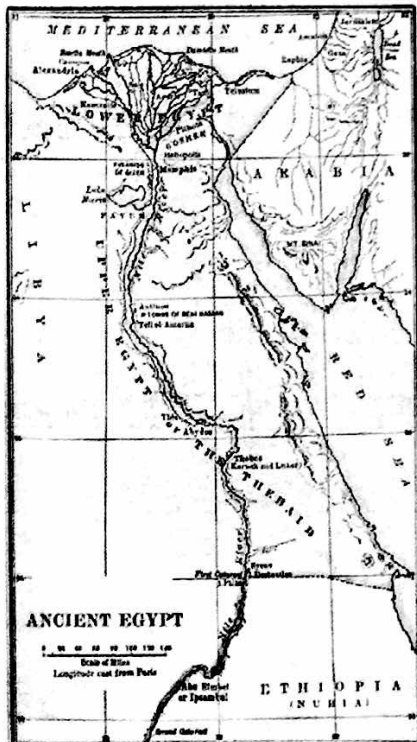
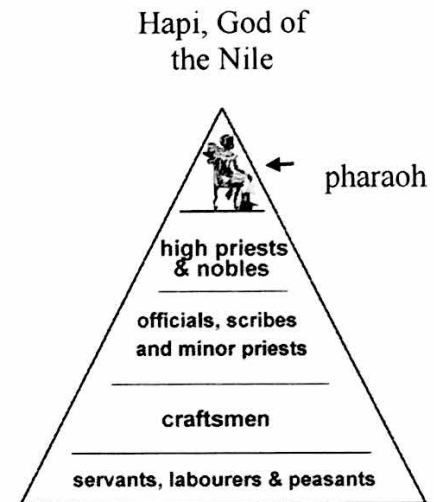


In the ancient Egyptian world, life was controlled by the pharaoh. Farmers and laborers were at the bottom of the social ladder. Above them were the craftsmen and artisans who build the pharaoh's monuments. The upper class was made up of scribes, priests, and officials who helped the pharaoh collect taxes and resources from the surrounding area.

Family life in ancient Egypt found men as the heads of the household. Most men took only one wife except for the pharaoh who may have taken multiple wives. Wealthier families had servants and slaves to take care of children while poorer families did not.

The elite families in Egypt were usually headed by priests or officials, however people learned to write by becoming scribes or became soldiers moved up in the social hierarchy in ancient Egypt.

The civilization of Ancient Egypt eventually fell into decline at around 1000 BC/BCE, but the land around the Nile remained fertile thousands of years unlike in Mesopotamia. Because of this, agrarian civilization has endured around the Nile, though power eventually shifted away toward Persia in era of Empires beginning in about 500 BC/BCE.



### TURN AND TALK –

***What were some of the different groups of people living in Egypt at this time and how would their lives have differed? How was this similar to or different from Sumer?***

*Note: The above information was compiled and adapted from Cynthia Stokes Brown's **Big History** (2007), David Christian's **Maps of Time** (2004), and J. R. and William H. McNeill's **The Human Web** (2003).*

<http://karenswhimsy.com/public-domain-images/map-of-ancient-egypt/images/map-ancient-egypt-1.jpg>