

Ancient Egypt

Timeline of Events



3100 – 2950 BC

Hieroglyphics are First Used



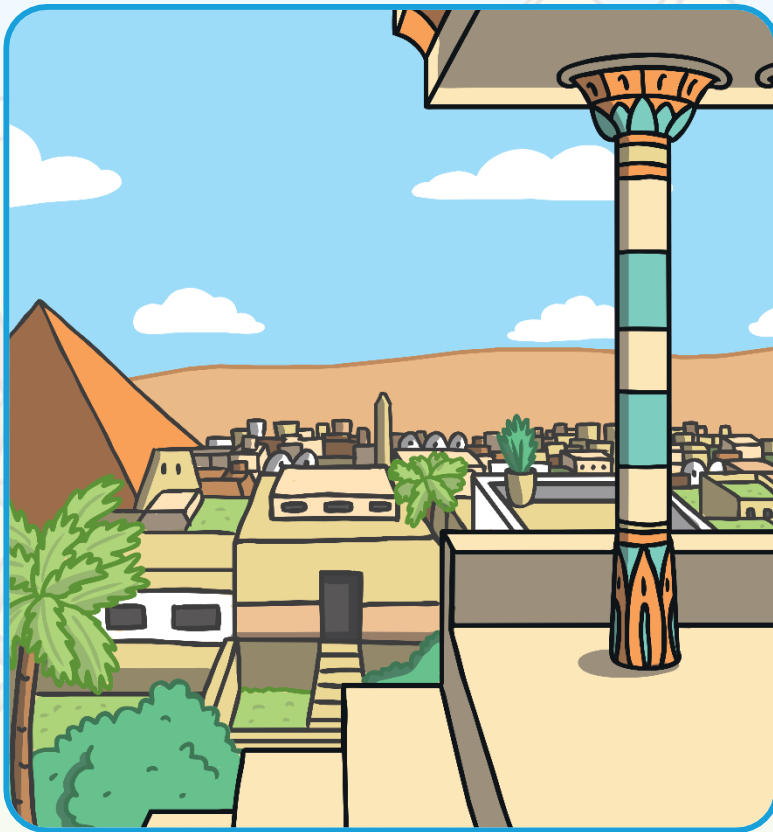
Hieroglyphs, a language of symbols, were designed to keep records of all buying and selling. They also used these symbols to record their knowledge and beliefs.

Ancient Egyptians wrote on scrolls made from of papyrus plant.



2950 BC

Memphis is Built



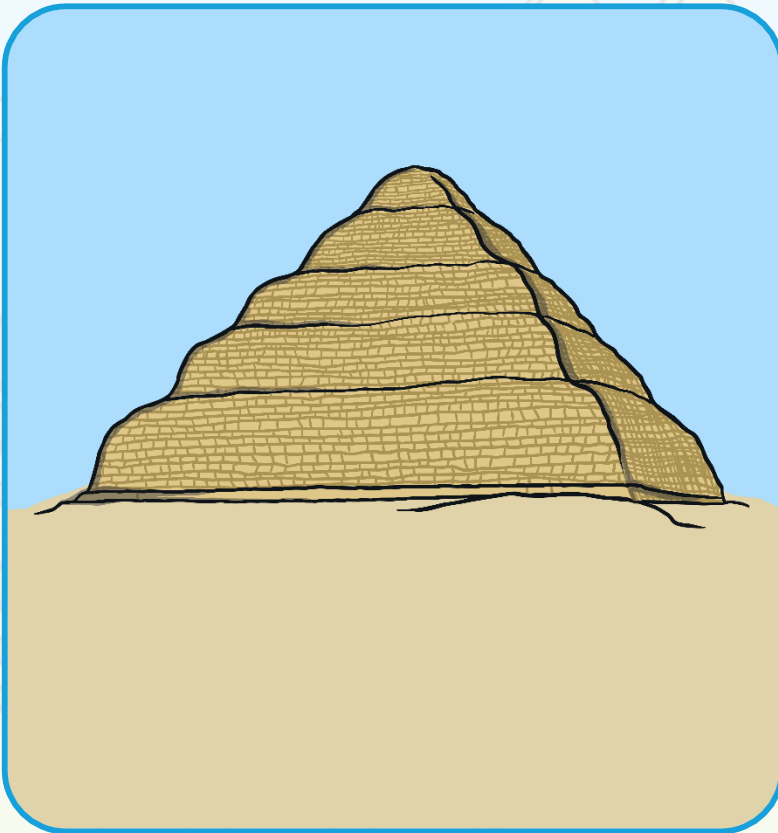
Memphis was the capital city of Egypt for just 770 years.

Its Ancient Egyptian name was 'Inbu-Hedj', which means 'the white walls'.

The main god of Memphis was Ptah, the creator god and the god of craftsmen.

2950 – 2575 BC

The First Egyptian pyramid is Built

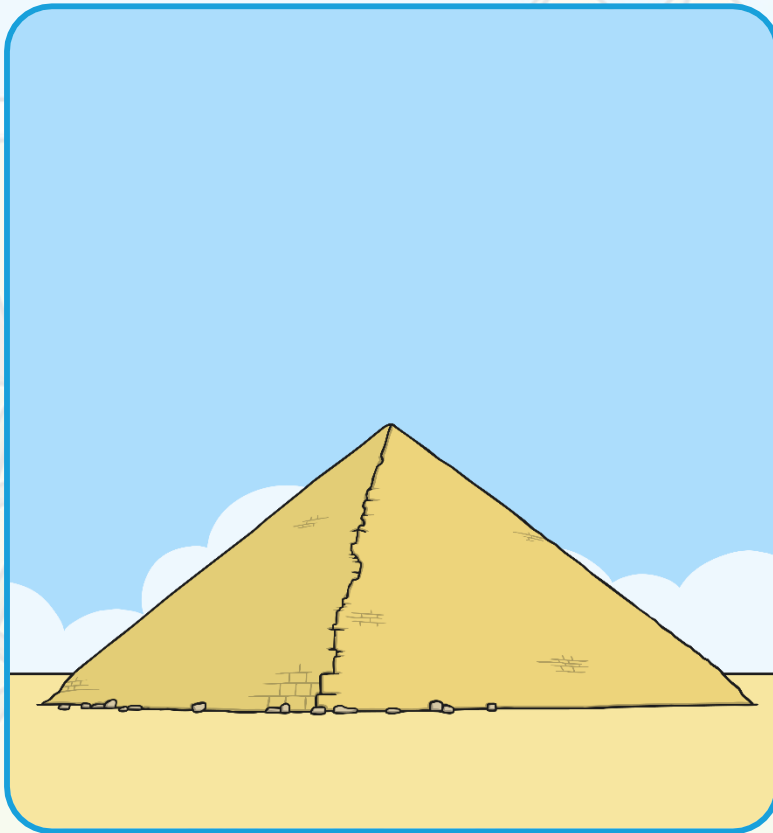


The first Egyptian pyramid was a 'Step Pyramid'. It was built in sandstone and encased in limestone, standing 70 metres tall.

This pyramid still stands today.

2575 – 2150 BC

The Great Pyramids are Built



The Giza Pyramids are built for the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure.

The pyramids were built in the Western Desert, 5 miles from the banks of the River Nile.

The largest of the pyramids is 146 metres tall and nearly 200 metres long.

The Great Pyramid at Giza is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

2125 – 1975 BC

Egypt is Divided



Egypt is divided into the north and south.

The northern state was ruled by Memphis, the southern by Thebes.

The civil unrest that led to this division lasted for 150 years.

1975 – 1640 BC

Egypt is Reunited



Egypt is reunited as one country by pharaoh Mentuhotep II.

During this time, technology to smelt and cast bronze developed and statues began being designed and built widely across Egypt.

1630 – 1520 BC

Hyksos Rulers



Hyksos rulers from western Asia invaded the north-east of Egypt around the Nile Delta.

'Hyksos' is thought to mean "rulers of foreign lands". The rise of the Hyksos kings was made possible by large-scale immigration into Egypt from Palestine. The immigrants brought new technology, culture and customs.

The Hyksos kings were eventually expelled from Egypt by pharaoh Ahmose I.

1539 – 1075 BC

Great Pharaohs



During this time, many famous pharaohs were in power, such as Hatshepsut, one of only a few female pharaohs, Rameses II and Tutankhamun.

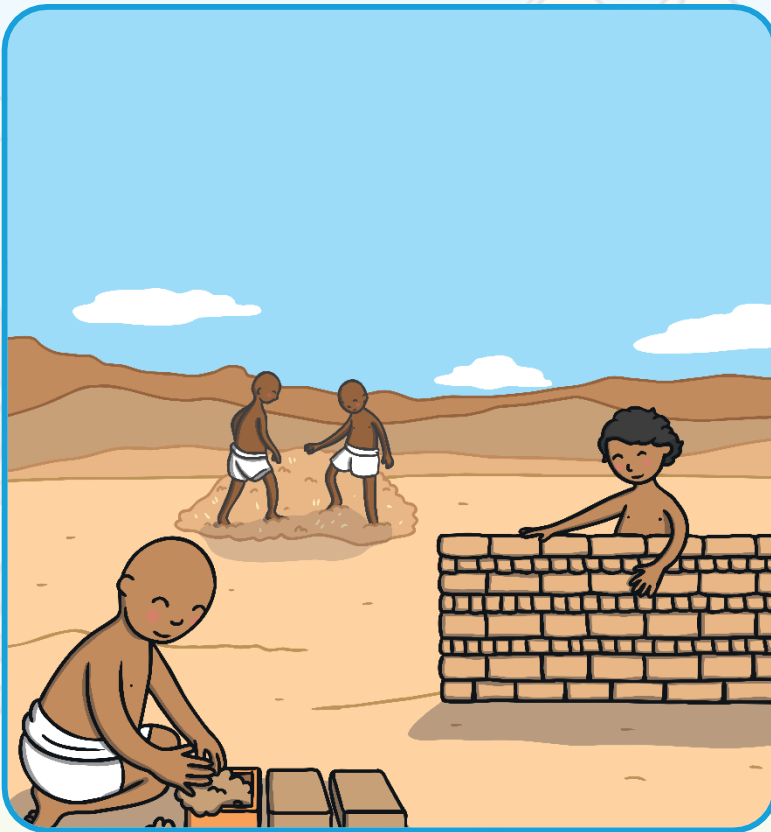
The 10 year rule of Tutankhamun began in 1332 BC. He is thought to have died at 18 years old, possibly by a hippopotamus attack.

In 1922, the boy king's tomb was discovered intact and full of treasures by British archaeologists.

He is arguably the most famous pharaoh remembered today.

1017 – 715 BC

The Nubians Conquer Egypt



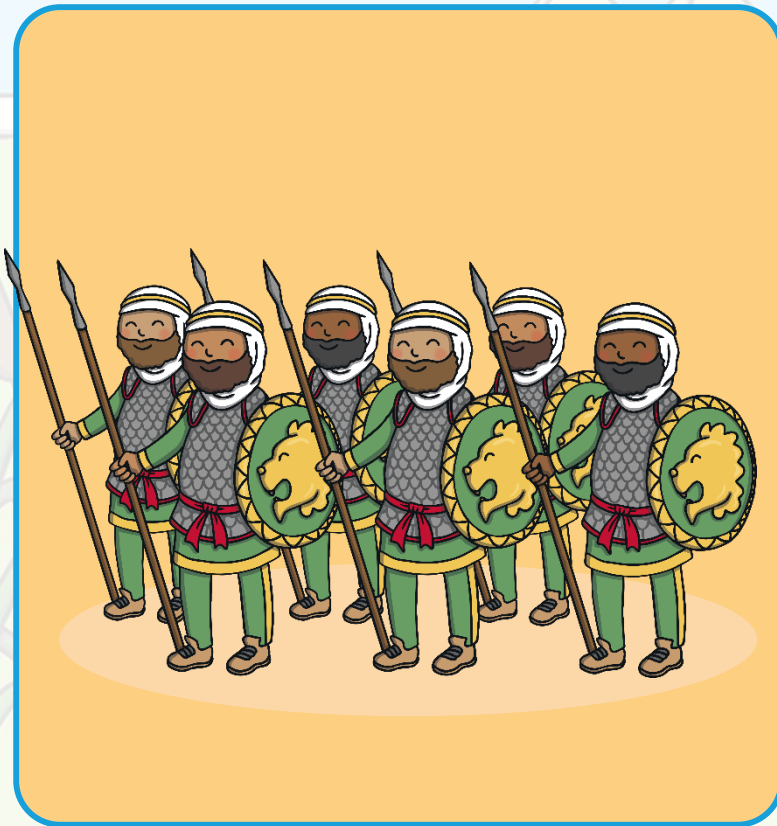
Nubians came from an area called Nubia in northeast Africa, between modern-day Egypt and Sudan.

The Nubians conquered Egypt and established their own dynasty of pharaohs, including Piye, Shabaka and Taharqa.

The pharaohs of this dynasty built and restored temples and pyramids throughout the Nile valley.

525 BC

The Persians Conquer Egypt



The invading Persian army, led by Cambyses II, defeated the Egyptian armies and took control of the country.

This period was filled with constant rebellion over the Persian rule. There were many different pharaohs who ruled during this time, their reigns often ending due to being overthrown or assassinated.

332 BC

Alexander the Great Conquers Egypt



Alexander the Great was considered a dynamic leader, especially in battle. He was tactical, brave, strong and had a huge army of loyal and devoted men.

His army easily conquered Egypt after the reigning Persian ruler, Mazaces, handed Egypt over without a fight.

The Egyptian people were delighted with Alexander's victory as he freed them from Persian rule.

305 BC

The Ptolemaic Era



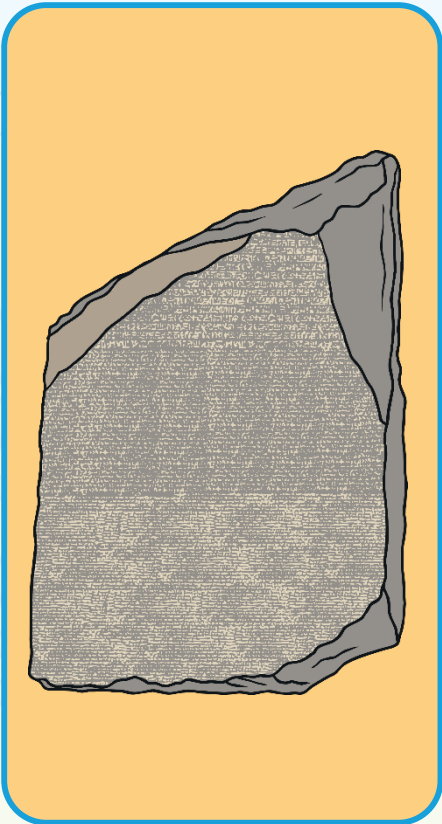
After Alexander the Great's death, his friend Ptolemy was appointed governor to look after Egypt until a new pharaoh was crowned.

After successfully defending Egypt from invasion, Ptolemy was crowned pharaoh Ptolemy I and was known as a saviour.

His dynasty, the Ptolemaic dynasty, is one of the most famous and well-documented in Ancient Egypt.

196 BC

The Rosetta Stone is Carved



The Rosetta Stone holds the key to translating hieroglyphics.

The text on the stone is written in three languages – hieroglyphics, Egyptian demotic and ancient Greek.

The stone was discovered in 1799 at the port of Rosetta in Egypt.

Until the stone's discovery, many people had tried, and failed, to decipher the meaning of hieroglyphics.

It is currently on display in the British Museum in London.

51 – 30 BC

Cleopatra



One of the most famous pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, Cleopatra VII, reigned for 27 years.

Cleopatra had a son, Caesarion, with Roman leader Julius Caesar.

She died at the age of 39 after being poisoned, possibly by an asp (an Egyptian snake).

Caesarion became pharaoh Ptolemy XV after her death.

30 BC

The Roman Empire Conquers Egypt

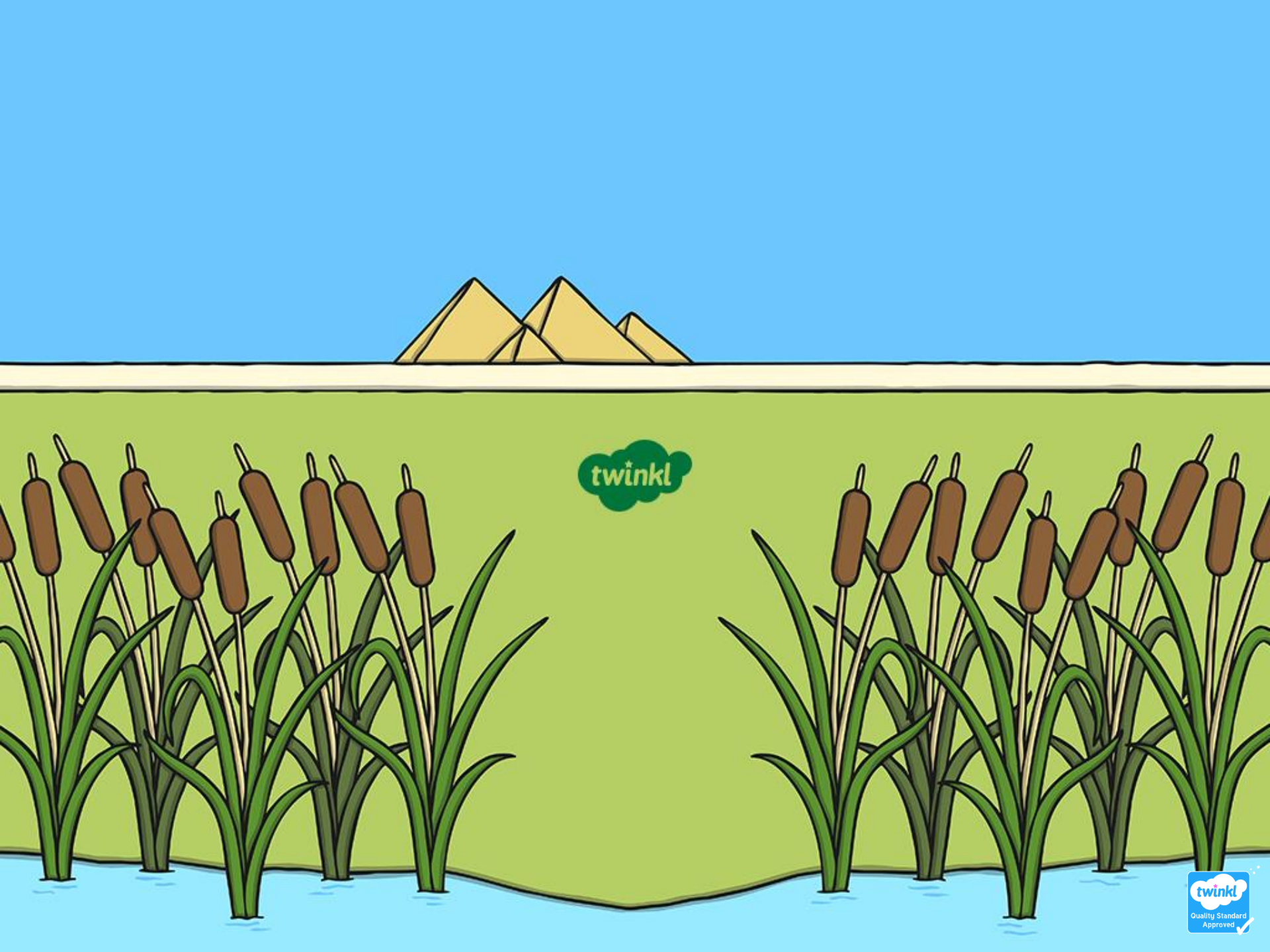


The Roman Empire, led by Octavian, conquered Egypt in 30 BC.

Ptolemy XV was assassinated by Octavian, who later became Emperor Augustus.

As part of the Roman Empire, Egypt was governed by prefects appointed by the Emperor.

Egypt became a major producer of grain for the Empire, had the largest port at Alexandria and became the wealthiest province outside of Italy.



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