

The Rise and Fall of Kush - Teacher Notes

Factors Contributing to the RISE of Kush	Factors Contributing to the FALL of Kush
<p>The geography of Nubia, especially the Nile River and the fertile area, led to the rise of Kush.</p> <p>Minerals (gold, copper, stone, ebony, and ivory) contributed to its growing economy.</p> <p>Agriculture allowed for villages to thrive. Farmers grew wealthy. Some became leaders. In approximately 2,000 B.C., one leader became King and his new kingdom was called Kush.</p> <p>Capital city of Kerma was located along the Nile.</p> <p>Cataracts kept Kush safe from invasion by the more powerful Egyptians.</p>	<p>Because of Kush's growing wealth and power, Egypt feared the Kushites would attack.</p> <p>Pharaoh Thutmose I invaded around 1500 B.C. and conquered all of Nubia north of the 5th Cataract.</p> <p>Kush became part of Egypt.</p> <p>Kerma, the Kushite capital, was destroyed.</p>
<p>Kush regained control and the new capital city of Napata was located on the banks of the Nile.</p> <p>Inept pharaohs left Egypt open for attack (700 BC).</p> <p>Kashta (Kushite King) attacked and took Upper Egypt and established relations with Lower Egypt.</p> <p>Piankhi (Kashta's son) continued to attack Egypt. By the time of his death, his kingdom extended north from Napata to the Nile Delta.</p> <p>Piankhi's brother Shabaka took control and declared himself pharaoh (began 25th dynasty). He restored old Egyptian cultural practices and the culture thrived.</p>	<p>During the mid-1000s B.C., the New Kingdom in Egypt was ending and the power of the pharaohs declined.</p> <p>In the 670s B.C., the Assyrians from Mesopotamia invaded Egypt (Assyrians' iron weapons were better than the Kushites' bronze weapons).</p> <p>Kushites were pushed south and the Assyrians drove the Kushite forces completely out of Egypt.</p>
<p>Over a few centuries, the people of Kush devoted themselves to agriculture and became powerful once more.</p> <p>Economic center was Meroë (Mer-oh-wee), the kingdom's new capital.</p> <p>Meroë's location along the Nile helped Kush's economy to grow through trade and the development of the iron industry.</p> <p>Meroë became the center of a large trade network. Merchants carried goods to ports on the Mediterranean and Red seas and to southern Africa (imports and exports), perhaps reaching India and China.</p> <p>Trading contributed to the growth/wealth of Kush.</p>	<p>Kush gradually declined in power because of overgrazing and deforestation.</p> <p>The loss of trade brought about Kush's further decline. New trade routes went around Kush in favor of Aksum (Ahk-soom), a kingdom located along the Red Sea in what is today Ethiopia and Eritrea.</p> <p>By 300 AD, Kush had lost much of its wealth and military might. The king of Aksum took advantage of his former trade rival's weakness.</p> <p>In about 350 AD, the Aksumite army of King Ezana (Ay-zah-nah) destroyed Meroë and took over Kush.</p> <p>The last influences of Kush disappeared.</p>