Ancient Egypt Study Guide

- Geography
  - Nile: longest river in the world runs from central Africa 4,000 miles to the Mediterranean Sea
  - Cataracts: strong rapids
  - Delta: triangle shaped area of land made of soil deposited by a river

- Religion
  - Polytheism: belief in more than one god
  - Afterlife: life after death
  - Mummies: specially treated bodies wrapped in cloth
  - Embalming: preserved dead bodies so they wouldn't decay
  - Sphinxes: imaginary creatures with the bodies of lions and the heads of other animals or humans

- Arts and Architecture
  - Pyramids: huge stone tombs with four triangle shaped walls that met at a point on top
  - Rosetta Stone: a stone slab inscribed with hieroglyphics, text in Greek and a later form of Egyptian which helped scientists to decode the hieroglyphics
  - Hieroglyphics: Egyptian writing system of symbols which was one of world's first writing systems
  - Papyrus: long lasting paper-like material made from reeds

- Politics
  - Menes: ruler sought to unify Upper and Lower Egypt; invaded lower Egypt and married princess; considered first pharaoh
  - Dynasty: series of rulers from the same family
  - Khufu: Most famous pharaoh of the Old Kingdom ruling in 2500 BC; best known for monuments to him
  - Ramses the Great or Ramses II: pharaoh who came to power in the 1200 BC had one of the longest reigns fought the Hittites
  - Queen Hatshepsut: Pharaoh husband Thutmose II died, and his son was too young to rule; dress as a man and called herself king
  - King Tutankhamen: pharaoh whose tomb was found undisturbed in 1922
- Economics
  - Imports: goods brought in from other regions
  - Trade network: system of people in different lands who trade goods
  - Trade routes: paths followed by traders
  - Exports: items send out to other regions

- Social Structure
  - Pharaoh: title used by ruler of Egypt means "Great House"; people believed that he was king and god
  - Artisan: skilled workers such as sculptors, builders, carpenters, jewelers, metal or leather workers who worked for the government or temples
  - Scribes: honored people that worked for government and temples keeping records and accounts and copied religious and literary texts

- Kingdoms
  - Old Kingdom: period in Egyptian history that lasted from 2700 BC to 2200 BC
  - Middle Kingdom: period of order and stability beginning with Mentuhotep II rule that lasted until about 1750 BC
  - New Kingdom: period during which Egypt reached the height of its power and glory beginning with Ahmoses's rise and lasting from 1550 BC to 1050 BC when conquest brought wealth to the pharaohs