

## You Will Need:

- Your notebook
- Your textbook
- Your pencil

Today you will learn about the kingdoms of Kush and Aksum who developed advanced civilizations with large trading networks.

## Kush and Aksum

# Kush and Aksum

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b86XE3TbXg0>

# Early Nubia

- Nubia is South of Egypt.
- Africans established a the first great kingdom in the interior of Africa.
- The Egyptians called this land Kush.

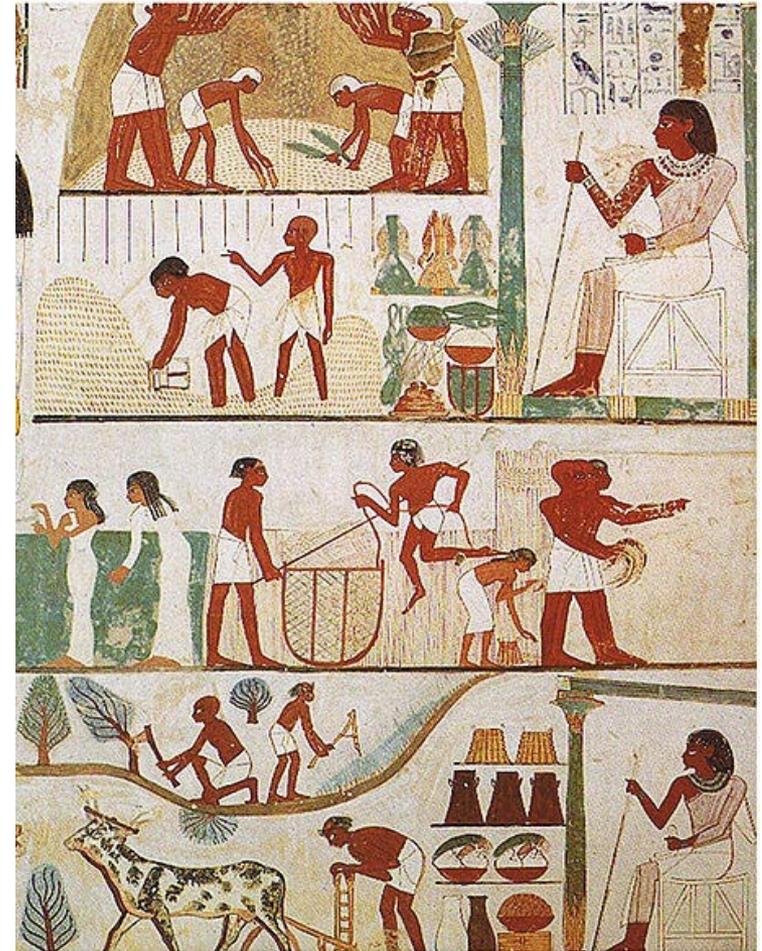


# Land of Nubia

- Today, desert covers a lot of Nubia.
- In the past, the region was fertile and rain provided a rich layer of **silt**
- Ancient Nubia was rich in minerals like gold, copper, and stone.
  - How would these mineral contribute to their civilization?

# Agriculture

- The people of Nubia depended on farming for their food.
- The Nile's floods allowed them to plant both summer and winter crops
  - What would have happened if the Nile did not flood in the summer?



# Crops

- The Nubians grew wheat, barely, and other grains
- The banks of The Nile provided grazing land for livestock.
- Some farmers grew richer than other and these farmers became the village leaders.
- A king rose to take control and called the region Kush.

# Kush

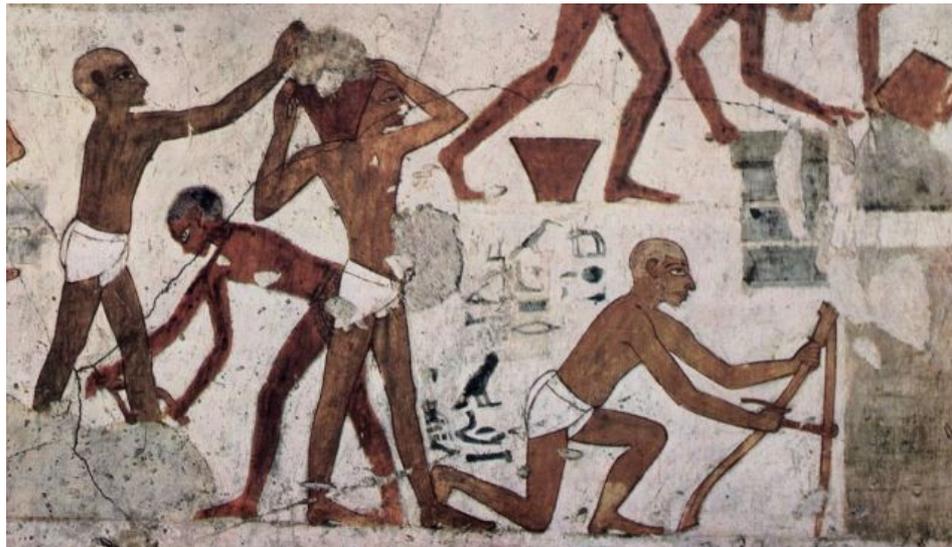
- The kings of Kush ruled at their capital in Kerma.
- Look on page 130
  - Where is Kerma located?
  - What natural barriers surround this city?
    - How would this help the city and people living in it?

# Kushite Society

- As time passed, society grew more complex.
- Kushites became farmers, herders, priests, and artisans.

# Kush and Egypt

- Kush and Egypt were neighbors.
- Kush became a major supplier of both slaves and raw materials to Egypt.
- Slaves were forced to be servants and soldiers to the Pharaoh



# Conquest

- Egypt eventually conquered Kush
- Egypt feared that Kush would become too powerful.
- The pharaoh Thutmose 1 sent an army to take control of Kush in 1500 BC.

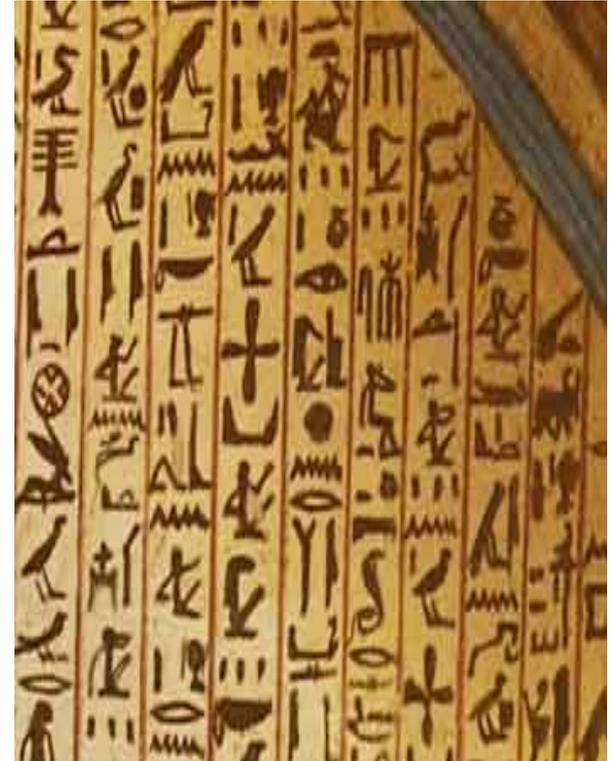
# Effects of the Conquest

- The Egyptians had a big influence over Kush
  - Egyptian became the language and the people adopted some religious practices
  - Kushites wore Egyptian clothing and had Egyptian names.
  - What have learned about in American history that is similar to this?



# Conquest...Again!

- Kush eventually regained its strength
- As Kush grew, Egypt weakened.
- The armies of Kush captured many cities
- The Kushite Dynasty built new temples and **preserved** Egyptian writings.
- Assyrians pushed the Kushites completely out of Egypt in 10 years



# Industry

- Kush lost control of Egypt.
- The people devoted themselves to agriculture and trade.
  - Why would they do this? What were they hoping to accomplish?

# Iron Industry

- Meroë was the kingdom's new capital
  - Large deposits of gold could be found along with ebony and other wood
  - Rich in iron deposits



# The First!

- Kush created Africa's first iron industry.
  - How would this help society?
  - What do you use iron for?

# Expansion of Trade

- Meroë became the center of a large **trade network**.
- Read page 133 “The Expansion of Trade.”  
What is the difference between an **export** and an **import**?

# Culture

- How would trade effect culture?



[www.story.com](http://www.story.com) - 0733P1

# What was Similar?

- Kush combined cultures with other countries and people and created their own unique Kushite culture.
- The biggest influence was Egypt.
- Buildings in Meroë resembled temples and people in Kush worshiped Egyptian gods and wore Egyptian clothing.
- Kushite rulers used the term 'pharaoh,' were buried in pyramids, and believed in the afterlife.

# What was Different?

- Kushite houses and daily life were unique.
  - “The houses in the cities are formed by intertwining split pieces of palm wood or of bricks...They hunt elephants, lions, and panthers. There are also serpents...and many other kinds of wild animals.”

# What was Different?

- Queens seem to have been more important in Kush than in Egypt.
- Kushites developed their own language called Meroitic.
  - Similar to hieroglyphics, but historians are not able to understand most of it.

# Decline of Kush

- Iron-makers used up the forests and cows ate all of the grass.
- Why would these two factors lead to the decline of Kush?

# Aksum

- Aksum was a trade route that **bypassed** Kush.
- Aksum was a thriving trade center and many people from different cultures traded goods and beliefs.

# Christianity

- Many people converted to Christianity through the trade routes.
- King Ezana made Christianity the kingdom's official religion.
- Eventually, the major trading ports were taken by other people. The kingdom became **isolated**.

# Homework

- Complete the Venn Diagram handed out including the kingdoms of Kush and Egypt.
- Have **at least 3 items** in each circle. Due tomorrow.

