REMINDER

- Game choice due today; taken:
  - Scrabble
  - Snakes & Ladders
  - Tripoley
  - Go
  - Monopoly

- For ideas email me, otherwise will assign game by end of the week
ANCIENT EGYPT, AGAIN
ANCIENT EGYPT?

What comes to mind?
PLACES
NAMES

- Nefertiti,
- Cleopatra,
- Ramses,
- Tutankhamun,
- Akhenaten
THINGS
EGYPTOMANIA

- Napoleon’s Egyptian Campaign (1798-1801)
- Howard Carter (1922)
POPULAR CULTURE
MODERN EYES
PYRAMIDOLOGY, VON DANIKEN, ETC.
TELL IT HOW IT REALLY WAS
EGYPTIAN HISTORY, ROUGH OUTLINE

- Prehistory (700,000-3,000 BC)
- Pharaonic/Dynastic Period
  - Early dynastic Period (3000-2686)
  - Old Kingdom (2686-2181)
  - First Intermediate Period (2181-2055)
  - Middle Kingdom (2055-1650)
  - Second Intermediate Period (1650-1550)
  - New Kingdom (1550-1069)
  - Third Intermediate Period (1069-664)
  - Late Period (664-332)
- Ptolemaic (330-30BC)
- Roman (30BC-311AD)
PREHISTORY
NILE VALLEY-TODAY
"The gift of the Nile"
- Herodotus

What was this gift?
- water
- silt

The other gift of geography
- isolation
NILE VALLEY-THEN

[Map of the Nile Valley with cities labeled: ALEXANDRIA, DELTA, TANIS, SAIS, AVARIS, GIZA, ABUSIR, SAQQARA, DAHSUR, HELIOPOLIS, MEMPHIS, SINAI, RED SEA, NUBIA, ABYDOS, DENDERA, VALLEY OF KINGS, ESNA, HIERAKONPOLIS, EDFU, KOM OMBO, ASWAN, PHILAE, ABU SIMBEL, BENI HASAN, AKHETATEN, ELEPHANTINE, THEBES, FAYUM, HAWARA, KAHUN.]
Maintained cultural and political continuity (more or less) from 3100 BCE to 525 BCE
  + the same religion
  + the same art
  + the same language

Think about this!
  + Let's go back 2600 years from today
  + more or less the age of Pericles

Unique in this extremely long period of relative stability
CIVILIZATION RULE #1

- You must grow more food than you can eat
- Surplus means
  + artisans
  + commerce
  + taxes
  + full-time armies
CIVILIZATION RULE #2

- Surplus requires infrastructure
- In Egypt
  + irrigation
  + granaries
  + land reclamation
  + port facilities
CIVILIZATION RULE #3

- Infrastructure requires organization
  - the state

- In Egypt
  - theocracy
  - the ruler (pharoah) was a god
    - coronation was ascension to godhood
  - Semi-Matrilineal succession
    - Great Royal Wife (relative)
GEOGRAPHY

- East
  + Arabian desert
- West
  + Sahara desert
- North
  + "great green"
- South
  + mountains
  + cataracts of the Nile
- Nile was a natural "highway"
  + excellent internal mobility
- Result: Egypt was difficult to invade
NARMER PALETTE

- Beginning of dynastic/pharaonic period
DYNASTIC PERIODS

- Early Dynastic (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd})
  - 3100-2686
  - Upper and lower suddenly (or gradually?) became united

- Old Kingdom (3\textsuperscript{rd}-6\textsuperscript{th})
  - 2686-2181
  - Pyramids are built

- Middle Kingdom (11\textsuperscript{th}-14\textsuperscript{th})
  - 1991-1786
  - Advances in technology and crafts

- New Kingdom (18\textsuperscript{th}-20\textsuperscript{th})
  - 1567-1085
  - Colonial expansion and then collapse
ISOLATION ENDS

+ Nubians
  × 8th century BCE
+ Assyrians
  × 7th century BCE
+ Persians
  × Darius
  × 6th century BCE
+ Greeks
  × Alexander the Great
  × Library of Alexandria
  × 4th century BCE
+ Romans
  × Antony and Cleopatra
  × 30 BCE
+ Persians
  × 616 CE
+ Arabs
  × 639 CE
King-lists

Problems: only survive in fragments, inconsistent with other sources, dynasty 0, dating artifacts

dynastic separation introduced by Manetho (3rd century BC)
Sources

- Many written sources
  - papyrus scrolls
    - relatively well preserved
Forms of Writing

- Hieroglyphic
  - "sacred pictures"
- Hieratic
  - shorthand for hieroglyphic
  - easier to write fast
SEROTONIN

- Evolved to replace hieratic
- except in religious texts
ROSETTA STONE

+ same inscription in
  × hieroglyphic
  × demotic
  × Greek

+ deciphered by Jean Francois Champollion in 1822
WHAT DO THEY SAY

- Political
  - Lists of kings
    - establishing legitimate succession
  - Laws
  - Accounts of battles

- Commercial
  - tax records
  - land records
  - contracts

- Religious
  - prayers
  - instructions for rituals
I have not blasphemed a god,
I have not robbed the poor.
I have not done what the god abhors,
I have not maligned a slave to his master.
I have not caused pain,
I have not caused tears.
I have not killed,
I have not ordered to kill,
I have not made anyone suffer.
I have not damaged the offerings in the temples,
I have not depleted the loaves of the gods,
I have not stolen the cakes of the dead.
I have not copulated nor defiled myself.
I have not increased nor reduced the measure,

I have not added to the weight of the balance,
I have not falsified the plummet of the scales.
I have not taken milk from the mouths of children,

...I am pure, I am pure, I am pure, I am pure!
From *The Book of the Dead*
Egyptians culture was obsessed with death
+ probably the desert was one reason
+ earliest, clearest articulation of an afterlife

Afterlife = Continuation of Life
+ in the land of the gods
+ very materialistic
  × you could take it with you
+ Not reincarnation
  × born again
+ Resurrection
  × Ka: the life-force
Tutankhamen
- a totally minor king
- last of his dynasty
- out of favor because of his father Akhnaten

And yet he is buried with a mound of loot
A board for the game of Senet
- actually 4 different Senet boards in the tomb
SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

- Court
  - royal family
    - multiple wives / concubines
  - advisors / ministers

- Priesthood
  - mostly hereditary
  - secluded in temples and religious cities
  - embalmers

- Commoners
  - farmers
  - artisans

- Slaves
  - usually foreigners captured in battle
  - could hold important jobs
EGYPTIAN TECHNOLOGY

- Egyptians were great builders of stone and brick
  - pyramids
  - temples
  - wood was rare and very precious
- Egyptians had very advanced medicine
  - much admired and copied by the Greeks
- Egyptians developed mathematics
  - especially geometry and surveying
  - Eratosthenes (276-194 BCE) measured the circumferences of the earth
    - off by only 16%
EGYPTIAN RELIGION

- Religion was very concrete
  + Images of the gods were the gods
  + They had to be fed, robed, sung to, praised, and otherwise cared for
  + Gods expected perfection

- Religion was not particularly public
  + There were regular public rituals
  + Temples were built to exclude common people
    - especially from the innermost holy places
  + Many of the rituals were secret knowledge
    - severe penalties for disclosure
GODS

- Amun-Ra
  - national god of Egypt
  - identified with the pharaoh
  - sun god
  - bringer of life, creator

- Osiris
  - order and virtue
  - killed by Seth and resurrected
  - god of the dead

- Isis
  - wife and sister (!) of Osiris

- Horus
  - son of Osiris after his rebirth
  - represented as a falcon

- Seth
  - god of evil and disorder
**AFTERLIFE**

- Egyptian beliefs very influential
  - some argue Christian views derive from them
- After death
  - join with the Amun-Ra when setting
  - travel through the underworld
  - soul would be judged
    - "weighing of the heart"
  - passing through 12 "houses"
  - reward
    - eternal life
      - rising with the sun god
      - "fields of peace"
  - otherwise
    - soul is consumed by Am-Mit
BOOK OF THE DEAD

- Long text describing the passage to the Afterlife
- Found on papyri, on tomb paintings, on linen wraps for mummies
NEW KINGDOM

- 1570-1075 BCE
  + 18th, 19th and 20th dynasties
- Begins with the expulsion of the Hyksos
  + invaders from the east
    - Asia, Syria, no one is really sure
    - chariots, better bows
    - conquered lower (northern) Egypt
  + eventually forced out
18\textsuperscript{th} DYNASTY

- Famous pharaohs
  - Hatshepsut
    - actually a woman
  - Thutmoses III
    - most aggressive general
  - Amenhotep III
    - huge building projects esp. Luxor and Karnak Temples
18th Dynasty

- Aknaten (Amenhotep IV)
  - denounces other gods
  - worships only Aten
    - the solar disc
  - creates a new holy city
    - Aketaten / Amarna
  - enormous social upheaval

- Son Tutankamun
  - originally Tutankaten
  - pharaoh at age 8
    - changes name
    - marries his sister
  - regency
  - dies at age 19
    - murdered?
    - latest evidence shows a broken leg leading to gangrene
BUST OF NEFERTITI (18TH DYNASTY)
19th Dynasty

- Ramses I chosen by Horemheb as successor
  - old military man, but he had a son (Seti I) and a grandson (Ramses II)
- During this dynasty
  - all references to Aknaten removed
  - Amarna temples abandoned
19th Dynasty Timeline

- Ramesses I (1292 BC - 1290 BC)
- Seti I (1290 BC - 1279 BC)
- Ramesses the Great (1279 BC - 1213 BC)
- Merneptah (1213 BC - 1203 BC)
- Amenmesse (1203 BC - 1199 BC)
- Seti II (1199 BC - 1193 BC)
- Siptah (1193 BC - 1187 BC)
- Twosret (1187 BC - 1185 BC)
RAMSES II
RAMSES II (THE GREAT)

- Re-established Egyptian empire
  - over parts of Lebanon and Syria
- Conquered parts of Nubia
- Enormous building campaign
  - a capital near present day Cairo
  - many palaces and temples
- Possibly the pharaoh of Exodus
RAMSES THE GREAT

- Ramses II ruled for a long time
  - 66 years
  - dies at age 90 or so
  - teeth completely worn away
- Lost much of his territorial ambition
  - after his victory/defeat/stalemate at Qadesh vs the Hittites
  - after the death of Nefertari?
  - (after the events of Exodus?)
- Legacy
  - defeat of Mediterranean pirates
  - extension of Egyptian influence as far as
    - Syria (Hittite empire)
    - Nubia
  - as many as 100 children by various wives
TREATY BETWEEN RAMSES II AND HITTITE KING HATTUSHILI III
TEMPLE AT ABU SIMBEL
19th Dynasty

- Sees a rebirth of religion
- Akhnaten had completely broken with the old religion
  - no doubt extremely stressful on the whole society
- Tutankhamun reverses this decision
  - victories of Ramses possibly seen as vindication
CONCLUSION

- Egypt was very unusual
  + long cultural continuity
  + relative isolation

- The New Kingdom sees radical social upheaval
  + monotheism and back

- Ramses II
  + long reign
  + revival of military power
WEDNESDAY

- Race Games
- Reading: Parlett, Ch. 4