

**Ancient Egypt and Kush****Section 5****MAIN IDEAS**

1. The geography of early Nubia helped civilization develop there.
2. Kush and Egypt traded but they also fought.
3. Later Kush became a trading power with a unique culture.
4. Both internal and external conflicts lead to the decline of Kush.

**Key Terms and People**

**Piankhi** Kushite king who conquered all of Egypt

**trade network** a system of people in different lands who trade goods back and forth

**merchants** traders

**exports** items sent for sale in other countries or regions

**imports** goods brought in from other countries or regions

**Queen Shanakhdakheto** the first woman to rule Kush

**King Ezana** Aksumite king who destroyed Meroë and took over the kingdom of Kush

**Academic Vocabulary**

**authority** power or influence

**Section Summary****THE GEOGRAPHY OF EARLY NUBIA**

The kingdom of Kush developed in Nubia, south of Egypt. Just as in Egypt, yearly Nile floods provided fertile soil and farming thrived. The area was also rich in gold, copper, and stone. Kerma (KAR-muh), the capital city on the Nile, was protected by a cataract, or stretch of shallow rapids. As time passed Kushite society became more complex.

**What valuable resources were important to Kush's prosperity?**

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**KUSH AND EGYPT**

Kush and Egypt were trading partners. The Kushites sent slaves to Egypt. They also sent gold, copper, ebony, and ivory. At times Kush and Egypt were at war. Around 1500 BC, Thutmose I invaded Kush and left the palace at Kerma in ruins. Kush became

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free from Egypt in about 1050 BC. By around 850 BC Kush was a power again. During the 700s, under the king Kashta, the Kushites began to invade Egypt. Kashta's son, **Piankhi** (PYANG-kee), conquered all of Egypt by the time he died in 716 BC. Piankhi's brother, Shabaka (SHAB-uh-kuh), became pharaoh of the twenty-fifth, or Kushite, dynasty. Egyptian culture thrived. But by 670 BC, Assyrians invaded Egypt. Their iron weapons were better than the bronze weapons of Kush. Over time, the Assyrians pushed the Kushites back to Nubia.

For about how many years was Kush under Egyptian control?

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**LATER KUSH**

After Kush lost control of Egypt, it developed trade to make itself rich again. Meroë (MER-oh-wee) became the center of a **trade network**. Africa's first iron industry developed here because iron ore and wood for fuel were available. The Kushites sent goods to Egypt. From there, Egyptian and Greek **merchants** shipped goods to the Mediterranean and beyond. Kush's **exports** included gold, pottery, iron tools, ivory, leopard skins, and slaves. **Imports** included luxury items from Egypt, Asia, and the Mediterranean.

The Kushites worshipped their own gods and developed their own writing. Women were active in society, and some rose to positions of **authority**. **Queen Shanakhdakheto** (shah-nahk-dah-KEE-toh) was the first of many women who ruled Kush.

What industry helped make Kush a rich and successful kingdom again?

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What was the role of women in Kushite society?

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**THE DECLINE OF KUSH**

By the AD 300s, another trading center, Aksum (AHK-soom), located in what is now Eritrea, began competing with Kush. Soon trade routes bypassed Meroë, weakening Kush. The Aksum leader **King Ezana** (AY-zah-nah) invaded, and Kush fell.

Circle the name and kingdom of the ruler who eventually defeated Kush.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Solving Problems** Pretend you are a Kushite leader in 850 BC. Write a short essay explaining your plan to defeat Egypt.

**Section 5, *continued***

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**DIRECTIONS** Look at each set of four vocabulary terms. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. a. Piankhi  
b. an Egyptian  
c. son of Kashta  
d. a Kushite
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. a. Piankhi  
b. trade network  
c. Meroë  
d. a system of people in different lands who trade goods
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a. merchants  
b. traders  
c. Egyptian and Greek  
d. King Ezana
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. a. imports  
b. exports  
c. goods brought in  
d. fine jewelry and luxury items
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. a. imports  
b. exports  
c. items sent out  
d. gold and slaves
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. a. King Ezana  
b. first woman to rule Kush  
c. 170 BC to 150 BC  
d. Queen Shanakhdakheto
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. a. King Ezana  
b. Queen Shanakhdakheto  
c. King of Aksum  
d. destroyed Meroë