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**Egyptian Achievements**

**Chapter 4, Section 4**

**The Big Idea:** Egyptians made lasting achievements in writing, architecture, and art.

# The Main Ideas:

1. The Egyptians developed a writing system using hieroglyphics.
2. The Egyptians created magnificent temples, tombs, and works of art.

## Vocabulary:

1. **hieroglyphics [p. 102]:** Egyptian system of writing using mostly symbols.
2. **papyrus [p. 102]:** a long-lasting, paper-like material made from reeds.
3. **Rosetta Stone [p. 103]:** a stone slab inscribed with hieroglyphics, the early Egyptian language, and Greek.
4. **sphinxes [p. 104]:** imaginary creatures with the bodies of lions and the heads of other animals or humans.
5. **obelisk [p.** **104]:** a tall, four-sided pillar that is pointed on top.
6. **King Tutankhamen [p. 106]:** or “King Tut” ruled Egypt as pharaoh for 10 years until his death at age 19. His tomb was discovered intact and filled with treasures that teach us about burial practices and beliefs.

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| **Egyptian Writing** | **Egyptian Temples and Tombs** |
| * **Hieroglyphics** is the Egyptian system of writing and is one of the world’s first forms of writing (vs. cuneiform in Mesopotamia).
* **Papyrus:** long-lasting paper-like material made from reeds and used by scribes to write and translate documents. There are more than 600 symbols that can be written from left to right, right to left, horizontally, and vertically. The only way to tell which way a text is written is to look at the direction the individual symbols are facing.
 | * **Architectural Structures:** In addition to the pyramids, Egyptians also built massive temples and tombs or monuments.
* **Sphinxes:** creatures with bodies of lions and human or other animal heads carved from stone.
* **Obelisks:** tall, four-sided pillars that are pointed at the top.
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| **Egyptian Writing (Continued)** | **Egyptian Temples and Tombs (Continued)** |
| * **Rosetta Stone:** a stone slab inscribed with hieroglyphics, a later form of Egyptian writing, and Greek. Because the text in all three languages was the same, scholars who knew Greek figured out what the hieroglyphics said. The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799 by a French soldier and is now on display at the British Museum.
 | **Egypt’s Great Temples*** **Temple of Karnak:** Egypt’s largest temple built in honor of Re, the sun god. Inside the temple are huge columns supporting the roof. The columns and walls were decorated with hieroglyphics and paintings. Statues of gods and pharaohs stood along the walls as well. The sanctuary, the most sacred part of the building, was at the far end.
* **Temple of Luxor** – built in the capital city.
* **Temple of Abu Simbel** – built by Ramses the Great and carved out of stone cliffs. At the temple’s entrance are four 66-foot-tall statues that show Ramses as pharaoh. Nearby are smaller statues of his family.
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| * **Egyptian Texts:** The dry Egyptian climate preserved papyrus and many texts still survive today. Historians can read government and historical records, science texts, medical manuals, and literary works such as *The Book of the Dead* that tells about the afterlife. Some texts also include love poems and stories about gods and kings.
 | * **Egyptian Art:** Painted on canvas, papyrus, pottery, plaster, and wood. Art found in temples is connected to the belief in the afterlife, while art found in tombs is meant for enjoyment in the afterlife.
* Egyptian art has a unique style: people’s heads and legs are always seen from the side, while upper bodies and shoulders are shown straight on. The size of figures indicates their importance in society (the larger the figure, the more important in society).
* Stoneworking and metalworking also practiced.
* **King Tutankhamen’s** (King Tut’s) tomb included jewelry, ivory, robes, and a burial mask. The treasurers found in the tomb have taught us about Egyptian burial practices and beliefs.
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