

Week 2 – Monday

Humanities and ancient worlds

HPHP4018

Exploring Humanities

Subject Group: Ancient Worlds

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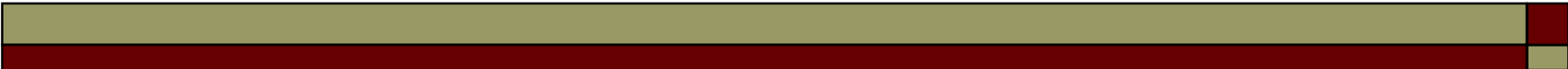
To start with....

The *Humanities* **MATTER!**

The Humanities are academic disciplines that seek to understand and interpret the human experience, from individuals to entire cultures, engaging in the discovery, preservation, and communication of the past and present record to enable a deeper understanding of contemporary society.

The Humanities encompass literature, classics, ancient and modern languages, history, philosophy, media studies, the fine and performing arts, and other related subjects. It can be a challenge to show the benefits the Humanities bring: in this infographic we gather available evidence to show the Humanities matter!

Presented by 4Humanities and UCL Centre for Digital Humanities



Humanities matter

- ❑ Humanities – seek to understand and interpret the human experience
- ❑ individuals to entire cultures
- ❑ cover discovery, preservation, and communication of the past
- ❑ present record to enable a deeper understanding of contemporary society
- ❑ Includes: literature, classics, ancient/modern languages, history, philosophy, media studies, the fine/performing arts + related subjects → disciplines?!?

Often asked

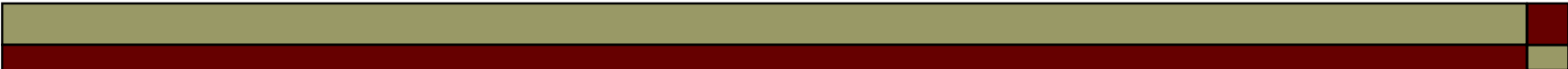
- ❑ Who needs humanities, do something useful
????
- ❑ Why we still need to study the humanities in a
STEM world????





George Anders “You Can Do Anything: The Surprising Power of a ‘Useless’ Liberal Arts Education”

- ❑ Curiosity, creativity, and empathy needed for success
- ❑ Human touch / soft skills never been more essential
- ❑ Without human judgement, we get lost in big data

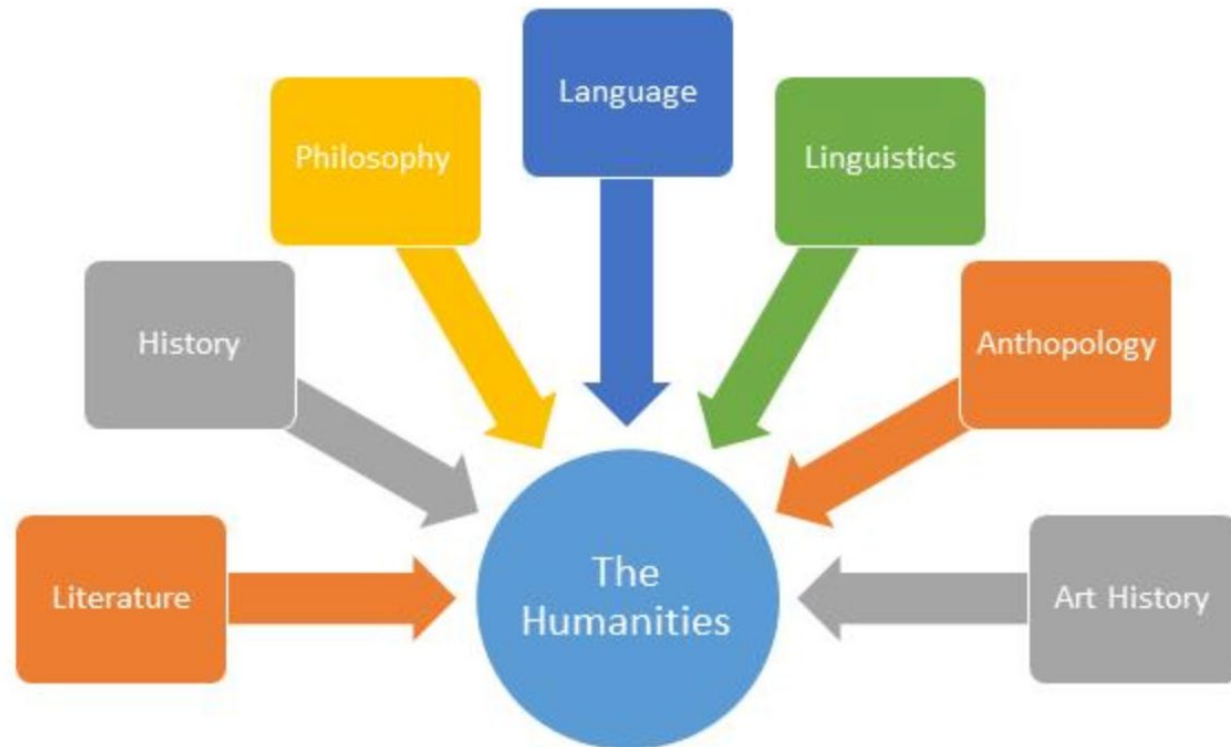


Humanities

- ❑ help us understand others through their languages, histories and cultures.
- ❑ build skills in writing and critical reading
- ❑ enable us to think creatively
- ❑ teach us to reason about being human and to ask questions about our world

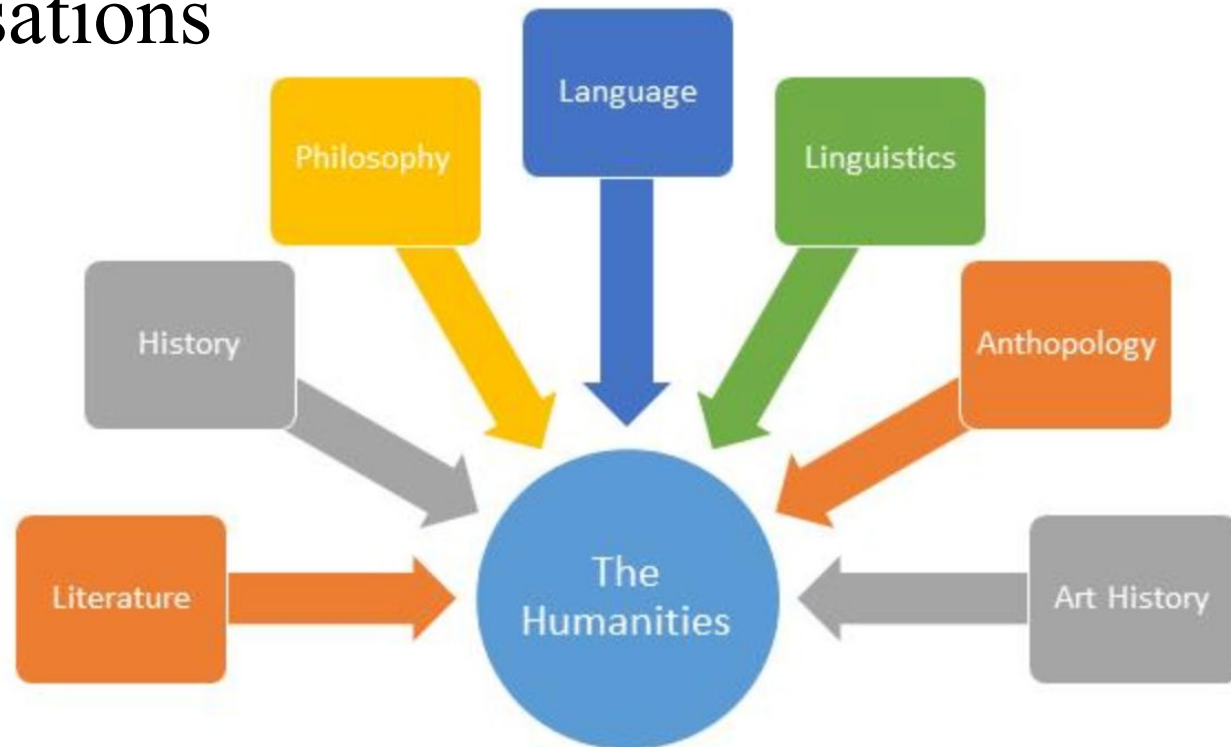
Definition ?!

- ❑ **The humanities** = diverse collection of fields/disciplines that studies / describes human culture, society, beliefs
- ❑ What does it mean to be human?

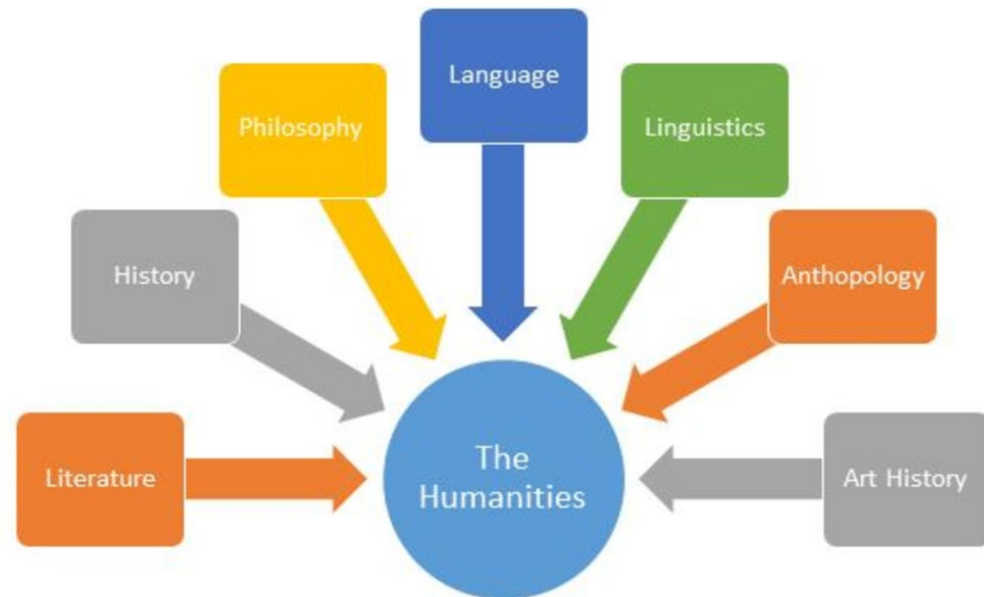


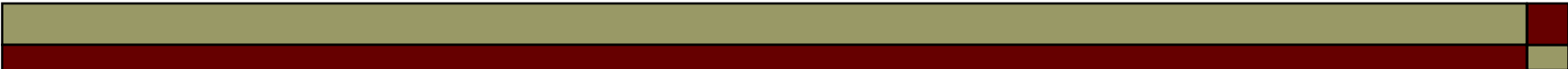
Define your discipline within Humanities

- ❑ Ancient Civilisations
- ❑ Ancient History
- ❑ Classical Civilisations
- ❑ Chinese Studies



-
- ❑ To get you going...
 - ❑ Egyptology is the study of the culture, people, language, history, literature, religion, art, economics, and architecture of ancient Egypt





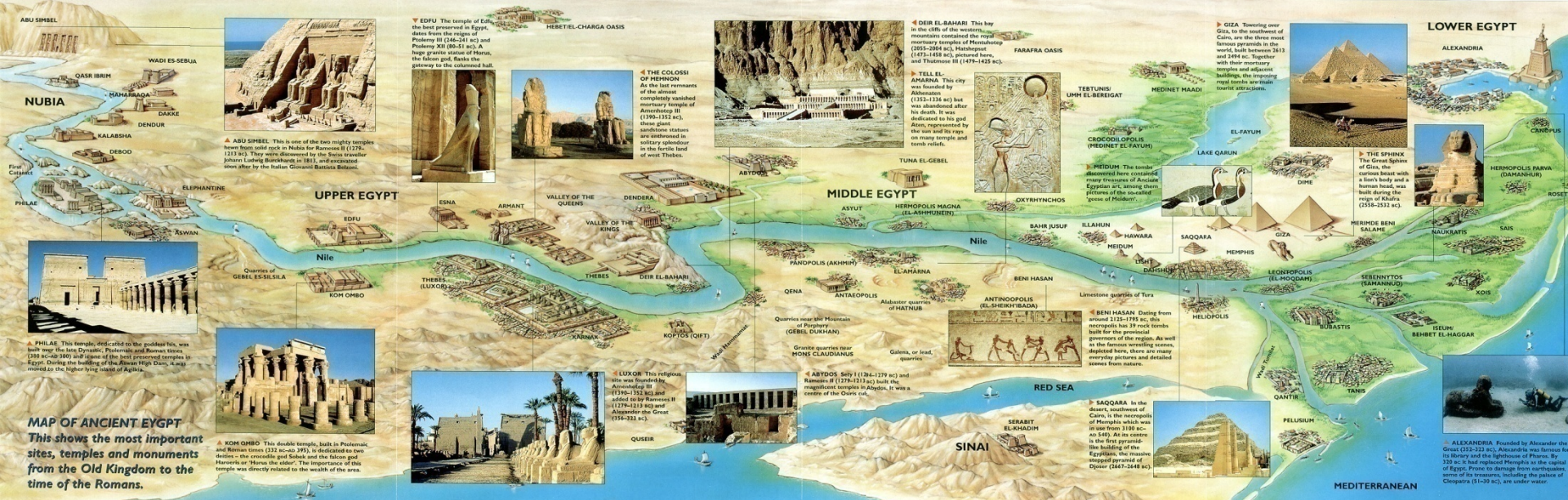
At first

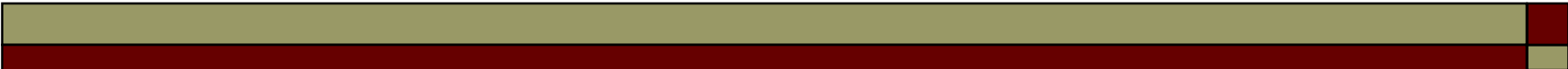
- There is land (a special construct)...





Ancient Egypt





At first

- There is land (a special construct)...
 - With climate
 - Landscape (maybe seascape, ...)

The Nile

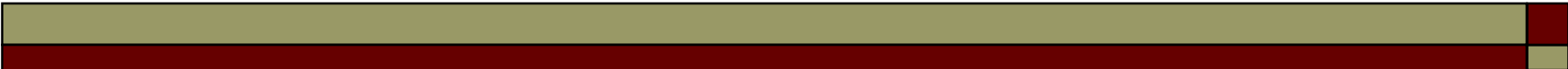


Nile and Desert



A wide-angle photograph of a vast, flat desert landscape. The ground is a uniform light brown color, with some faint tracks and small dark spots visible. In the distance, a range of low, dark hills or mountains stretches across the horizon. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The word "Desert" is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, white font with a black outline.

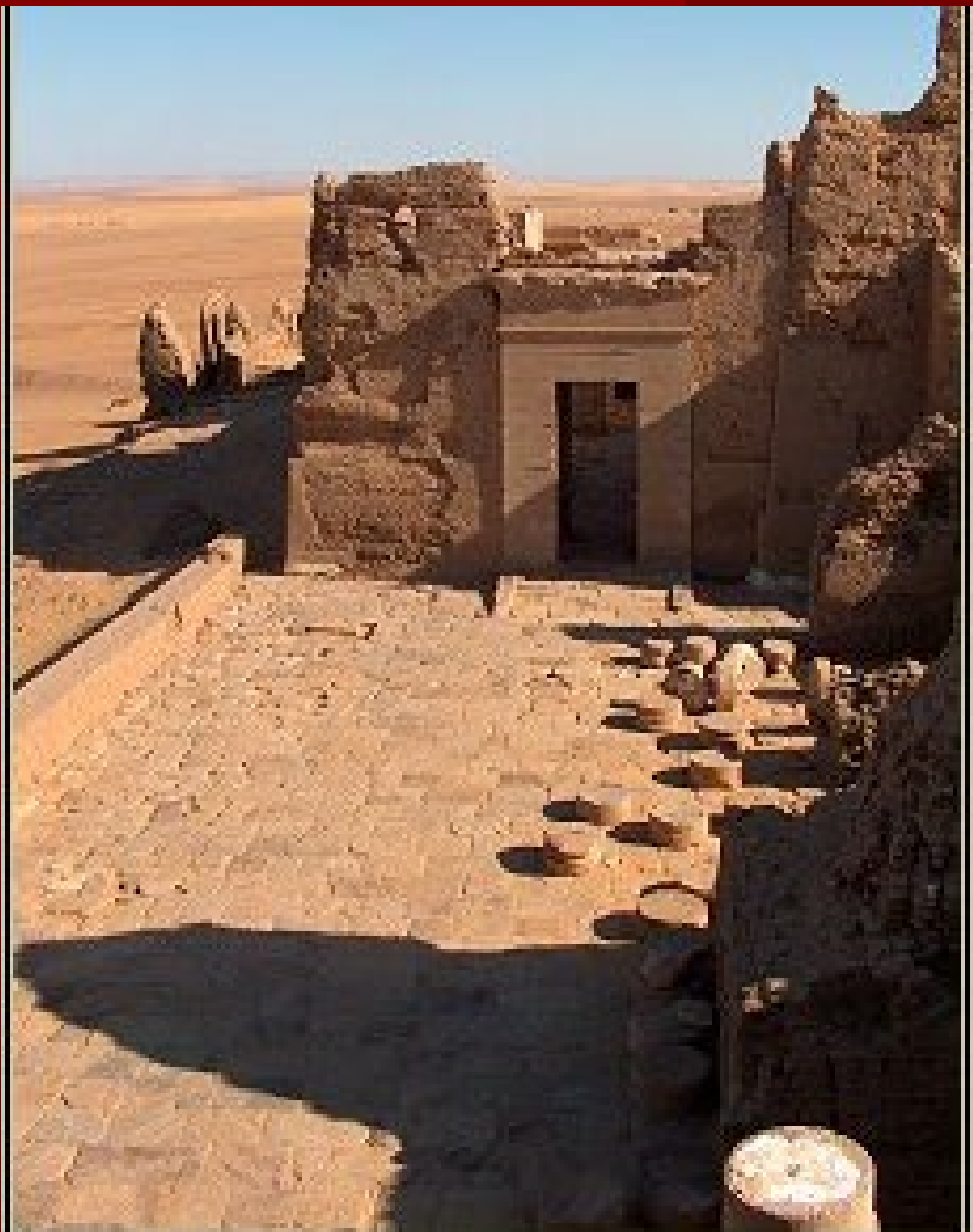
Desert



At first

- There is land ...
 - With climate
 - Landscape (maybe seascape, ...)
- Act as an habitat for
 - Animals
 - Humans

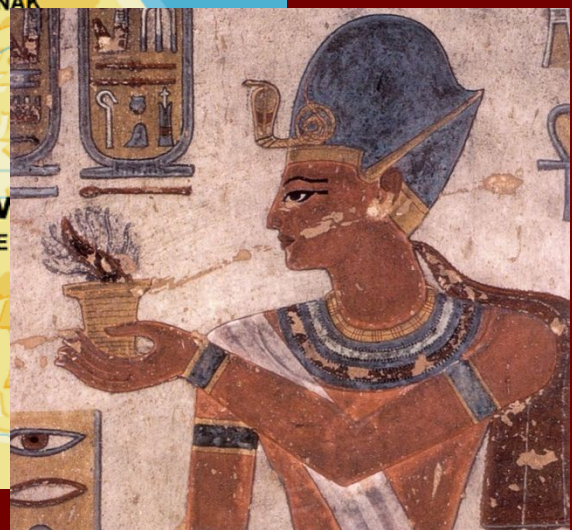
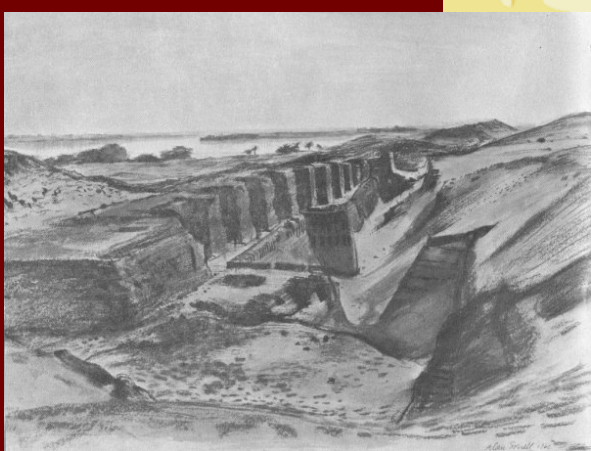
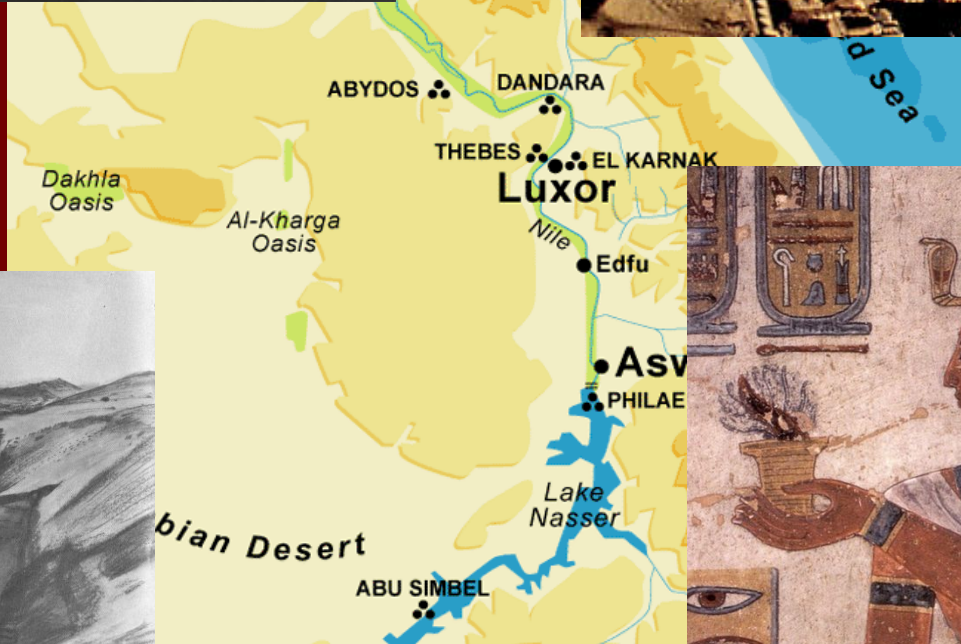
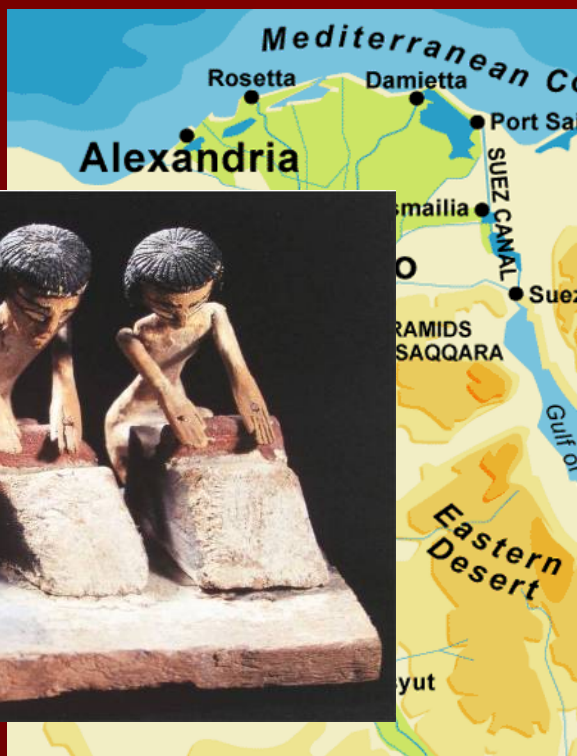
„used“ Desert



TEMPLE OF DUSH,
PARIS OASIS, EGYPT

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- **Civilisation:**
- the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization



Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Civilisation:**
- ❑ the stage of human social development and organization which is considered most advanced
- ❑ the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization

Periods

Dynasties

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ■ Pre- and Early Dynastic Period | ■ Predyn. (5300-3000BC), 0-2 |
| ■ Old Kingdom | |
| ■ First Intermediate Period | ■ 3-6 |
| ■ Middle Kingdom | ■ 8-11 |
| ■ Second Intermediate Period | ■ 11-12 |
| ■ New Kingdom | ■ 13-17 |
| ■ Third Intermediate Period | ■ 18-20 |
| ■ Late Period | ■ 21-24 |
| ■ Ptolemaic and Roman Period | ■ 25-"31" |
| | ■ No dynastic time anymore (332BC -331AD) |

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

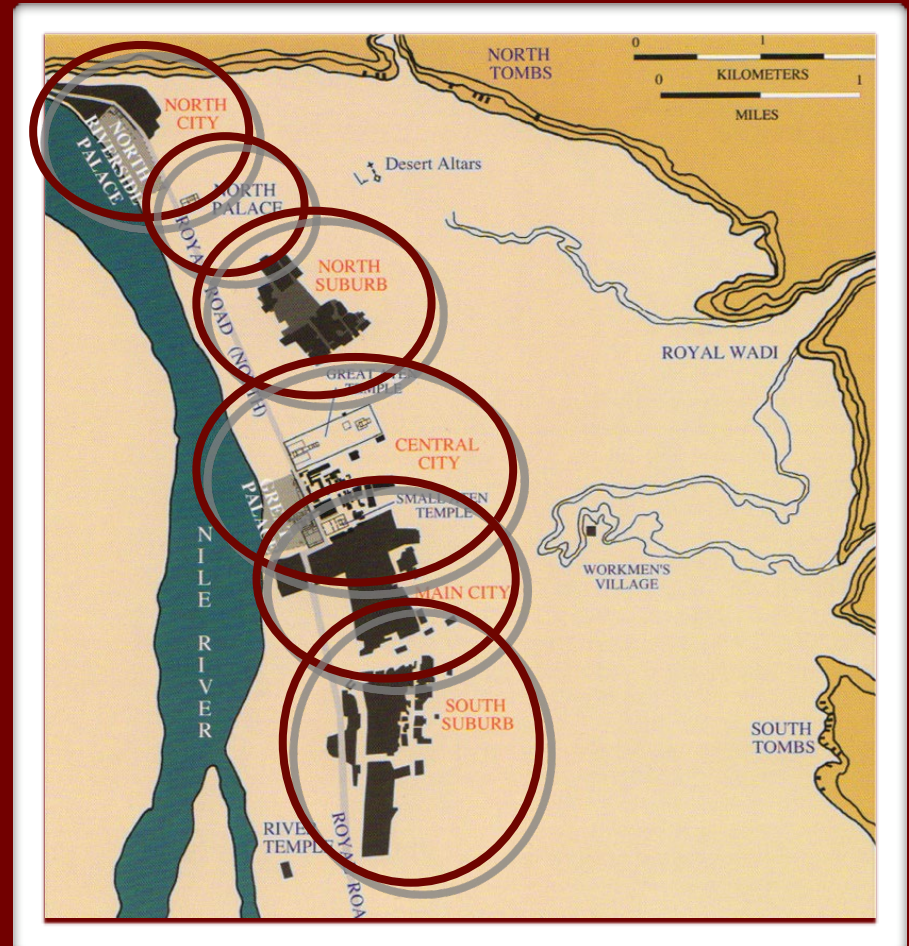
- ❑ **Civilisation:**
- ❑ the stage of human social development and organization which is considered most advanced
- ❑ the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization
- ❑ the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area
- ❑ the comfort and convenience of modern life, regarded as available only in towns and cities

Edfu Tempel – religious sites in urban areas



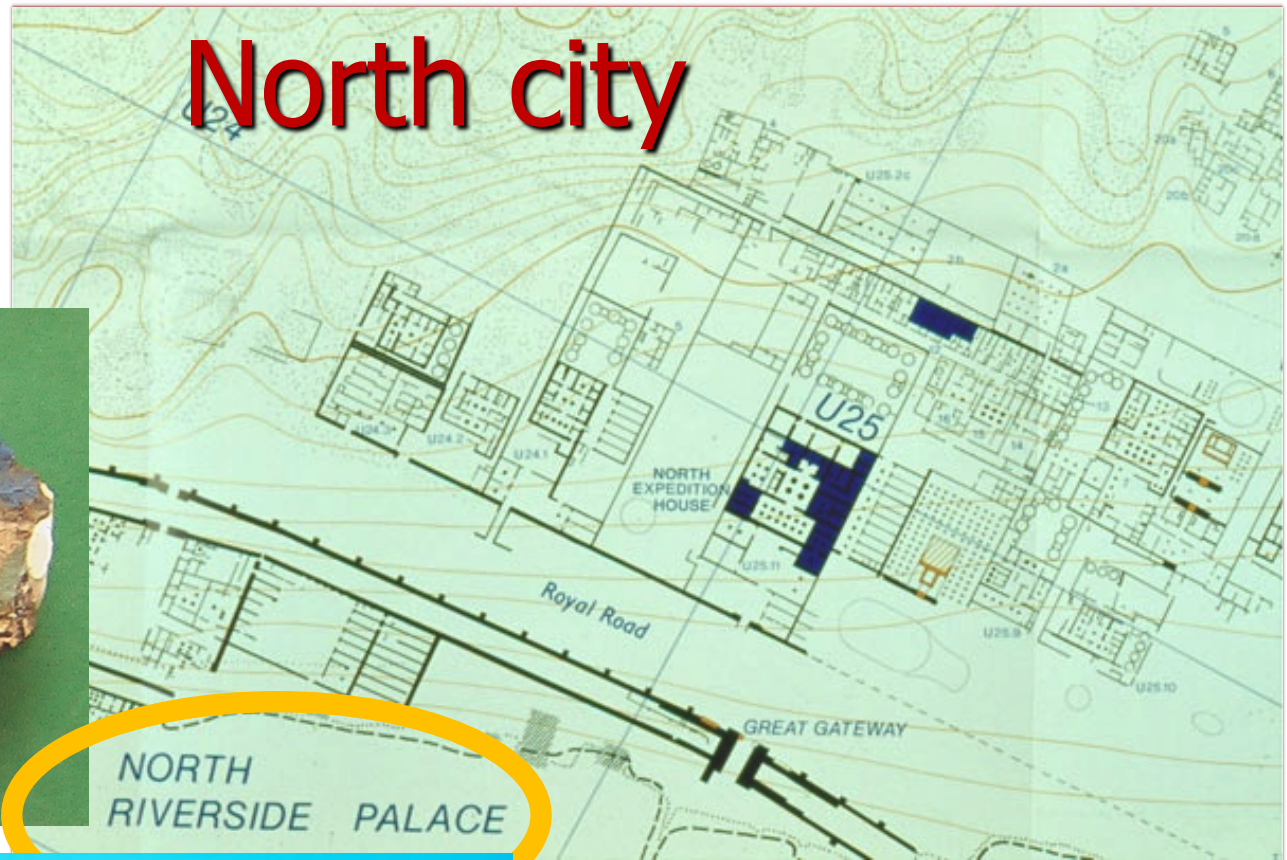
Urban zone of Amarna, capital under Akhenaton, NK, 18th dynasty

- North city
- North Palace
- North suburb
- Central city: temple, palatial, and administrative district
- Main city: urban housing
- South suburb

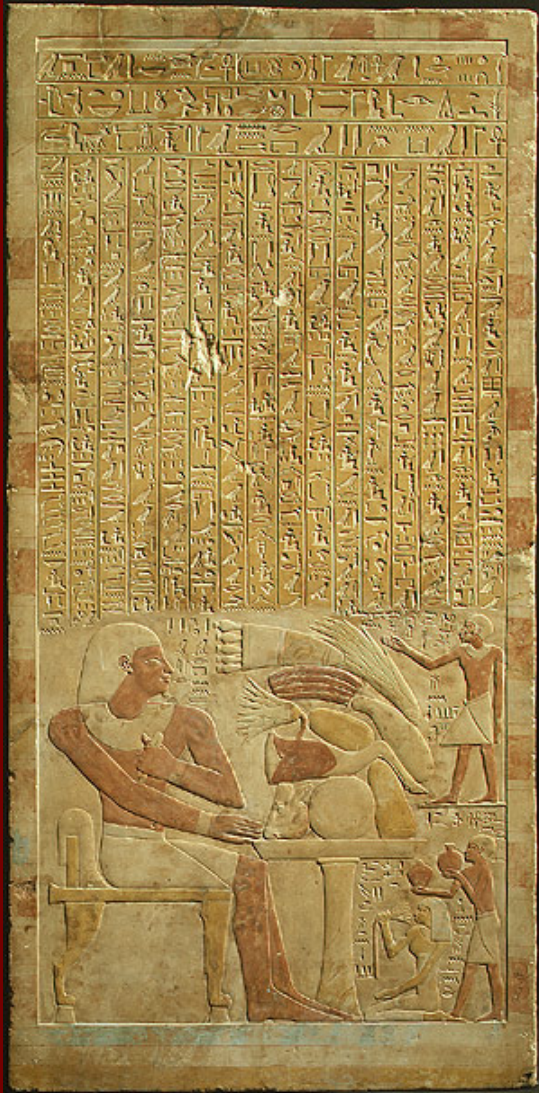


North city

Swansea,
Egypt Centre
W798



Stela of
Montuwoaser, MET



Material culture as expression of hierarchy – the elite

Senwosret III
MET New York



Seated statue of
Hatshepsut, MET



TT96 Sennefer, Mayor of Thebes (18th dyn.) – complex beliefs and ideas – the afterlife



Mastaba Ti, Saqqara, 5th dyn. - Craft specialisation

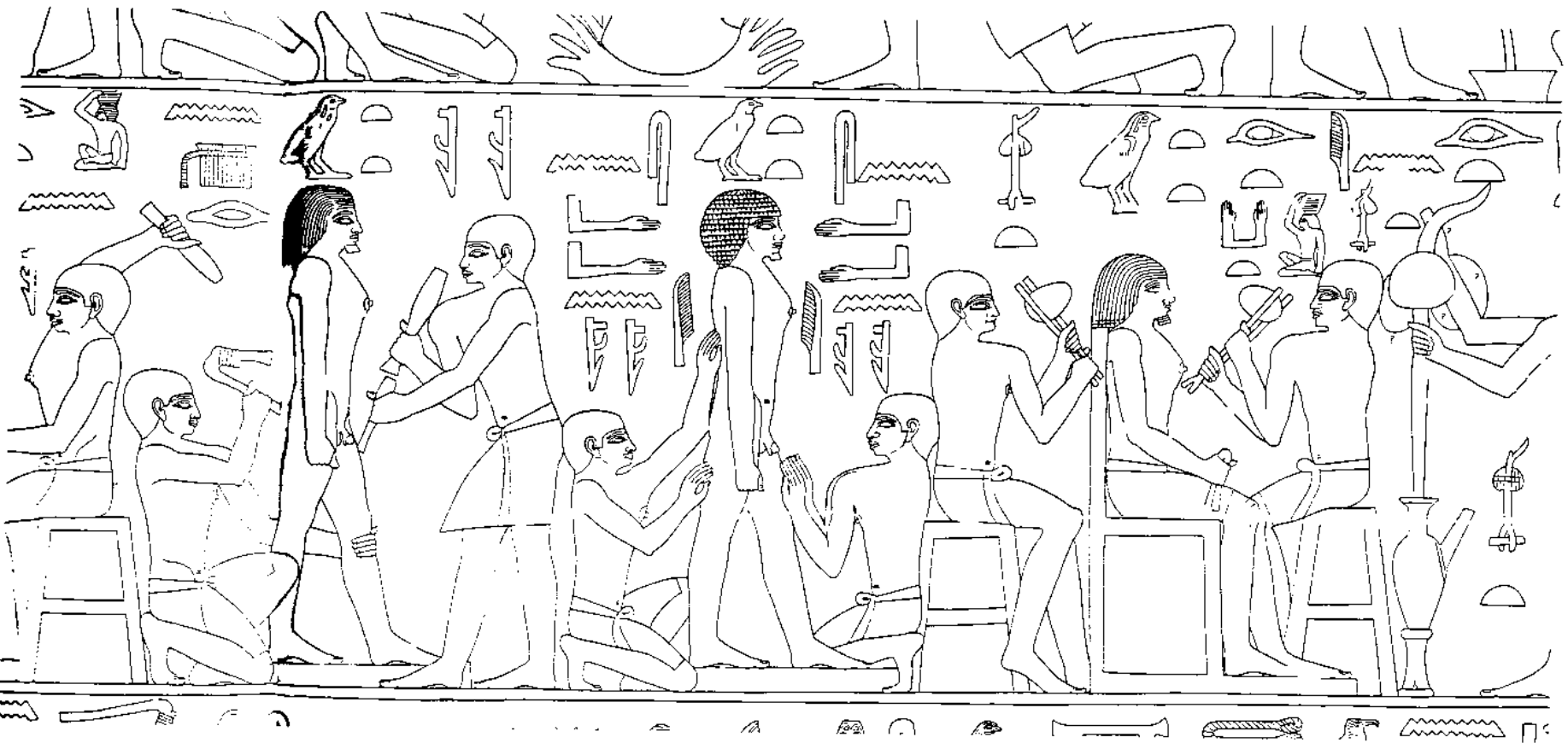


Abb. 26: Herstellung einer Statue aus dem Grab des Ti, Saqqarah (nach: Epron - Wild, Tombeau de Ti, Tafel CLXXIII, Ausschnitt)

New York, MET: Horse



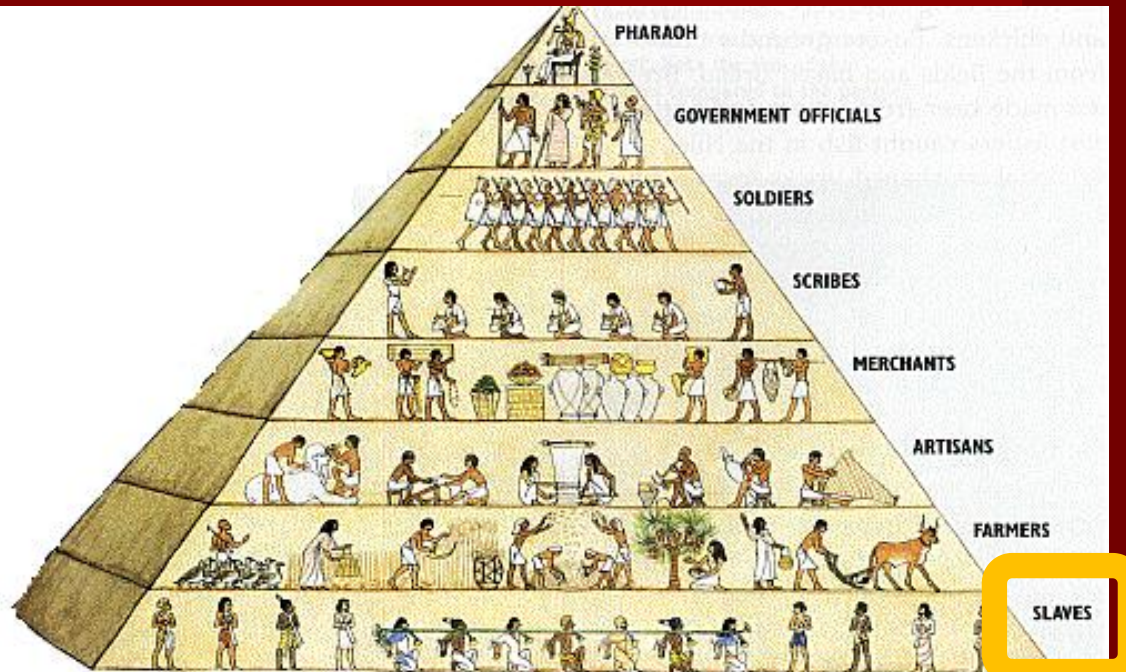
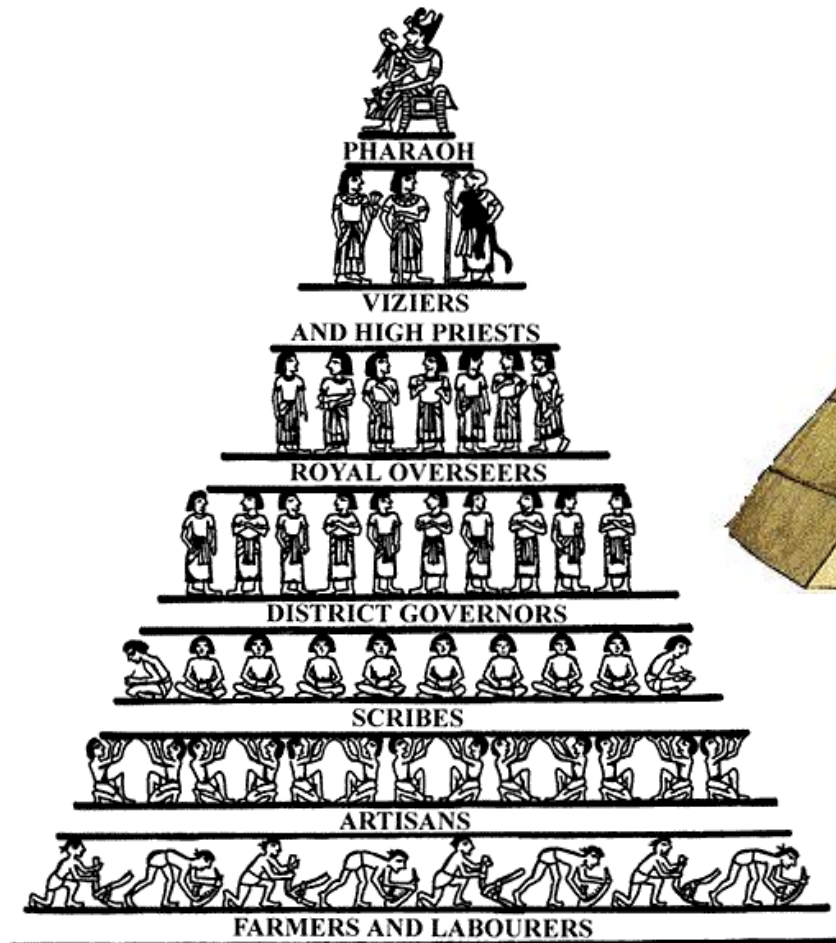
Pektoral Senwosret II, MET

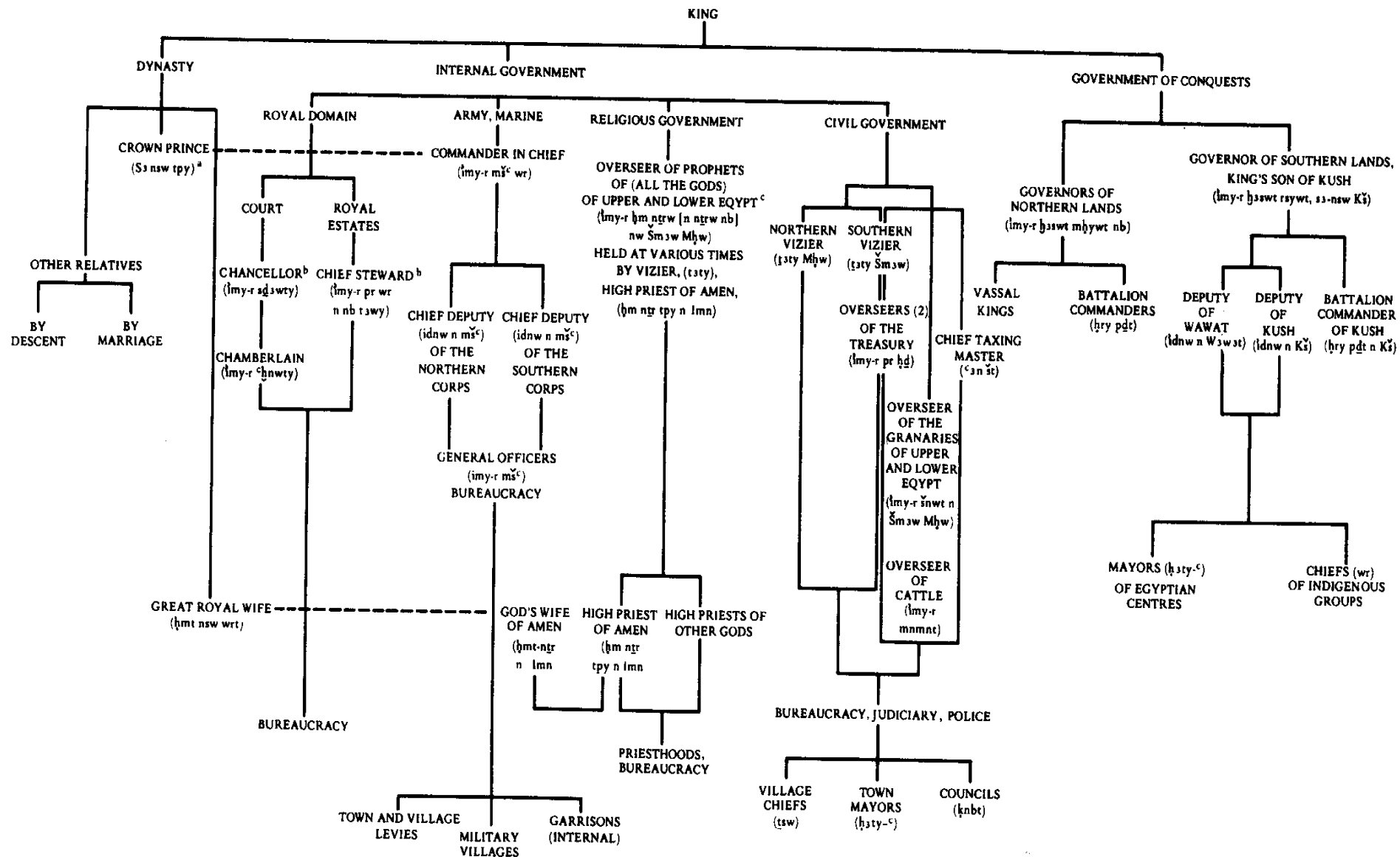


Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Society:**
- ❑ the community of people living in a particular country or region and having shared customs, laws, and organizations
- ❑ Origin: mid 16th century (in the sense 'companionship, friendly association with others'): from French *société*, from Latin *societas*, from *socius* 'companion'

The society of Egypt

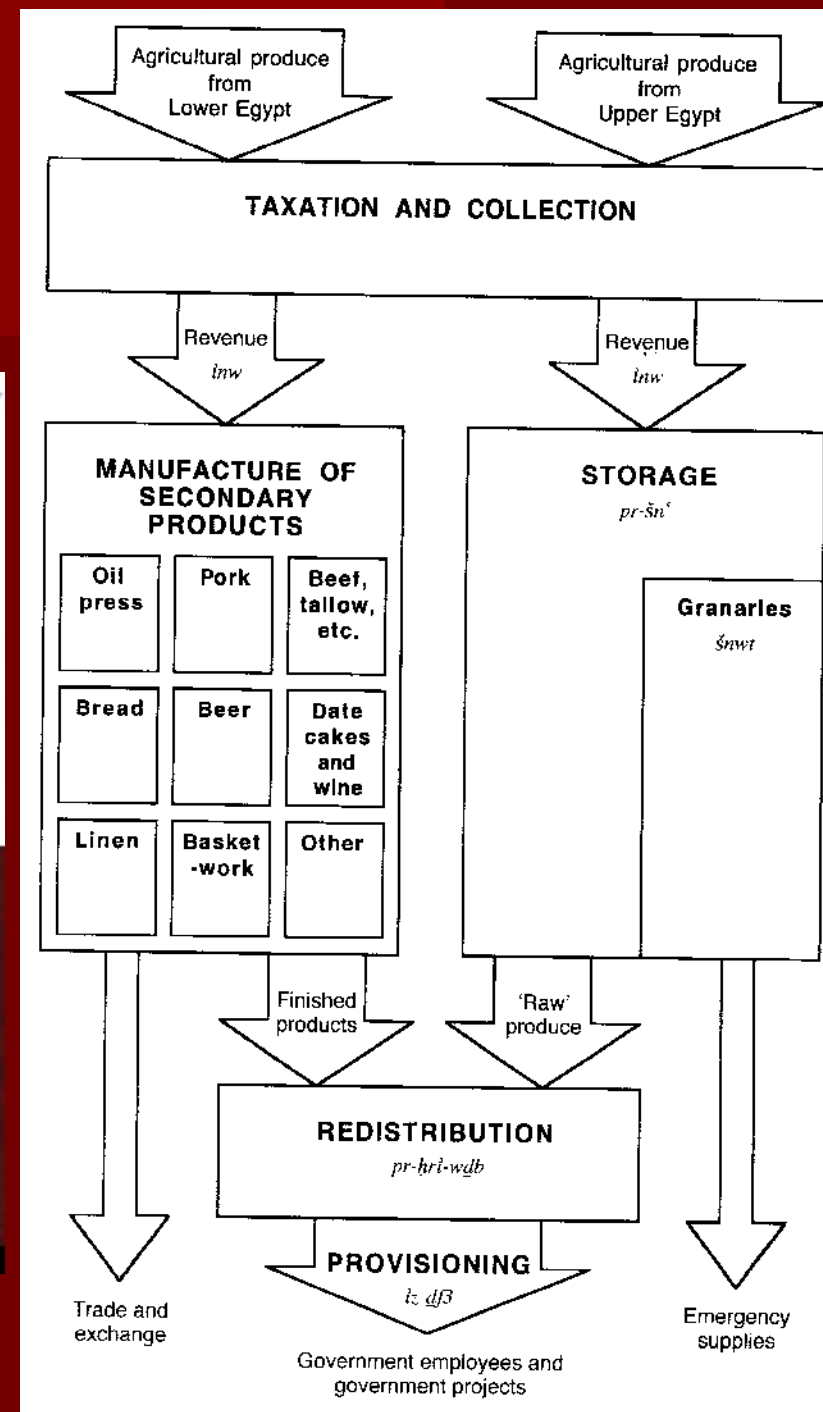
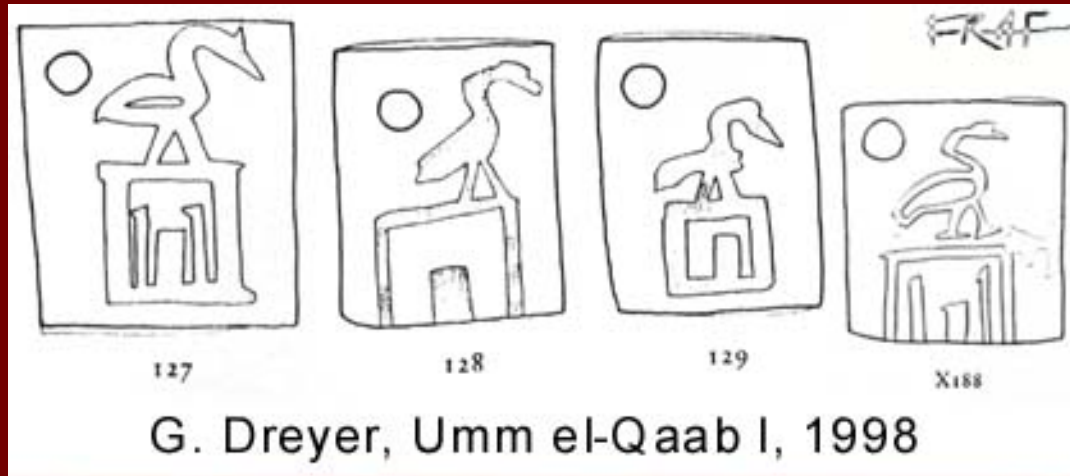




Narmer Palette



The Establishment of Authority



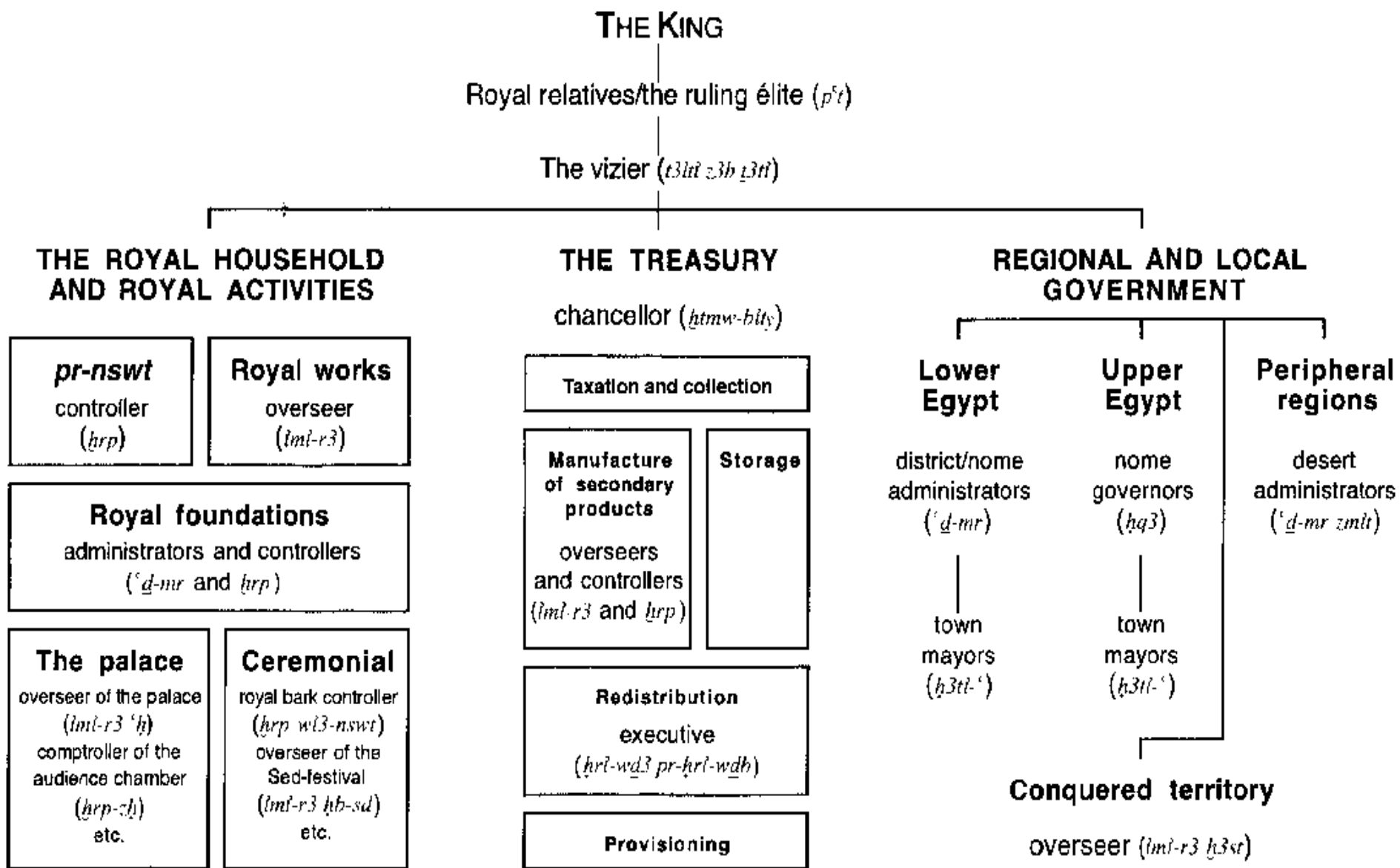


Figure 4.6 The structure of Early Dynastic administration. The chart shows the principal departments and functions of government, together with the titles of some of the major administrative officials (based upon information from contemporary sources: seal-impressions, inscribed stone vessels and Third Dynasty tomb inscriptions).

Dilemma

- Official royal texts only mention king

- Royal projects

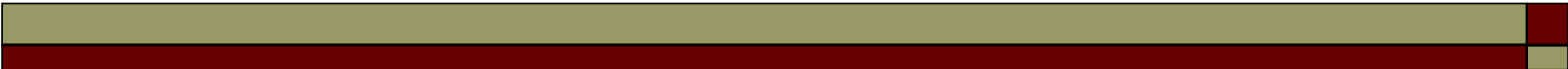
- Building temples

- Fighting wars

- Performance rituals

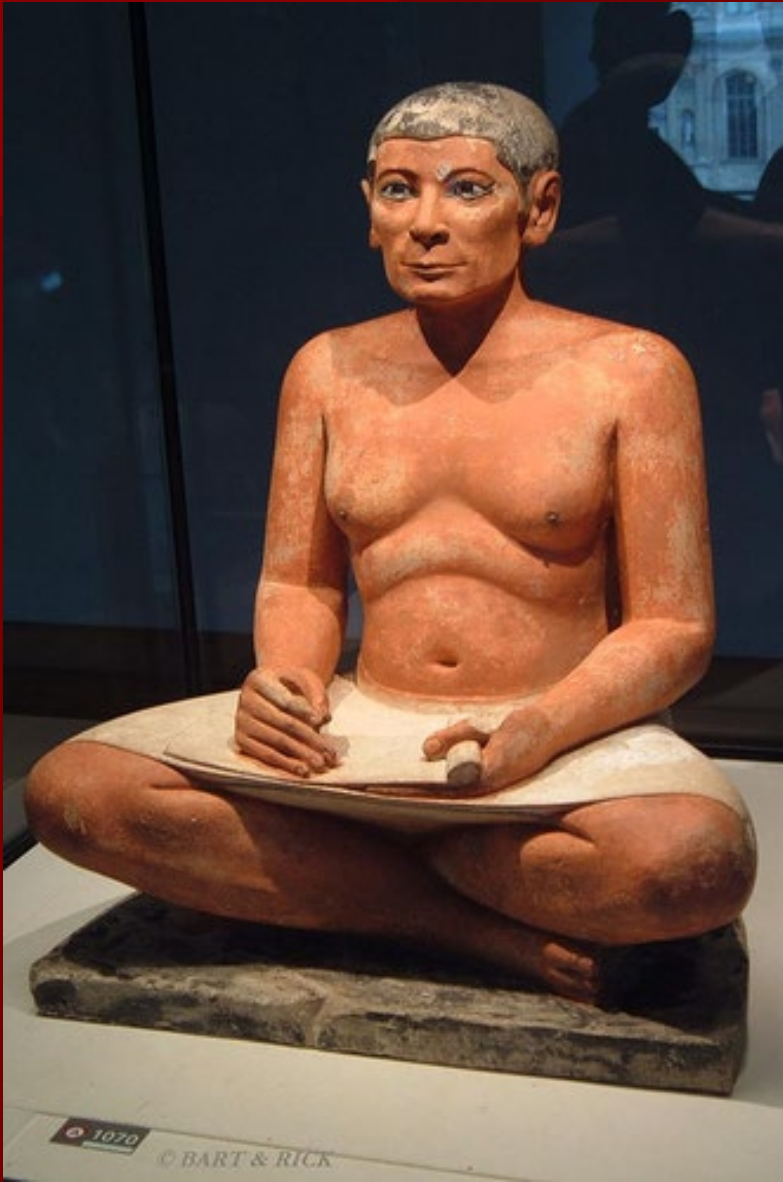
only presenting king while recorded as
“historical” events !

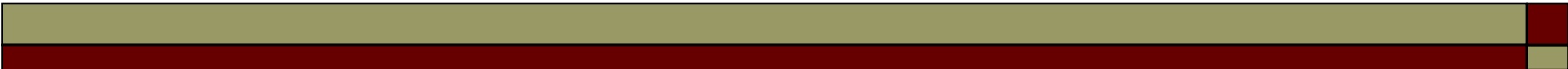
What about other members of elite?



Monarchy in AE

- King: head of large administration which involved institutions of semi-independent nature (temples), leading battles and responsible for diplomatic activities (political role outside Egypt), hold state together (inner political role)
- Divine role of the king

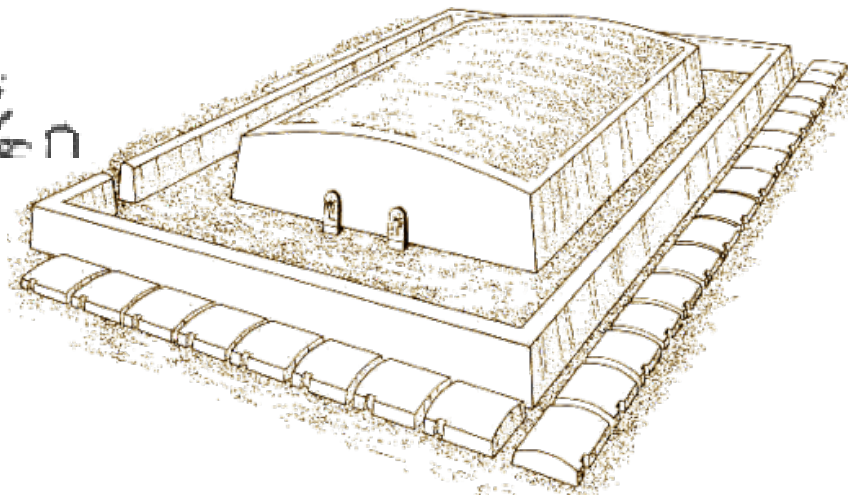
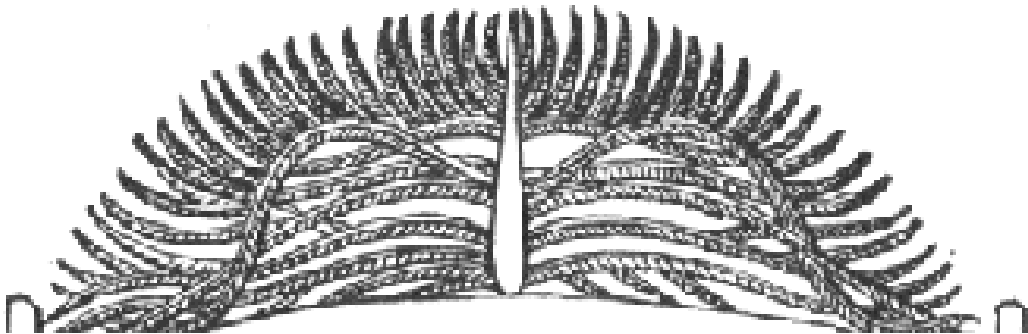


- 
-
- Class of scribes as administrative link between the institutions who governed Egypt:
 - King
 - Priests
 - Military
 - Court

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Culture: applicable for Humanities**
- ❑ the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively
- ❑ the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society
- ❑ the attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a particular social group

Emergence as mythological concept = appearing, breaching, rising



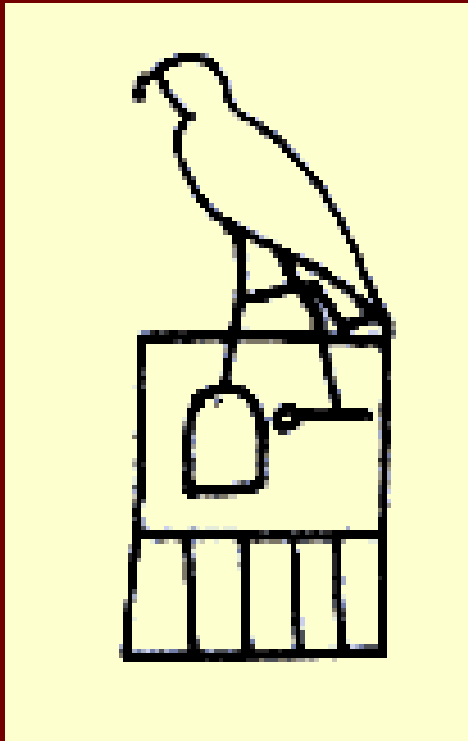


BM EA 37996



Who was Menes?

Aha ("the Fighter")

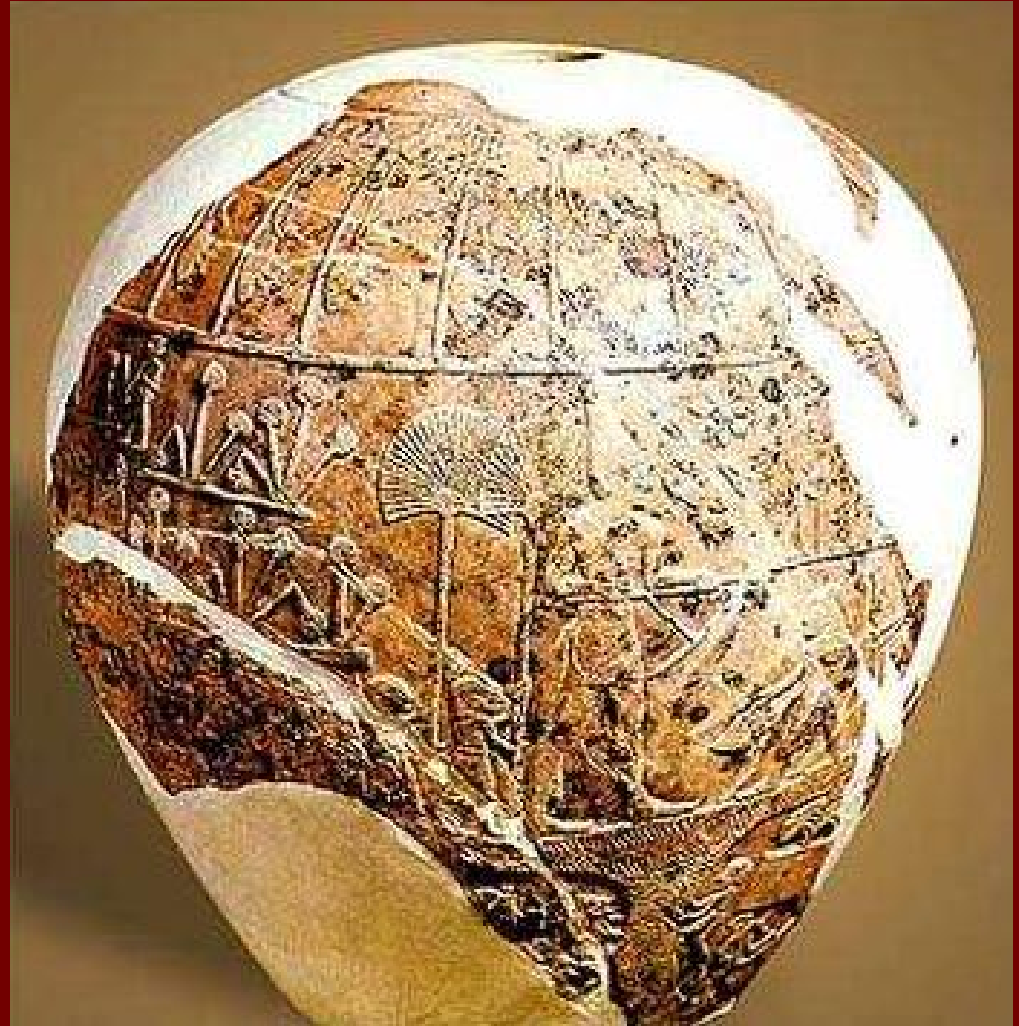


Narmer ("Strong Catfish")





Another possible candidate: King Scorpion (Ashmolean Macehead)



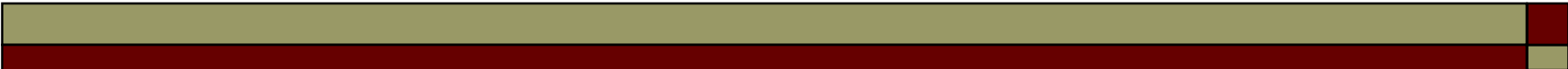
Be careful: Menes?

Allocated by
Petrie, recently
spread by several
webpages

Head of an
unknown king,
probably 2nd dyn.

Petrie Museum,
UCL





Childe (1950): Definition of early civilisation

- Large urban centres
- Craft workers, merchants, officials, priests (supported by surplus of farmers)
- Primary producer paying surplus to deity / divine ruler
- Monumental architecture
- Ruling class exempt from manual labour
- Recording information
- Exact practical science
- Monumental art
- Resident specialist craft workers (under control of ruling class)
- Social solidarity under pre-eminence of temples / funerary cults
- Dominant and permanent state organisation