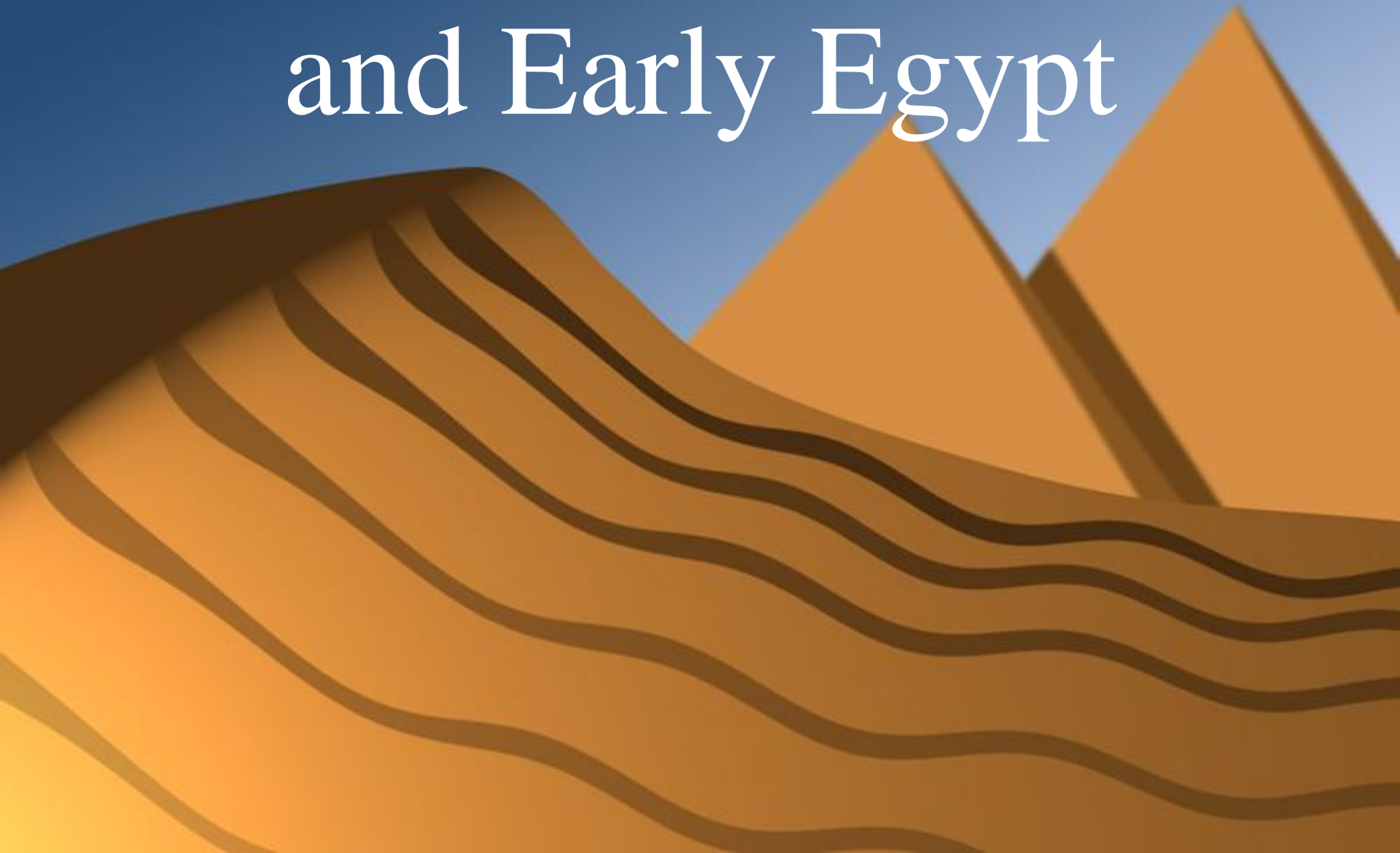
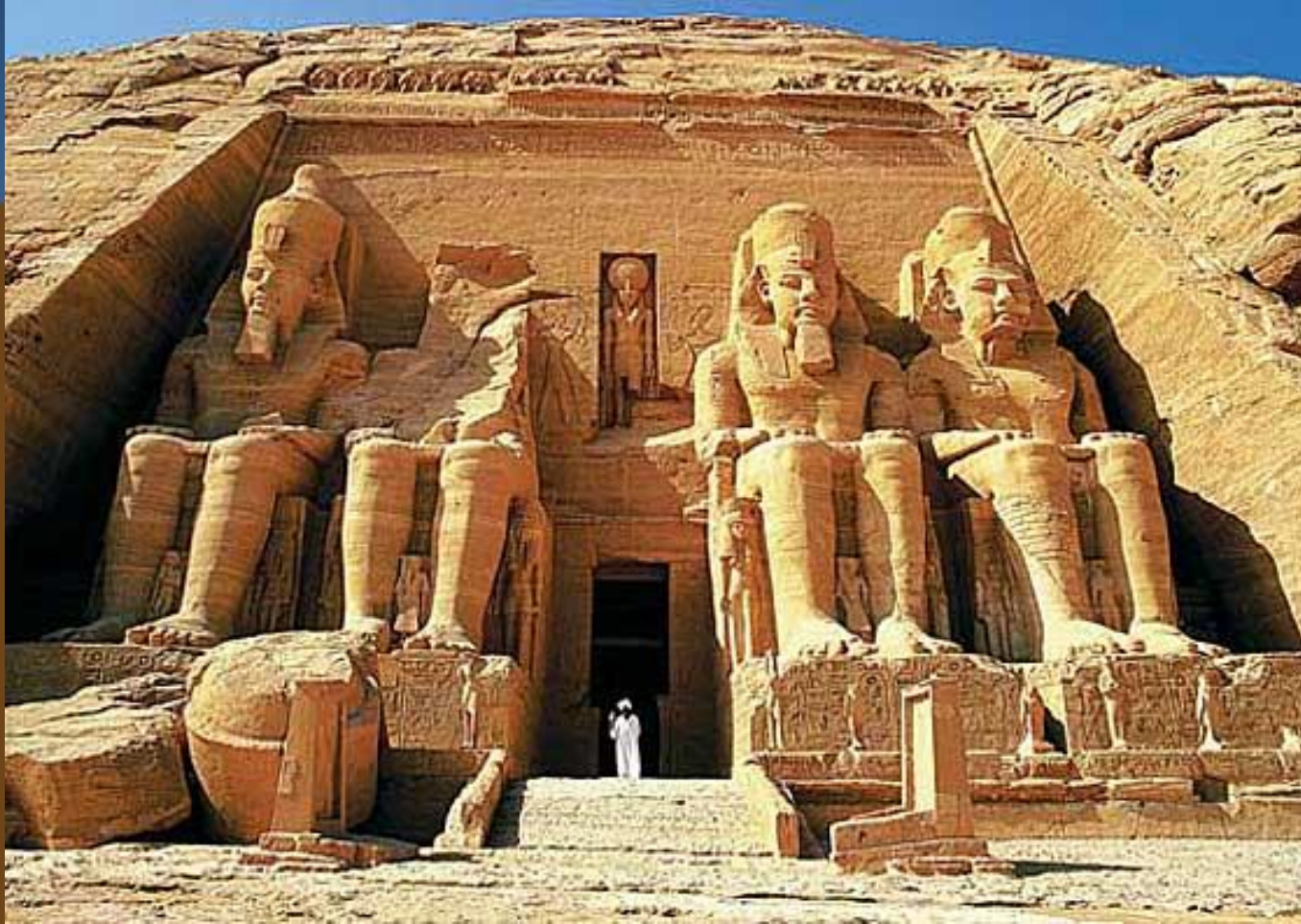


Geography and Early Egypt

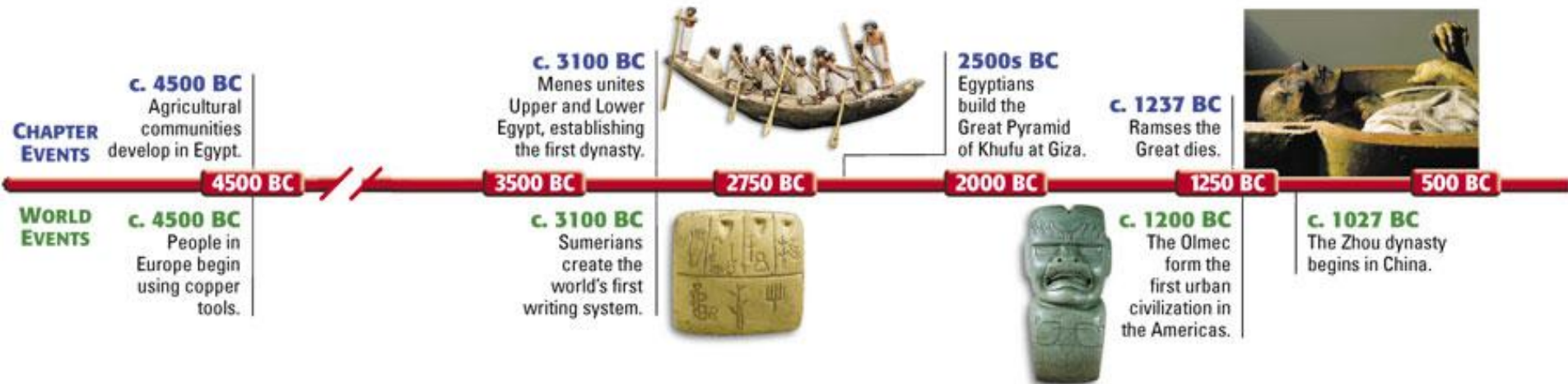


King Ramses II



This photo shows an ancient temple of Ramses II, one of Egypt's most powerful rulers.

Chapter 4 Timeline



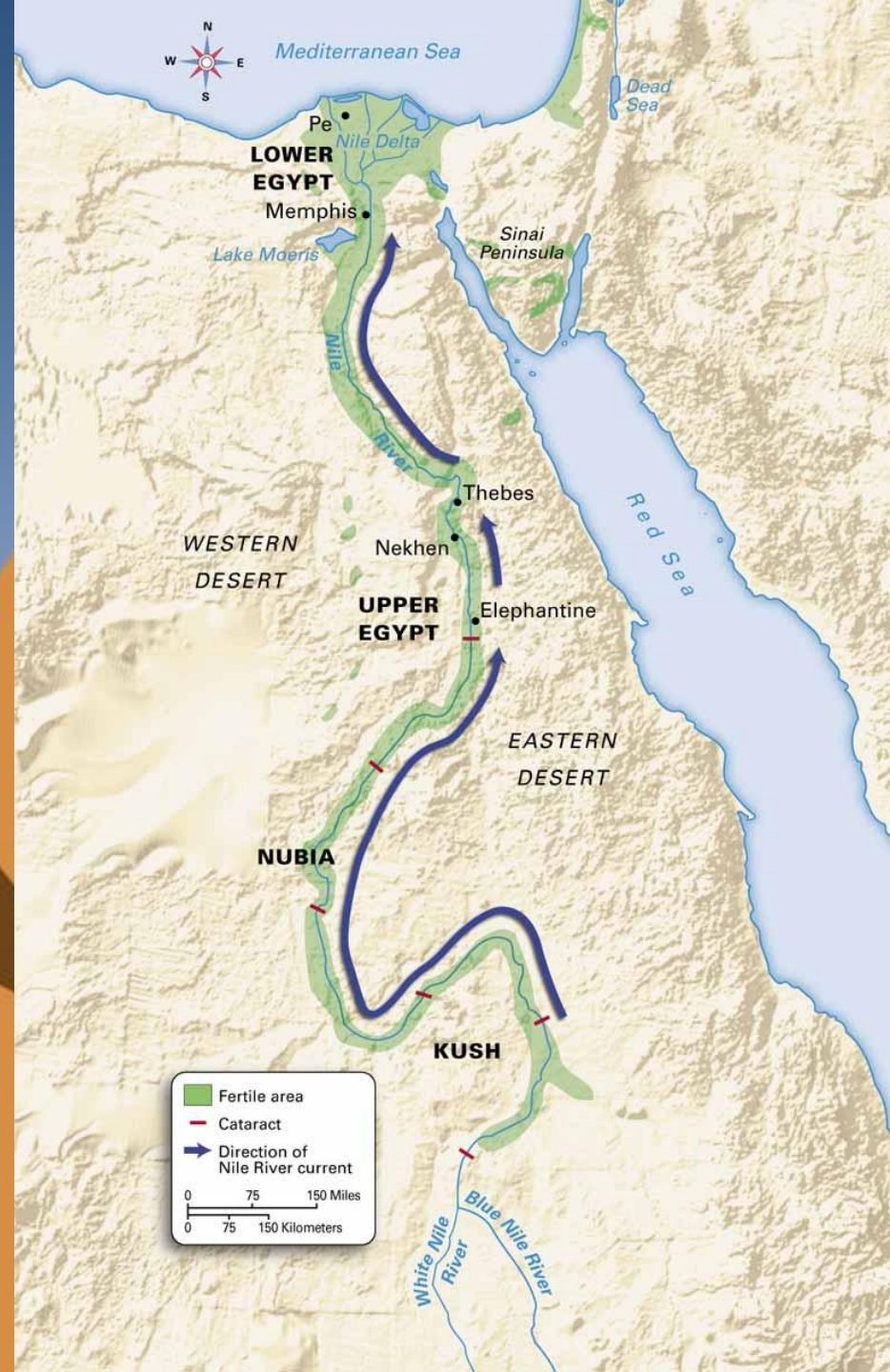
The Gift of the Nile



- The existence of Egypt was based solely around the Nile, the world's longest river.
- The Nile carries water from central Africa through a vast stretch of desert land.
- The river was so important to people that Egypt was called “the gift of the Nile.”

Ancient Egypt

Map: Ancient Egypt: This map shows where Upper and Lower Egypt are. Lower Egypt was further north by the Mediterranean Sea. Upper Egypt was actually further south near the middle of the Red Sea. It shows that the Nile River flowed north towards the Mediterranean Sea and there was also very fertile ground along the Nile. Inset is a world map that shows the location of ancient Egypt.



Two Kingdoms

- Ancient Egypt developed along a 750-mile stretch of the Nile, and was originally organized into two kingdoms—Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt.
 - Upper Egypt was located upriver in relation to the Nile's flow.
 - Lower Egypt was the northern region and was located downriver.

The Nile Valley

- **Cataracts**, or steep rapids, marked the southern border of Upper Egypt.
- Lower Egypt was centered in the river **delta**, a triangle-shaped area of land made of soil deposited by the river.
- In midsummer, the Nile would flood Upper Egypt and in the fall the river would flood Lower Egypt.
 - This made sure that the farmland would stay moist and fertile. As the land surrounding the Nile Valley was arid desert, this watered area was the lifeline for everyone who lived in the region.

Farming in Egypt



Farmers in ancient Egypt learned how to grow wheat and barley. This tomb painting shows a couple harvesting their crop (above). Farmers in Egypt still use the fertile lands along the Nile River to grow food (left).

Civilization Develops

The background features a blue sky at the top, transitioning into a brown landscape. The landscape consists of a rounded hill on the left and two triangular peaks on the right, resembling pyramids or desert hills.

- With dry desert all around, it is no wonder that ancient settlers were attracted to this abundant and protected area of fertile farmland.
- Hunter-gatherers first moved to the area around 12,000 years ago and found plenty of meat and fish to hunt and eat.
- By 4500 BC farmers were living in villages and growing wheat and barley. They were also raising cattle and sheep.

Two Kingdoms

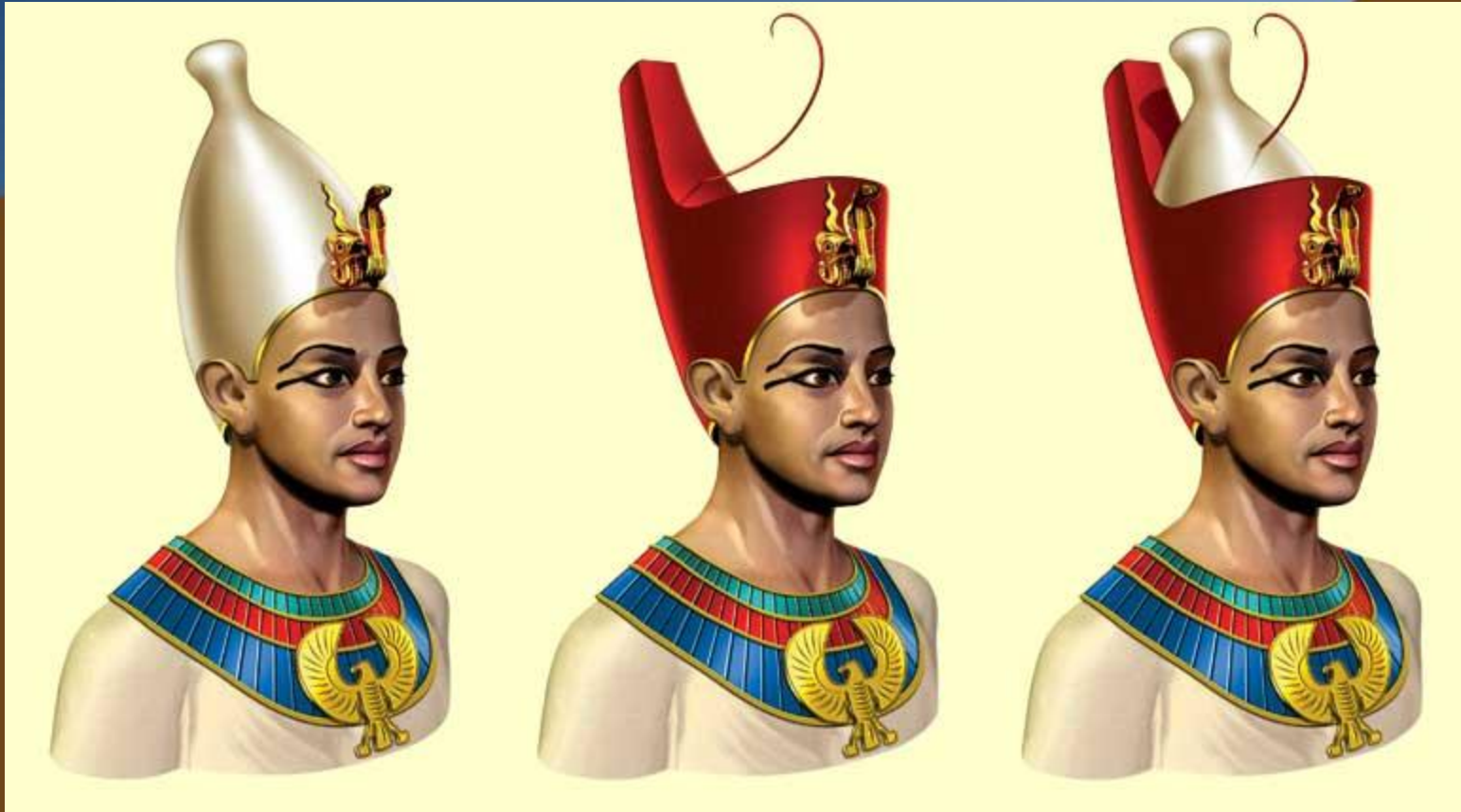
- Around 3200 BC the Egyptian villages became organized into two kingdoms.
- The capital of Lower Egypt was located in the northwest Nile Delta at a town called Pe.
- The capital city of Upper Egypt was called Nekhen. It was located on the west bank of the Nile.

Kings Unify Egypt



- Around 3100 BC **Menes** (MEE-nee-z), the king of Upper Egypt, invaded Lower Egypt. He married a princess there in order to unite the two kingdoms under his rule.
- Menes was the first **pharaoh**, which literally means ruler of a “great house.”
- He also started the first Egyptian **dynasty**, or series of rulers from the same family.
- He built a new capital city, Memphis, which became a popular cultural center. His dynasty ruled for nearly 200 years.

King Unifies Egypt



- The pharaoh Menes combined the white crown of Upper Egypt and the red crown of Lower Egypt as a symbol of his rule of Egypt as one kingdom.