from him because it was choking him he would make him king of Egypt
	+ Thutmose awoke and remembered the dream – he had sand removed and later he became **Thutmose III** (he was not in line to become king)

Grave Robbing was a big problem with pyramids – tombs began to be put at the VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Around 2180 BC 1ST ILLNESS (after death of Pepi II) 7-10 dynasties

* power of pharaohs decreased – why? (bad leader, too harsh, too lenient, poor flooding of Nile)
* agriculture declined – flooding, famine, crop failure
* power of nobles increased – power struggle with pharaohs
* immorality

Around 2050 BC MIDDLE KINGDOM began (1st Illness ended) 11-12 dynasties

* pharaohs power increased – viewed more as a “shepherd of his people” focusing on public works and public welfare [Old Kingdom pharaohs were viewed as inaccessible] – decrease in noble power
* agriculture improved (a little bit not a lot)
* increase in domestic projects
	+ - * + Canal from Nile to Red Sea (trade)
				+ Drained marshy areas to increase farmland
				+ Increased irrigation projects
				+ Stronger military - expanded some to north and south

Sesostris II – est. 1st unified military

Replaced militias of the nomes

* + - * commoners begin to believe they possess eternal spirits (afterlife)
			* as people became more educated (probably upper classes)
			* religion began to emphasize “moral conduct” instead of being based on power/wealth

Around 1650 BC 2ND ILLNESS 13-17 dynasties

* Hyksos (Asian invaders) conquered Egypt (desert did not keep them out)
* ruled approximately 100 years
* Did allow pharaohs to remain in power – maybe Hyksos were too arrogant – THEY WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH RECEIVING “TRIBUTE” EACH YEAR
* Egyptians hated the Hyksos, BUT did learn important things:
	+ - * + Use of bronze
				+ War from horse-drawn chariots
				+ Better bow / arrow
				+ Increased nationalism
				+ New spinning / weaving techniques
		- Hyksos helped “modernize” Egypt

Around 1550 BC **Battle of Tanis**

* King **Ahmose I** (“Adios Ahmose”) kicked Hyksos out of Egypt
* strengthened Egyptian patriotism to unify against Hyksos and weaken power of nobles