

Springboard into Comprehension

26

Identifying Detail No Ducks in the Water

Main Idea **Pharaohs**

Sequencing The Ice Age and the Woolly Mammoth

Compare and Contrast Salt and Silk

Fact and Opinion Carly and the Glass Sneaker

Cause and Effect The Rubbish Monster



Pharaohs



Written by Jerry Alexander

Pharaohs

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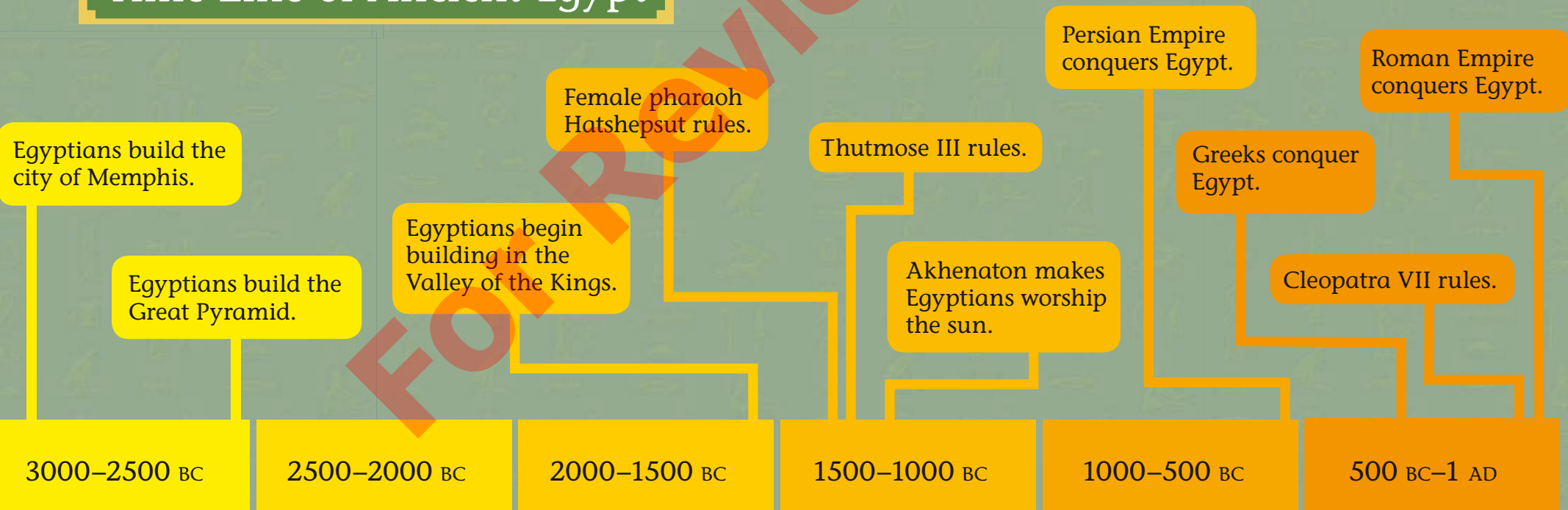
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Introduction

The pharaohs were the kings of ancient Egypt. Pharaohs ruled Egypt for over 2,500 years. In the history of Egypt, there are families of pharaohs. Each family is called a **dynasty**. From the first pharaoh to the last, there were 31 dynasties.

The word *pharaoh* means *great house*. At first, the Egyptians *used* the word to mean *the king's palace*. In the 18th Dynasty, they started to use it to mean simply *the king*.

Time Line of Ancient Egypt

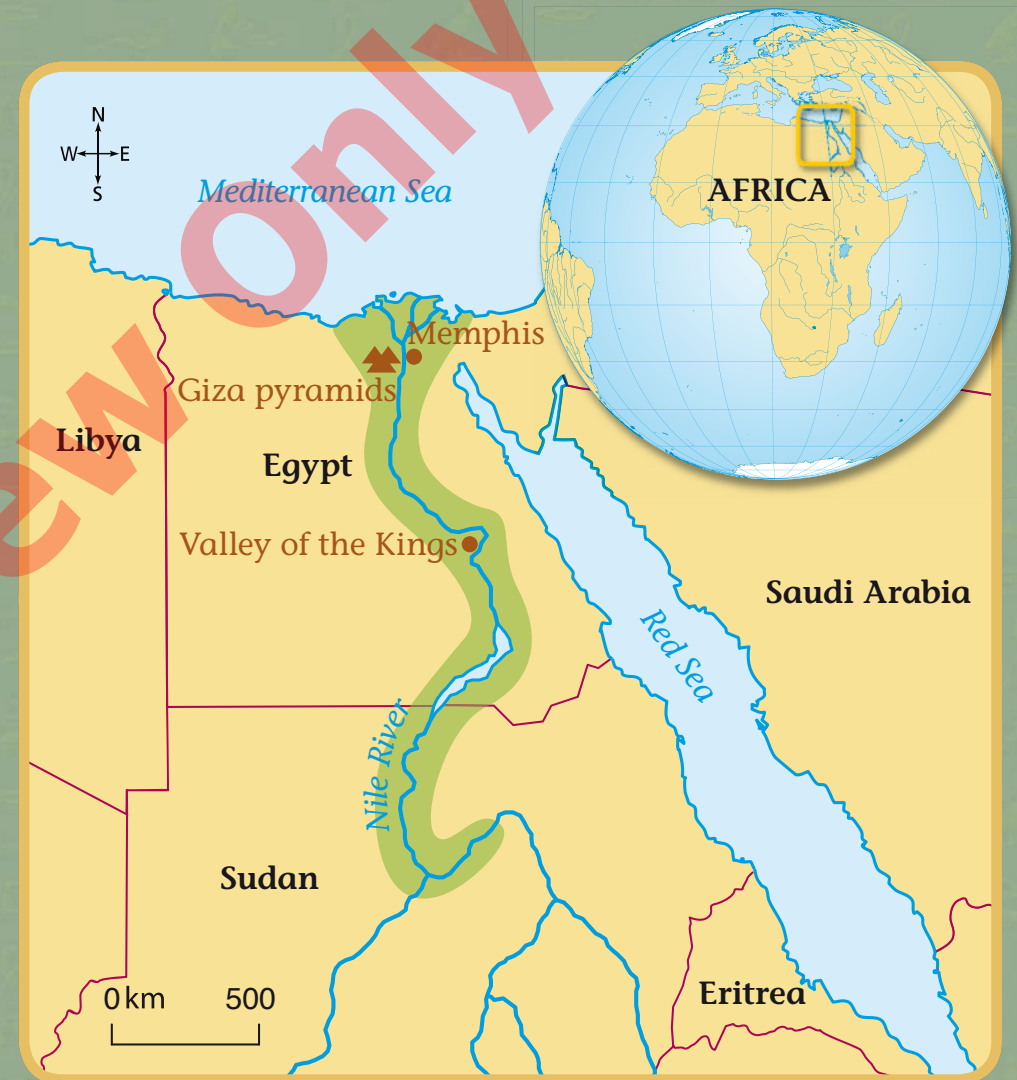


Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt grew up by the Nile River. The Nile flows through the desert of northern Africa. People began to live there thousands of years ago.

The banks of the Nile are good for farming. Every year, the Nile floods. The floodwater dumps a large amount of fine, rich soil, or silt, on the nearby land. The floods were very important to the ancient Egyptians. Silt from floods allowed people to grow food to live.

Ancient Egypt and the Nile River



Key

- Where ancient Egyptians lived
- Borders of modern-day countries

The Power of the Pharaohs

The pharaohs began as powerful priests. Pharaohs were the link between gods and people. People thought the pharaohs could talk to the gods. They thought the pharaohs could make sure the Nile flooded well. They thought only the pharaohs could keep order. This power of the pharaohs was called *ma'at*.

In time, the Egyptians began to think the pharaohs were living gods. They thought the pharaohs would become real gods after they died.



When the pharaoh died, ancient Egyptians thought he became Osiris, king of the dead.