

HISTORY: Introduction to the Archaic Period and Old Kingdom of Egypt

Time Needed: 55 minutes

Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the key features and events of the Archaic Period (Early Dynastic Period) and Old Kingdom in Egypt.
2. Identify the importance of the Pharaohs and their role in Egyptian society.
3. Recognize significant cultural and technological achievements during these periods.
4. Analyze the connections between the geography of Egypt and the development of its civilization.

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard/markers or notebook/pen
- Projector or Digital Device
- Week 4 Slides
- A short video (optional) on ancient Egyptian history

Lesson Outline:

1. Drill/Review (10 minutes)

- Ask student(s) drill questions from the unit they just completed using the P2Rs and Scavenger Hunt questions. Focus on the following aspects of Mesopotamia:
 - Geography
 - Political development
 - Culture
 - Religion

2. Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Warm-up Question:** Ask student(s) what they know about Egypt. What comes to mind when they think of ancient Egypt? (Encourage responses like pyramids, pharaohs, mummies, etc.)
- **Introduce the Topic:** Write the terms "Archaic Period" and "Old Kingdom" on the board or in a notebook. Explain that these were some of the earliest periods in the history of ancient Egypt, setting the foundation for one of the world's most fascinating civilizations.
- **Objective:** Briefly state that today we will explore the beginning of ancient Egypt, focusing on the formation of Egypt as a unified kingdom and the advancements during the Old Kingdom.

3. Direct Instruction (20 minutes)

- **The Archaic Period (Early Dynastic Period):**
 - **Timeframe:** Roughly 3100 BCE to 2686 BCE
 - **Unification of Egypt:** Discuss how the two regions of Upper and Lower Egypt were unified under the first pharaoh, Narmer (or Menes). Show a map of Egypt and point out the significance of the Nile River in connecting these regions.
 - **Key Events:** Narmer's role in unification, the founding of the first dynasty, and the development of writing (hieroglyphics) and monumental architecture.
 - **Pharaoh as a Divine King:** Discuss the concept of the Pharaoh as a living god, and how his role was seen as a unifier and a protector of Egypt.
 - **Ma'at:** Explain the concept of Ma'at (cosmic order), which was the balance the pharaoh was expected to maintain.
- **The Old Kingdom (2686 BCE - 2181 BCE):**
 - **Timeframe:** Discuss the peak of Egypt's power and stability during the Old Kingdom.
 - **Construction of Pyramids:** Emphasize the construction of the famous pyramids, particularly the Great Pyramid of Giza. Discuss the role of the pharaoh in commissioning these grand structures as tombs for themselves.
 - **Pharaohs of the Old Kingdom:** Mention famous pharaohs like Djoser (who built the Step Pyramid) and Khufu (who built the Great Pyramid).
 - **Society and Government:** Explain how Egypt was a theocracy where the pharaoh held both religious and political power, and how this system influenced their government and society.
 - **Technological and Cultural Achievements:** Discuss advancements like pyramid construction techniques, the development of a more complex writing system (hieroglyphics), and the flourishing of art and architecture.

4. Video (Optional) (5 minutes)

- Show a short video on the unification of Egypt and the Great Pyramid of Giza to provide a visual and more engaging explanation of the material discussed.

5. Activity (10 minutes)

- **T-Chart: Comparing Mesopotamia to Egypt**
 - Have students work individually or in small groups
 - Have them create a T-chart with Mesopotamia on the left and Egypt on the right.
 - The student(s) should brainstorm and list in the left column what they remember about Mesopotamia's geography, political development, culture, and religion.
 - In the right column, students should list corresponding differences/similarities learned about Egypt today.

6. Discussion and Review (10 minutes)

- **Discussion:** Have the student(s) present the highlights from the T-chart they created.
- **Points to Emphasize:** Review key terms and concepts from the lesson. Reiterate the significance of the Archaic Period in unifying Egypt and the Old Kingdom's achievements.