



Unit

1

The Beginning of Civilization

Introduction

Ancient Egyptian civilization, one of the earliest and most splendid civilizations in world history, flourished in the Nile River. Ancient Egypt had a great number of stupendous achievements in a whole range of fields, including arts and architecture, religion, engineering, medicine and statecraft. This unit mainly introduces the development of Egyptian civilization, highlighting some great achievements made by ancient Egyptian people, such as the solar calendar, advanced irrigation system, world-known pyramids and so on. Through learning the close reading texts in this unit, learners can get a preliminary understanding of the features of long sentences in English and their translation. The related readings can also help learners get a glimpse of the development of the Nile civilization, ancient Egyptian civilization and its significance to the modern society.

Pre-reading Activities

1. Where is Egypt? What do you know about Egypt? Share with your partner Egypt's geographic features, tourist attractions, and legendary stories.
2. Describe the following places related to Egypt in two or three English sentences, and provide the Chinese equivalents to all the place names below.

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|
| Nile River | Mediterranean Sea | Red Sea | Gulf of Suez |
| Giza | Sahara Desert | Cairo | Aswan Dam |
3. Watch the video “Rivers and Life: The Nile” from *National Geographic*.



Part

1

Background Reading

Text 1

Ancient Egypt and the Modern World

A Popular Subject: Egyptology

Five thousand years ago the chain of independent city-states lining the Nile River united to form one long, thin country ruled by one king, or pharaoh. Almost instantly a highly distinctive culture was developed. For almost 30 centuries Egypt remained the foremost nation in the Mediterranean world. Then, in 332 BC, the arrival of Alexander the

Great heralded the end of the Egyptian way of life.

The unique culture was quickly buried beneath successive layers of Greek, Roman and Arabic traditions, and all knowledge of Egypt's glorious past was lost. Only the decaying stone monuments, with their hieroglyphic texts now unreadable, survived as silent witnesses to the long-lost civilization.

Some 2,000 years on, however, the ancient hieroglyphs have been decoded and Egyptology—the study of ancient Egypt—is booming. At a time when Latin and ancient Greek are rapidly vanishing from the school curriculum, more and more people are choosing to read hieroglyphs in their spare time. And the Egyptian galleries of our museums are packed with visitors, while the galleries dedicated to other ancient cultures remain empty.

Preservation

Egypt's rich material legacy is the result of her unique funerary beliefs, which, combined with her distinctive geography, encouraged the preservation of archaeological material. The Nile River flows northwards through the center of Egypt, bringing much needed water to an otherwise arid part of northeast Africa.

Their total dependence on the Nile River as a source of water and a means of transport had a deep impact on the way the Egyptians saw the world. Their sun god, the falcon-headed Ra, did not cross the heaven in a flaming chariot; he sailed sedately in a solar boat.

Parallel to the Nile River on both banks runs the Black Land, the narrow strip of fertile soil that allowed the Egyptians to practice the most efficient agriculture in the ancient world. Beyond the Black Land lies the inhospitable Red Land, the desert that once served as a vast cemetery, and beyond the Red Land are the cliffs that protected Egypt from unwelcome visitors.

Believing that the soul could live beyond death, the Egyptians buried their dead in the Red Land, with all the goods they considered the dead would need in what they thought of as the “afterlife”. While their mud-brick houses have dissolved and their

stone temples have decayed, their desert tombs have survived relatively intact, the dry conditions encouraging the preservation of such delicate materials as plaster, wood, papyrus, cloth, leather and skin.

Pyramids and Mathematics

Egypt's magnificent stone buildings—her pyramids and temples—have inspired innumerable artists, writers, poets and architects from the Roman period to the present day. The pyramid form, in particular, still plays an important role in modern architecture, and can be seen rising above cemeteries and innumerable shopping centers, and at the new entrance to the Louvre Museum, Paris.

The original pyramids serve as a testament to the mathematical skill of the Egyptians, a skill that stimulated Greek mathematicians, including Pythagoras, to perfect their work. The Great Pyramid, built by Khufu (Cheops) in 2550 BC, for example, stands an impressive 46 m (150 ft) high, with a slope of 51 degrees. Its sides, with an average length of 230 m (754 ft), vary by less than 5 cm (2 in). Higher than St. Paul's Cathedral, the pyramid was aligned with amazing accuracy almost exactly to true north.

But the pyramids are more than mathematical puzzles. They hold the key to understanding the structure of the Egyptian society. The pyramids were built not by the gangs of slaves often portrayed by Hollywood film moguls, but by a workforce of up to 5,000 permanent employees, supplemented by as many as 20,000 temporary workers, who would work for three or four months on the pyramid site, before returning home. Many archaeologists believe that while the Egyptians undeniably built the pyramids, the pyramids also built Egypt.

Beneath the Bandages

The Egyptians were renowned throughout the Mediterranean world for their medical skills which were eventually passed on to the Greek and the Roman doctors that followed them. Unlike those of other ancient societies, the Egyptians were experienced in dissecting corpses because, believing that their souls needed an earthly body, they preserved their dead as mummies.

Their eviscerated, dried and bandaged bodies were once regarded as useless curiosities to be unwrapped, stripped of their jewelry, then discarded, and the archaeological literature is full of horrific stories of unwanted mummies being burned as torches, ground into pigment, processed into brown paper and even dispensed as stomach medicine for the rich and gullible.

Today attitudes to the long-deceased have changed and it is no longer considered appropriate to destroy a mummy out of mere curiosity. However, the countless mummies, already unwrapped, stored in the world's museums and universities, offer an incomparable source of ancient human tissue.

Text 2

尼罗河文明

尼罗河文明即古埃及文明，产生于约公元前 3000 年。埃及位于亚非大陆交界地区，古埃及人在与苏美尔人的贸易交往中深受激励，形成了富有自己特色的文明。

尼罗河流域与两河流域不同，它的西面是利比亚沙漠，东面是阿拉伯沙漠，南面是努比亚沙漠和飞流直泻的大瀑布，北面是三角洲地区没有港湾的海岸。在这些自然屏障的怀抱中，古埃及人可以安全地栖息，无须遭受蛮族入侵所带来的恐惧与苦难。

作为“尼罗河赠礼”的埃及，每年尼罗河水的泛滥给河谷披上一层厚厚的淤泥，使河谷区土地极其肥沃，庄稼可以一年三熟。据希腊多德记载：“那里的农夫只需等河水自行泛滥出来，流到田地上灌溉，灌溉后再退回河床，然后每个人把种子撒在自己的土地上，叫猪上去踏进这些种子，以后便只是等待收获了。”在古代埃及，农业始终是最主要的社会经济基础。在如此得天独厚的自然环境和自然条件下，古埃及的历史比较单纯。到约公元前 332 年亚历山大大帝征服埃及为止，共经历了 31 个王朝，其间虽然经历过内部动乱和短暂的外族入侵，但总的来说政治状况比较稳定。

古埃及的文字最初是一种简单的象形文字，经过长期的演变，形成了由字母、音符和词组组成的复合象形文字体系。今见古埃及文字多刻于金字塔、方尖碑、庙宇墙壁和棺槨等一些神圣的地方。埃及盛产的一种植物——纸草，其茎干部切成薄的长条压平晒干，可以用于书写。这种纸草文书有少数流传至今。字母的出现在公元前 2500 年至公元前 1500 年。把声音变成字母这一巨大的进步是古埃及人完成的。这些字母由埃及人传给地中海东岸（今叙利亚境内）的腓尼基人。作为亚洲文化和欧洲文化中介的腓尼基人把这些字母演变成真正的音标文字，传到古希腊。这一字母系统经希腊人增补元音字母而进一步完备，形成希腊字母。希腊字母又经过一些改进后传遍四方。字母是古埃及人留给西方文明，乃至世界文明的重大文化遗产。

古埃及对天文学和数学所做出的贡献足以和两河文明相媲美。他们创造了人类历史上最早的太阳历，把一年确定为 365 天。现在世界上通用的公历，其渊源来于此。虽然古埃及人很早就采用了十进制记数法，但是他们仍然没有“零”的概念。他们的算术主要是加减法，乘法化成加减法做。埃及算术最具特色的是已经初步掌握了分数的概念。在几何学方面，古埃及人已经知道圆面积的计算方法，但却没有圆周率的概念。他们还能计算矩形、三角形和梯形的面积，以及立方体、箱体和柱体的体积。

古埃及的医学成就比美索不达米亚突出。与他们的金字塔一样，古埃及人制作的木乃伊（经过特殊处理的风干尸体）举世闻名。制作木乃伊使古埃及人增长解剖学知识，因而他们的内外科相当发达。他们的医术分工很细，据说每个医生只治一种病。

古埃及人最重要的精神生活是宗教。关心死亡，为来世（特别是国王的来世）做好物质准备是古埃及宗教信仰的一个主要特征。古埃及的木乃伊和金字塔（坟墓）都与这种宗教信仰有关。古埃及人崇拜太阳神，特别是在法老政权强化以后，埃及兴起了崇拜太阳神的运动。太阳神拉（Ra），后来又叫阿蒙（Ammon），是古埃及的最高神，法老（国王）则被视为太阳神的化身。因此，法老始终被认为是神王，没有神圣的法老与世俗的法老之区别。法老既然被视为神王，其权力也就被神化，他的话就是法律，因而古埃及没有什么严密的法律制度。国家对经

济生活的绝对控制也是古埃及文明的显著特征。

金字塔是古埃及建筑艺术的典型代表，也是在国家控制下的古埃及劳工最著名的集体劳动成果。金字塔是法老的陵墓，底座呈四方形，越往上越狭窄，至于塔端成为尖顶，形似汉字的“金”字，故中文译为金字塔。在欧洲各国语言里，通常称之为“庇拉米斯”（如英文为 pyramid），据说在古埃及文中，“庇拉米斯”是“高”的意思。埃及境内现有金字塔七八十座，最为人们所熟悉的是尼罗河下游西岸吉萨一带的金字塔，此地离埃及首都开罗只有十多公里。其中最大的第四王朝法老胡夫（公元前 2590 年至公元前 2568 年在位）的金字塔是古代世界七大奇观中唯一现存的古迹。

除金字塔之外，古埃及的神庙、殿堂等建筑也颇为宏伟壮观。相比之下，古埃及的人物雕像显得呆板冷漠，古埃及的木乃伊文化令外人难以理解。总之，古埃及文化的特点是神王合一，追求永恒，显得比较单一、稳定而保守。相对而言，埃及百姓的生活平淡而满足。但是，埃及工匠制造奢侈品的技术举世公认。古埃及人最早发明了美容品，并发展了制造美容品的技术。



Reading Tasks

I Reading Comprehension

1. Read the two texts above about ancient Egypt, and fill in the following blanks.

- 1) The King, who ruled ancient Egypt, was called _____.
- 2) _____ finally conquered Egypt in 332 BC.
- 3) _____ are pictures that were used to write the ancient Egyptian language.
- 4) _____ is the study of ancient Egyptian history, language, literature, religion and art.
- 5) _____ is about 6670 km (4160 miles) in length and is the longest river in Africa and in the world.
- 6) On both banks of the river runs the fertile _____, and beyond which lies the inhospitable _____, the desert.



- 7) The Egyptians believed that after you died you went to another place where you lived another life, that is _____.
- 8) _____, built by _____, is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact.
- 9) The large pyramid serves as the main entrance to the _____. Completed in 1989, it has become a landmark of the city of Paris.
- 10) It has been calculated that the base of the Great Pyramid is enough to accommodate both the UK Houses of Parliament and _____ with room to spare.
- 11) The dead body of a human or animal that has been embalmed and prepared for burial is called _____, according to the practices of the ancient Egyptians.
- 12) Mummies stored in the world's museums offer an incomparable source of _____.

2. Briefly answer the following questions about the two texts.

- 1) What is called “the gift of the Nile”?
- 2) How did ancient Egypt's location help it grow?
- 3) Why did the ancient Egyptians live near the Nile River?
- 4) What did the ancient Egyptians invent?
- 5) What was ancient Egyptian writing like?
- 6) Who was Ra?
- 7) Why did ancient Egyptians believe in “afterlife”?
- 8) What are the ancient Egyptians' contributions to the world in aspects of astronomy, mathematics, medicine and architecture?

II Translation

1. Provide the English equivalents of the following words and expressions.

尼罗河文明

尼罗河赠礼

两河流域

河水泛滥

亚历山大大帝

太阳历

象形文字

木乃伊

金字塔

风干尸体

纸草

解剖学知识

地中海东岸

来世

古希腊

开罗

文化遗产

法老胡夫

天文学

神王合一

2. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

- 1) Egypt's rich material legacy is the result of her unique funerary beliefs, which, combined with her distinctive geography, encouraged the preservation of archaeological material.
- 2) Their total dependence on the Nile River as a source of water and a means of transport had a deep impact on the way the Egyptians saw the world.
- 3) Believing that the soul could live beyond death, the Egyptians buried their dead in the Red Land, with all the goods they considered the dead would need in what they thought of as the "afterlife".
- 4) The pyramids were built not by the gangs of slaves often portrayed by Hollywood film moguls, but by a workforce of up to 5,000 permanent employees, supplemented by as many as 20,000 temporary workers, who would work for three or four months on the pyramid site, before returning home.

Part 2

Close Reading

The Beginning of Civilization in the Valley of the Nile

By Hendrik van Loon¹

The Story of Mankind

1. The history of man is the record of a hungry creature in search of food. Wherever food was plentiful, thither man has travelled to make his home.
2. The fame of the Valley of the Nile must have spread at an early date. From the interior of Africa and from the desert of Arabia and from the western part of Asia people had flocked to Egypt to claim their share of the rich farms. Together these invaders had formed a new race which called itself "Remi" or "the Men" just as we sometimes call America "God's own country." They had good reason to be grateful to a Fate which had carried them to this narrow strip of land. In the summer of each year the Nile turned the valley into a shallow lake and when the waters receded all the grainfields and the pastures were covered with several inches of the most fertile clay.
3. In Egypt a kindly river did the work of a million men and made it possible to feed the teeming population of the first large cities of which we have any record.

尼罗河谷的文明之初

亨德里克·威廉·房龙

《人类的故事》

1. 人类历史就是一部人们四处觅食、逃避饥饿的记录史。哪里有充足的食物，人类就会把家安在哪里。
2. 尼罗河谷必定很早就声名远扬了。人们从非洲内陆、阿拉伯沙漠和西亚向埃及蜂拥而来，要分享这片富饶的农场。这些外来者组成一支新部族，号称“雷米”或者“人类”，就像我们有时称美国为“上帝的国土”一样。他们应该感谢命运把他们带到了这块狭长的地带。每年夏天，泛滥的尼罗河把谷地变成浅湖。洪水退去，留下几英寸厚的肥沃黏土，覆盖着所有的农田和牧场。
3. 在古埃及，一条母亲河替代了大量的人力，她哺育着有史料记载的最早几座城市的无数居民。当然，并不是所

1 Hendrik Willem van Loon (1882–1944) was a Dutch-American historian, journalist, and award-winning children's book author. One of his most famous books, *The Story of Mankind*, won the first Newbery Medal in 1922. As a writer he was known for emphasizing crucial historical events and giving a complete picture of individual characters, as well as the role of the arts in history. He also had an informal and thought-provoking style particularly in this book.

It is true that all the arable land was not in the valley. But a complicated system of small canals and well-sweeps carried water from the river-level to the top of the highest banks and an even more intricate system of irrigation trenches spread it throughout the land.

4. While man of the prehistoric age had been obliged to spend sixteen hours out of every twenty-four gathering food for himself and the members of his tribe, the Egyptian peasant or the inhabitant of the Egyptian city found himself possessed of a certain leisure. He used this spare time to make himself many things that were merely ornamental and not in the least bit useful.
5. More than that. One day he discovered that his brain was capable of thinking all kinds of thoughts which had nothing to do with the problems of eating and sleeping and finding a home for the children. The Egyptian began to speculate upon many strange problems that confronted him. Where did the stars come from? Who made the noise of the thunder which frightened him so terribly? Who made the Nile River rise with such regularity that it was possible to base the calendar upon the appearance and the disappearance of the annual floods? Who was he, himself, a strange little creature surrounded on all sides by death and sickness and yet happy and full of laughter?
6. He asked these many questions and certain people obligingly stepped forward to answer these inquiries to the best of their ability. The Egyptians called them "priests" and they became the guardians of his thoughts and gained great respect in the community. They were highly learned men who were entrusted

有的耕地都位于河谷地带。但是，通过一个由水渠与吊水设备构成的复杂提水系统，河水从河面被引至堤岸的最高处，再经过更巧妙的灌溉系统，将水输送到各处农田。

4. 史前人类通常要每天劳动 16 个小时，为自己和部落成员寻找食物。然而在古埃及，无论是农夫还是城市居民，却都拥有一定的闲暇时间。他们利用这些闲暇时间来制作许多东西，尽管那些东西只是装饰品，毫无实用价值。
5. 古埃及的文明远不止这些。一天，古埃及人发现自己的大脑产生了各种各样的想法，它们与吃饭、睡觉或给孩子找个住处之类的事毫不相干。古埃及人开始思考眼前的一些奇怪的问题。星星从哪里来？令人惊恐万分的雷声是谁发出的？是谁让尼罗河的水灾如此有规律，甚至可以根据每年洪水的涨落制定历法？还有他自己这个奇怪的小生物，周围满是死亡和疾病，却充满了快乐和欢笑，他又是谁呢？
6. 他提出这么多问题，就会有人亲切地走上来，尽其所能给予回答。古埃及人把这些负责解答问题的人称作“祭司”。他们是埃及人思想的守护者，广受敬仰。他们学识渊博，担负着文字记录的神圣工作。他们懂得，人在

with the sacred task of keeping the written records. They understood that it is not good for man to think only of his immediate advantage in this world and they drew his attention to the days of the future when his soul would dwell beyond the mountains of the west and must give an account of his deeds to Osiris, the mighty God who was the Ruler of the Living and the Dead and who judged the acts of men according to their merits. Indeed, the priests made so much of that future day in the realm of Isis and Osiris that the Egyptians began to regard life merely as a short preparation for the Hereafter and turned the teeming valley of the Nile into a land devoted to the Dead.

7. In a strange way, the Egyptians had come to believe that no soul could enter the realm of Osiris without the possession of the body which had been its place of residence in this world. Therefore, as soon as a man was dead his relatives took his corpse and had it embalmed. For weeks it was soaked in a solution of natron and then it was filled with pitch. The Persian word for pitch was "Mumiai" and the embalmed body was called a "Mummy". It was wrapped in yards and yards of specially prepared linen and it was placed in a specially prepared coffin ready to be removed to its final home. But an Egyptian grave was a real home where the body was surrounded by pieces of furniture and musical instruments (to while away the dreary hours of waiting) and by little statues of cooks and bakers and barbers (that the occupant of this dark home might be decently provided with food and need not go about unshaven).

这个世界上不能只贪图眼前利益，这是大有害处的。他们让人把注意力投向来世。到那时，人的灵魂将会安居在西山之外，向奥西里斯神汇报自己前世的所作所为。伟大的奥西里斯主宰着生死大权，会根据人的德行来判断其行为。事实上，祭司夸大了奥西里斯和伊希斯（奥西里斯的妻子）主宰的来世。这使得古埃及人开始把今生只看作来世的短暂准备，把繁衍生息的尼罗河变成死者的坟墓。

7. 奇怪的是，古埃及人渐渐相信，肉体是灵魂的寄所，没有了肉体，灵魂就不可能进入奥西里斯的王国。因此，人死后，亲属就会给死者的尸体进行处理，涂上香料和药物防腐，在碱液中浸泡几个星期，再填以树脂。在波斯文里，树脂读作“木米乃”（Mumiai），因此经过防腐处理的尸体便被称为“木乃伊”（Mummy）。木乃伊用特制的亚麻布层层包裹起来，放入特制的棺材中，运往死者最后的安居之所。但是，埃及人的坟墓就像一个真正的家，尸体周围摆放着各种家具和乐器（用来打发等待中的无聊时光），还有厨师、面包师和理发师的小塑像（以便棺材的主人体面地享用食物，也不至于胡子拉碴的四处乱走）。

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| <p>8. Originally these graves had been dug into the rocks of the western mountains but as the Egyptians moved northward they were obliged to build their cemeteries in the desert. The desert however is full of wild animals and equally wild robbers and they broke into the graves and disturbed the mummy or stole the jewelry that had been buried with the body. To prevent such unholy desecration, the Egyptians used to build small mounds of stones on top of the graves. These little mounds gradually grew in size, because the rich people built higher mounds than the poor and there was a good deal of competition to see who could make the highest hill of stones. The record was made by King Khufu, whom the Greeks called Cheops and who lived thirty centuries before our era. His mound, which the Greeks called a pyramid (because the Egyptian word for high was pir-em-us) was over five hundred feet high.</p> <p>9. It covered more than thirteen acres of desert which is three times as much space as that occupied by the church of St. Peter, the largest edifice of the Christian world.</p> <p>10. During twenty years, over a hundred thousand men were busy carrying the necessary stones from the other side of the river—ferrying them across the Nile (how they ever managed to do this, we do not understand), dragging them in many instances a long distance across the desert and finally hoisting them into their correct position. But so well did the King's architects and engineers perform their task that the narrow passage-way which leads to the royal tomb in the heart of the stone monster has never yet been pushed out of shape by the weight of those thousands of tons of stones which press upon it from all sides.</p> | <p>8. 这些坟墓原先挖在西边大山的岩石里。但随着古埃及人的北迁，他们只得在沙漠中建造墓地。然而，沙漠里充斥着凶险的野兽和同样凶险的盗墓贼。他们闯进墓室，惊动木乃伊，窃走随葬的珠宝。为防止这种亵渎死者的行为发生，古埃及人在死者的坟墓之上建起小石冢。这些小石堆渐渐变大，富人比穷人修的高，所以大家都相互攀比看谁的最高。创造最高纪录的是公元前 30 世纪的古埃及国王胡夫法老，也是希腊人所说的基奥普斯王。他的陵墓被埃及人称为金字塔（因为埃及语把“高”说成 pir-em-us），高达 500 多英尺。</p> <p>9. 这座金字塔占地逾 13 英亩，其占地面积相当于基督教最大建筑圣彼得教堂的 3 倍。</p> <p>10. 在 20 多年的漫长时间里，十余万人马不停蹄地从尼罗河对岸搬运石材：先将巨石运过河（至今我们都无法知晓他们是如何做到的），再长途跋涉将其拖过宽阔的沙漠，最终将其吊装到适当的位置。胡夫法老的建筑师和工程师们异常出色地完成了工作。他们设计出一条狭长的通道，可以通向石堆中心的皇族墓室。巧妙的设计让它没有因压在上面的千吨巨石而变形。</p> |
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Reading Tasks

I Discussion

1. Talk about the cultural or historical connotations behind each term or expression.

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Valley of the Nile | Egyptian solar calendar |
| “God’s own country” | the Hereafter |
| the narrow strip of land | Isis and Osiris |
| system of small canals and well-sweeps | Church of St. Peter |
| prehistoric age | King Khufu |

2. Make a list of the ancient Egyptians’ major achievements mentioned in the text, and talk about how the author organizes the passage.

II Reading Comprehension

Briefly answer the following questions about the text.

- 1) Where did the first settlers in Egypt come from?
- 2) Why should the invaders be grateful to the Fate?
- 3) How did the early irrigation system work in ancient Egypt?
- 4) Compared to the other races of prehistoric age, to what extent were the Egyptian people different from them?
- 5) What role did the priests play in ancient Egypt?
- 6) Why did the Egyptians make mummies?
- 7) What is the procedure for making a mummy?
- 8) How were the initial graves developed into large pyramids later?
- 9) Which is the world’s largest pyramid and who was buried there?
- 10) How did the ancient Egyptians carry the stones from the other side of the river to the desert?

III Language Exercises

Check the meaning and usage of the words or phrases in boldface in each sentence and try to translate the Chinese sentences into English by using the words or phrases in boldface.

- 1) From the interior of Africa and from the desert of Arabia and from the western part of Asia people had **flocked to** Egypt to **claim their share of** the rich farms.
 - ① 每年都有成千上万的游客涌入新奥尔良与当地人民一起庆祝狂欢节。
 - ② 一旦受到启发和鼓励，女性就会理直气壮地要求她们应得的市场份额。
- 2) They had good reason to **be grateful to** a Fate which had carried them to this narrow strip of land.
 - ① 我要对你们所有人表示深切的感谢，你们的支持和你们为我所做的一切，是我的莫大荣耀。
 - ② 爱沙尼亚是个小国，人口也不多，但是在我们恢复国家独立后，立即得到中国的承认和支持。爱沙尼亚人民对中国人民充满了感激。
- 3) In the summer of each year the Nile turned the valley into a shallow lake and when the waters **receded** all the grainfields and the pastures were covered with several inches of the most fertile clay.
 - ① 随着时间流逝，我因他死去而感到悲伤的情绪渐渐减弱了。
 - ② 俄罗斯南部的洪水在一些地区开始退去。
- 4) In Egypt a kindly river did the work of a million men and made it possible to feed the **teeming** population of the first large cities of which we have any record.
 - ① 一年的大部分时间里这个地方都挤满了游客。
 - ② 上帝说：“水中要有万种游鱼，地上要有无数飞鸟”。
- 5) While man of the prehistoric age had **been obliged to** spend sixteen hours out of every twenty-four gathering food for himself and the members of his tribe, ...
 - ① 暴风雨越来越猛烈。最终我被迫弃车徒步前行。
 - ② 如果你能把它读给我们听，我将不胜感激。
- 6) ...the Egyptian peasant or the inhabitant of the Egyptian city found himself **possessed** of a certain leisure.



- ① 他之后被逮捕了，并被指控拥有攻击性武器。
- ② 非法持有毒品是严重犯罪行为。
- 7) The Egyptian began to **speculate upon** many strange problems that **confronted** him.
 - ① 你愿意试想你辞掉工作后会发生什么吗？
 - ② 他搞商业投机，被人骗去 5000 英镑。
 - ③ 经济危机期间，公司面临严重的资金问题。
- 8) They were highly learned men who were **entrusted with** the sacred task of keeping the written records.
 - ① 老人去世后，他的侄子受托照管她的财产。
 - ② 在洪灾中，我们把生命托付给了解放军战士。
- 9) They drew his attention to the days of the future when his soul would dwell beyond the mountains of the west and must give an **account** of his deeds to Osiris.
 - ① 他给出密谋刺杀总计划的解释不准确。
 - ② 电脑用电占了这个国家商业用电的 5%。
 - ④ 你如何解释这家公司高得惊人的人员流动率？
- 10) But an Egyptian grave was a real home where the body was surrounded by pieces of furniture and musical instruments (to **while away** the **dreary** hours of waiting) ...
 - ① 克雷格一直在我们的地下室里消磨他的业余时间。
 - ② 雨天使足球赛变得索然无味。

IV Text Analysis and Comparison

Compare the following sentences/paragraphs with their translated versions, and discuss the techniques applied in translation. Pay special attention to the parts in boldface.

- 1) It is true that **all the arable land was not in the valley. But** a complicated **system of small canals and well-sweeps** carried water from the river-level to the top of the highest banks **and** an even more intricate system of irrigation trenches spread it throughout the land.
- 2) **While** man of the prehistoric age had **been obliged to** spend sixteen hours out of

every twenty-four gathering food for himself and the members of his tribe, the Egyptian peasant or the inhabitant of the Egyptian city **found himself possessed of** a certain leisure. He used this spare time to make himself many things that were merely ornamental and **not in the least** bit useful.

- 3) Who made the Nile River rise **with such regularity** that it was possible to **base the calendar upon the appearance and the disappearance** of the annual floods?
- 4) They understood that it is not good for man to think only of his **immediate advantage** in this world and they drew his attention to **the days of the future when** his soul would dwell beyond the mountains of the west and must **give an account of** his deeds to Osiris, **the mighty God who** was the Ruler of the Living and the Dead and **who** judged the acts of men according to their merits.
- 5) Indeed, the priests **made so much of** that **future day** in the **realm** of Isis and Osiris **that** the Egyptians began to regard life merely as a short preparation for the Hereafter and turned the teeming valley of the Nile into **a land devoted to the Dead**.
- 6) In a strange way, the Egyptians had come to believe that **no** soul could enter the realm of Osiris **without** the possession of the body **which** had been **its** place of residence in this world.
- 7) The Persian word for pitch was “Mumiai” **and** the embalmed body was called a “Mummy.” It was wrapped in **yards and yards** of specially prepared linen **and** it was placed in a specially prepared coffin ready to be removed to its **final home**.
- 8) The desert however is full of **wild** animals and equally **wild** robbers and they **broke into** the graves and **disturbed** the mummy or stole the **jewelry that had been buried with the body**. To prevent such **unholy desecration** the Egyptians used to build small mounds of stones on top of the graves.
- 9) During twenty years, over a hundred thousand men were busy **carrying** the necessary stones from the other side of the river—**ferrying** them across the Nile (how they ever managed to do this, we do not understand), **dragging** them in many instances a long distance across the desert and finally **hoisting** them into their correct position.

- 10) But **so well did** the King's architects and engineers perform their task **that** the narrow passage-way **which** leads to the royal tomb in the heart of **the stone monster** has never yet been pushed out of shape by the weight of those thousands of tons of stones **which** press upon **it** from all sides.

Part

3

Further Reading

Dawn of Civilization (Abbreviated Version)

The first ancient societies arose in Mesopotamia and Egypt in the Middle East, in the Indus Valley region of modern Pakistan, in the Yellow River Valley of China, on the island of Crete in the Aegean Sea, and in Central America. All of these civilizations had certain features in common. They built cities, invented forms of writing, learned to make pottery and use metals, domesticated animals, and created fairly complex social structures with class systems.

Apart from written records and carved inscriptions, the knowledge about ancient peoples comes from the work of archaeologists. Most of the significant archaeological findings have been made in the past 200 years. The Sumerian culture of Mesopotamia was discovered in the 1890s, and some of the most important archaeological digs in China were made after the late 1970s.

The single, decisive factor that made it possible for mankind to settle in permanent communities was agriculture. After farming was developed in the Middle East in about 6500 BC, people living in tribes or family units did not have to be on the move continually searching for food or herding their animals. Once people could control the production of food and be assured of a reliable annual supply of it, their lives changed completely.

People began to find permanent communities in fertile river valleys. Settlers learned to use the water supply to irrigate the land. Being settled in one place made it possible to

domesticate animals in order to provide other sources of food and clothing. Farming was a revolutionary discovery. It not only made settlements possible—and ultimately the building of cities—but also made a reliable food supply available. With more food available, more people could be fed. Populations therefore increased. The growing number of people available for more kinds of work led to the development of more complex social structures. With a food surplus, a community could support a variety of workers who were not farmers.

Farming the world over has always relied upon a dependable water supply. For the earliest societies this meant rivers and streams or regular rainfall. The first great civilizations grew up along rivers. Later communities were able to develop by taking advantage of the rainy seasons.

All of the ancient civilizations probably developed in much the same way, in spite of regional and climatic differences. As villages grew, the accumulation of more numerous and substantial goods became possible. Heavier pottery replaced animal-skin gourds as containers for food and liquids. Cloth could be woven from wool and flax. Permanent structures made of wood, brick, and stone could be erected.

The science of mathematics was an early outgrowth of agriculture. People studied the movements of the moon, sun, and planets to calculate seasons. In so doing they created the first calendars. With a calendar it was possible to calculate the arrival of each growing season. Measurement of land areas was necessary if property was to be divided accurately. Measurements of amounts—for example, of seeds or grains—was also a factor in farming and housekeeping. Later came measures of value as commodity and money exchange became common.

The use of various ways of measuring naturally led to record keeping, and for this some form of writing was necessary. The earliest civilizations all seem to have used picture-writing—pictures representing both sounds and objects to the reader. The best known of the ancient writing systems is probably Egyptian hieroglyphics, a term meaning “sacred carvings”, since many of the earliest writings were inscribed on stone.

All of the major ancient civilizations—in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China—emerged in the 4th millennium BC. Historians still debate over which one



emerged first. It may well have been the Middle East, in an area called the Fertile Crescent. This region stretches from the Nile River in Egypt northward along the coast of former Palestine, then eastward into Asia to include Mesopotamia. In this area people settled along the riverbanks and practiced field agriculture. This kind of farming depended on the reproduction of seed, normally from grain crops.

Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia (from a Greek term meaning “between rivers”) lies between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, a region that is part of modern Iraq. By about 5000 BC, small tribes of farmers had made their way to the river valleys. On the floodplains they raised wheat, barley, and peas. They cut through the riverbanks so that water for their crops could flow to lower lying soil.

These early irrigation systems were more fully developed by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia, who drained marshes and dug canals, dikes, and ditches. The need for cooperation on these large irrigation projects led to the growth of government and law. The Sumerians are thus credited with forming the earliest of the ancient civilizations.

The land of the Sumerians was called Sumer (Shinar in the Bible). Their origins are shrouded in the past. They were not Semites, like most of the peoples of the region; they spoke a language unrelated to other known tongues. They may have come to southern Mesopotamia from Persia before 4000 BC.

Egypt

Egyptian farmers had settled in the long and narrow valley of the Nile River by 5000 BC. Within 2,000 years they had invented writing, built massive irrigation works, and established a culture that bequeathed the pyramids and other magnificent monuments to posterity. The primitive farming settlements of Egypt were concerned with the raising of vegetables, grains, and animals. These settlements slowly gave way to larger groupings of people. Probably the need to control the Nile floodwaters through dams and canals eventually led to the rise of government in the region.

Egyptian civilization began with the unification in 3100 BC of the upper and lower