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# EGYPT

Egypt was one of the first civilizations. Egypt was great because of the Nile River. The Nile starts at Lake Victoria. It flows north for more than 4,000 miles. Each year the Nile would flood. It left silt, black soil that is good for growing crops. Boats on the Nile carried goods from one place to another.



Egypt's kings were called pharaohs. They were from the same family. That's a dynasty.

Egyptians worshipped many gods. Some gods did creepy things. For example, Osiris, ruler of the world, married his sister. The goddess Nut swallowed the sun every night and gave birth to it every morning.

Kingdom	Ideas and Way of Life
Old Kingdom (2700 BC – 2200 BC)	Egyptians said pharaohs were half men and half gods. They believed in life after death. They buried pharaohs with food, servants, and treasures. Each pharaoh's body was dried to keep it from rotting. Then, the mummy was put in a pyramid to keep it safe. The largest pyramid is the Great Pyramid at Giza. It is the size of more than ninety football fields.
Middle Kingdom (2100 BC – 1800 BC)	Pharaohs were wise rulers. Trade was good. Egypt was rich. The army was strong. There was a lot of art. Pharaohs were buried in hidden tombs.
New Kingdom (1500 BC – 1000 BC)	Pharaohs were super powerful. Egypt took over many countries. Then, it began to fall apart and was taken over.

## The Game: Look at the flow of the Nile River.

1. The Nile River begins at Lake \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Nile River ends at the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea.
3. The White Nile and the \_\_\_\_\_ Nile make up the Nile River.



## HUNS AND TURKS

The Huns showed up in Europe in the 400s. They were fighting machines. They invaded eastern and central Europe. Attila united and led them. Everywhere they went, they forced payment or they would attack. They destroyed the western half of the Roman Empire. The emperor of the Byzantine Empire did a dumb thing. He did not pay Attila enough money, so the Huns attacked the eastern part of the Roman Empire. In 453, Attila died on his wedding night . . . of a nosebleed. After that, the Hun empire fell apart.



The Turks came from central Asia. They were descended from the Huns. They traded with the Arabs. Many became Muslims. In 1071, the Seljuk Turks destroyed most of the Byzantine power in Anatolia. From that time on, Christian ways were slowly replaced by Muslim ideas and culture. The Seljuks controlled most of the Middle East by the 1100s.

The Crusades began in 1096. Christians began a series of wars to get control of Jerusalem. The Seljuks joined the Muslims in the fight.

In 1243, the Seljuks lost power when the Mongols invaded.

*FYI: Asia Minor is also called Anatolia. It is a peninsula of western Asia between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. It is part of the Middle East.*

### The Game: Number these sentences in the correct order.

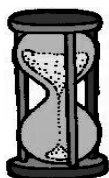
The Seljuk Turks took control of most of the Middle East. \_\_\_\_\_

The Huns attacked the Roman Empire. \_\_\_\_\_

Attila united the Huns. \_\_\_\_\_

Christians began the Crusades. \_\_\_\_\_

Mongols invaded the Middle East. \_\_\_\_\_



What did you learn about the Huns?

\_\_\_\_\_

# CHARLEMAGNE

After the Roman Empire ended, life in Western Europe was hard. Charlemagne made life better. People said he was a superhero! He was over six feet tall, strong, and brave. He laughed a lot. He always had his dogs with him.

People loved Charles the Great!

Charlemagne

- most famous ruler of the Middle Ages
- lived from 742 to 814
- king of the Franks
- took over most of Western Europe

By 800, Western Europe was united. This was the first empire after the fall of Rome. The pope crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Romans.

## Fair Government

Charlemagne set up a jury system. Landowners, called counts, helped solve local problems. Charlemagne checked up on them, so he knew what was going on everywhere. At that time, taxes were paid with wheat, pigs, or other things. Tax collectors were not always fair. For example, the value of a pig was whatever the tax collector said. Charlemagne made silver money. He set up a fair system, so a pig was always worth the same amount.

Most people were poor farmers. Charlemagne gave a lot of land to nobles. The nobles had to keep up the roads, bridges, and forts. They had to give peasants work and protection. Nobles had to support the army. Charlemagne also set up markets and trade.

Charlemagne moved teachers and students into his castle! Then, he set up schools across the empire. He also had books copied, so the information would not get lost. After Charlemagne died, his empire slowly fell apart.



**The Game: List three ways Charlemagne helped people.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# EASTERN FRONT

By 1941, Germany controlled much of Europe. Germany's army was fighting the Allies on three fronts:

1. Western Front (France and Great Britain)
2. Mediterranean Front and Africa
3. Eastern Front (Soviet Union)

August 1940 → Italy took East Africa. Then, Italian troops attacked the British in Egypt. Germany had to send troops to help Italy. Fighting in North Africa went on for years.



April 1941 → Germany quickly took over Yugoslavia and Greece.

## Germany Attacks the Soviet Union

Germany and the Soviet Union had a deal not to attack each other, but Hitler really hated the Soviets. The Soviet army was the largest in the world, but the German army was better.

June 1941 → German tanks, planes, and millions of troops struck the Soviet Union fast and hard. It was the largest land attack in history. Within weeks, the Germans killed or captured hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers. The Germans pushed deep into the Soviet Union. Nazi killing units followed. They killed every Jew, every Romani person, or any weak person.

October 1941 → Hitler moved troops to Moscow. That winter was one of the worst ever. Both sides fought in temperatures as low as  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The Soviets fought hard and forced the Germans back. Moscow was saved. The Germans lost 500,000 soldiers.

German forces moved to the city of Stalingrad. Soviets fought the Germans for months. About 2 million people died. When winter came, the Germans gave up.

Important → The world found out that the Nazis could be stopped.

**The Game: Look at the picture. Write about combat in the winter.**

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## ALLIES STRIKE BACK

Japan quickly took over much of Southeast Asia. They seemed unbeatable. Japan bragged that they would never be attacked. They surrounded their country with ships, so aircraft carriers could not get close enough to launch bomber planes. The U.S. couldn't attack Japan.

An American team came up with a plan that seemed crazy. It called for big, heavy B-25 bomber planes to take off from ships. The B-25s could fly a long way, so the ships would not have to try to get near Japan. The planes could fly over Japan and drop bombs. The problem was that B-25s could launch from ships, but they were too big to land on ships. The pilots would have to fly to China to land.



On April 18, 1942, Lt. Colonel James Doolittle led 16 bombers in a surprise attack on Japan. They flew the big B-25s right over Japan. They bombed 10 important targets in Tokyo plus targets in other parts of Japan. And then, out of fuel, they ditched their planes. Out of Doolittle's 80 crew members, 73 lived. Important! The U.S. showed that Japan could be taken down.

Japan was shocked and mad! They planned more strikes, but U.S. code-breakers knew about the attacks. U.S. forces ambushed the Japanese at Midway, an island near Hawaii. The Japanese retreated. This was the first American win!

Then, the U.S. went on the attack. The island of Guadalcanal was one of the first battles. After fierce fighting, the U.S. won. Many battles followed. American soldiers fought for 36 days to take the island of Iwo Jima.

**The Game: Look at the photo of the memorial. It shows marines raising a flag on Iwo Jima. It honors those who fought in the Pacific. Write a story about the picture.**

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