

Chapter 3 – Ancient Egypt & Nubia

Section 3 – Egyptian Religion Notes

Beliefs	Practices	Pyramids
Egyptians believed that their gods and goddesses controlled the workings of nature	Egyptians mummified their dead. At first only important people were mummified	Most Pyramids were built during the Old Kingdom
Built temples to honor their gods and offered food, gifts, and prayers	They believed the body need to be preserved so that the soul would recognize it when it returned for food offerings	The largest Pyramid, the Great Pyramid, was built in the city of Giza for Pharaoh Khufu; Second king of the 4 th dynasty
Amon-Re was the chief god who protected the poor and rich alike	Coffins to hold the mummy were carved; Pharaohs had three to four coffins one inside the other	It took up to 20 years to build a pyramid-each stone of the great pyramid weighed about 5000 pounds
Believed in a life after death	Tombs were built to hold the mummified bodies of pharaohs	Pyramids are located on the west side of the Nile River – Egyptians believed the west was the land of the day because it was where the sun set
At one point, the Egyptians believed the spirit of the dead would make its way to the afterlife only if it was mummified	Usually a person's possessions were buried with them	Although many people died during the building process, builders thought it was an act of faith to ensure the pharaoh's place in the afterlife
In the afterlife they believed they spent their time with loved ones who passed before and the god Osiris	The Pyramids were built as tombs for the pharaohs	