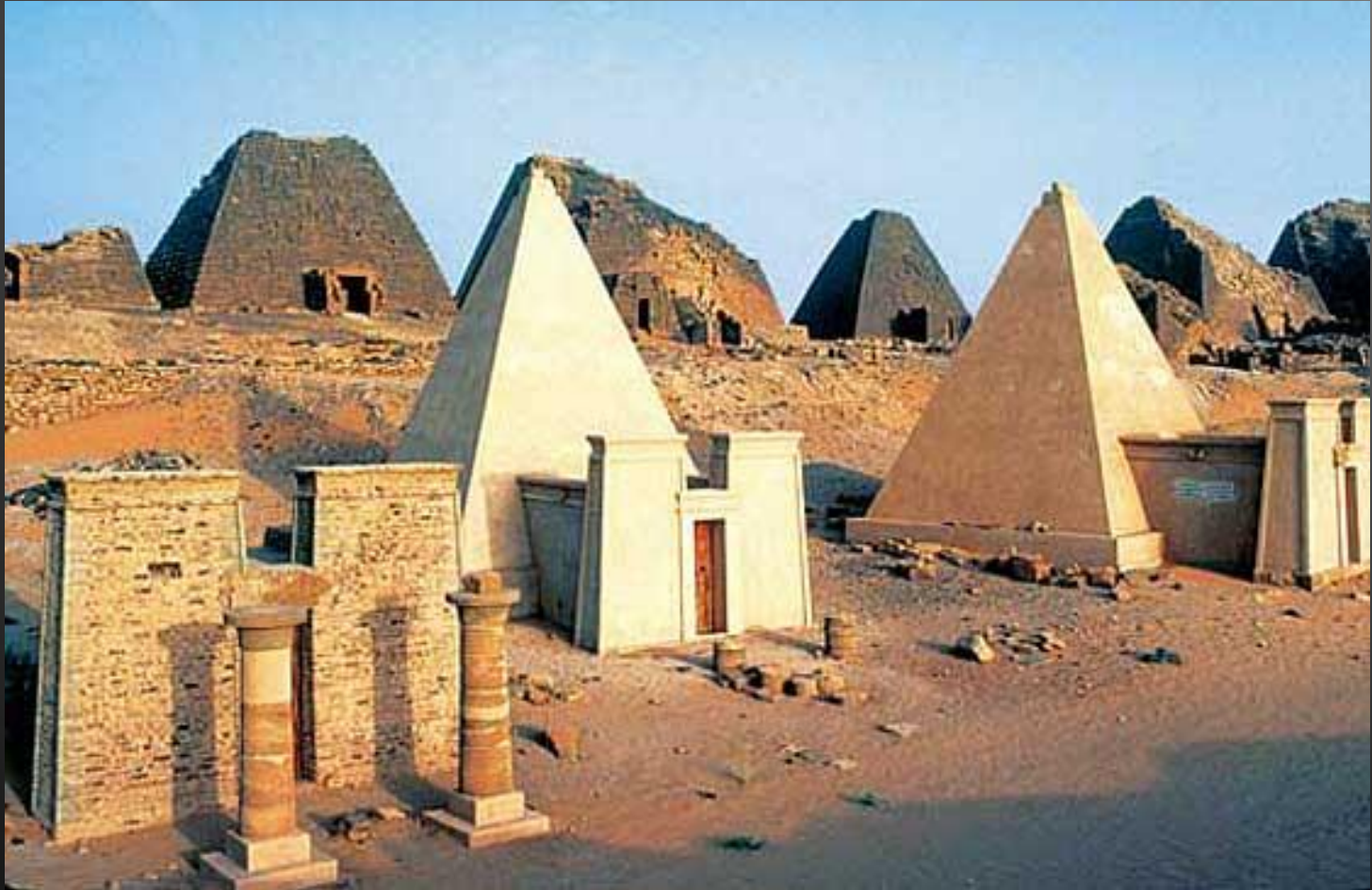


# Kush and Egypt

# Kush



**CHAPTER  
EVENTS**

**c. 2000 BC**  
The kingdom of Kush sets up its capital at Kerma.



**c. 750–700 BC**  
Kush conquers Egypt.

**c. 580 BC**  
Meroë becomes capital of Kush.



**c. AD 350**  
Aksum destroys Meroë.

**WORLD  
EVENTS**

**2300 BC**  
The Harappan civilization rises in the Indus Valley.

**c. 1550 BC**  
The New Kingdom begins in Egypt.



**c. 500 BC**  
The Nok culture develops in West Africa.

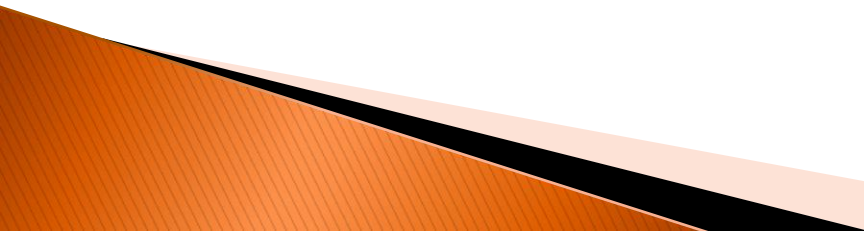


**AD 330**  
Constantinople becomes the capital of the Roman Empire.



**Chapter 5 Timeline >>**

# Geography and Early Kush

- ▶ Geography and Early Kush. The kingdom of Kush developed south of Egypt along the Nile, in the region we now call Nubia.
  - ▶ Every year, floods provided a rich layer of fertile soil. Farming villages thrived.
  - ▶ The area was also rich in minerals such as gold, copper, and stone. These resources contributed to the region's wealth.
- 



Map: Ancient Kush. This map shows that Kush was south of Egypt and included the cities of Napata, Kerma and Meroe. It was west of the Red Sea. This area also ran along the Nile River. Inset is a world map that details the location of ancient Kush. (excerpt): This photo shows one of the Nile's cataracts, or rapids. In ancient times, most river boats could not sail past the shallow rapids. In this picture there is a mountain in the background. It shows small bodies of very blue waters with green trees and lakes.

## Ancient Kush >>

This photo shows one of the Nile's cataracts, or rapids. In ancient times, most river boats could not sail past the shallow rapids.

# Farmers



- Over time some rich farmers became leaders of their villages.
- Around 2000 BC, one of these leaders took control of other villages and made himself king of Kush.

# Kerma

- ▶ The kings of Kush ruled from their capital at Kerma (KAR–muh).
- ▶ The city was located on the Nile just south of a cataract, or stretch of shallow rapids.
- ▶ Because the Nile's cataracts made parts of the river hard to pass through, they were natural barriers against invaders.



# Society

- ▶ As time passed Kushite society became more complex.
- ▶ In addition to farmers and herders, some people of Kush became priests and artisans.

# Egypt and Kush

- ▶ Kush and Egypt were neighbors and trading partners.
- ▶ The Kushites sent slaves to Egypt. They also sent gold, copper, and stone, as well as the prized materials **ebony** and **ivory**.





Early in its history, Egypt dominated Kush, forcing Kushites to give tribute to Egypt.



Later, as Kush's power increased, its warriors invaded and conquered Egypt. This photo shows Kushite and Egyptian warriors.



After conquering Egypt, Kush established a new dynasty. This photo shows one of Kush's pharaohs kneeling before an Egyptian god.

## Kush and Egypt

# Egypt Controls Kush

- ▶ Relations between Kush and Egypt were not always peaceful, however.
- ▶ Around 1500 BC Egyptian armies under the pharaoh Thutmose I invaded and conquered most of Nubia, including all of Kush.
- ▶ The Kushite palace at Kerma was destroyed.
- ▶ Kush remained an Egyptian territory until about 1050 BC, when the Kushites rose up and won their independence.

# Kush Rules Egypt

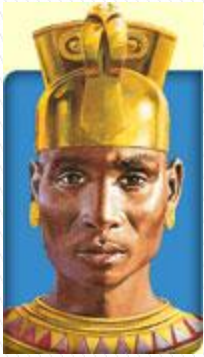
- ▶ By around 850 BC, Kush was once again as strong as it had been before it had been conquered by Egypt.
- ▶ During the 700s, under the King Kashta, the Kushites began to invade Egypt.
- ▶ Kashta's son, **Piankhi** (PYANG-kee), believed that the gods wanted him to rule all of Egypt. By the time he died in 716 BC, Piankhi had accomplished this task. His kingdom extended from the new Kushite capital, Napata, all the way to the Nile Delta.





When the Assyrians invaded Egypt with their iron weapons, they forced Kush's rulers out of Egypt and south into Nubia.

Kushite Dynasty >>



- Also known as Piye, Piankhi was among Kush's most successful military leaders.
- A fierce warrior on the battlefield, the king was also deeply religious.
- Piankhi's belief that he had the support of the gods fueled his passion for war against Egypt.
- His courage inspired his troops on the battlefield.
- Piankhi loved his horses and was buried with eight of them.

Piankhi

751 – 715 BC

# Trouble Brews

- ▶ Piankhi's brother, Shabaka (SHAB-uh-kuh), declared himself pharaoh and began the twenty-fifth dynasty, or Kushite dynasty, in Egypt. Egyptian culture thrived during the twenty-fifth dynasty.
- ▶ About 670 BC, however, the powerful army of the Assyrians from Mesopotamia invaded Egypt. The Assyrians' iron weapons were better than the Kushites' bronze weapons.
- ▶ The Kushites were slowly pushed back to Nubia.