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**Egypt: Life in the Old Kingdom**

*Directions: While reading Chapter 11 Section 2 “The Old Kingdom” on pages 283 – 290 in the Eastern World textbook, complete the following chart.*

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| **Main Topic** | **Details** |
| Early Pharaohs | * Began with the rule of the 3rd dynasty * About 2700-2200BC * With the status of both king and god, pharaoh got blamed if there were bad crops or diseases – they wanted him to make trade profitable and prevent wars * Most famous Old Kingdom pharaoh – Khufu |
| Society & Trade | * Believed a well-ordered society would keep them strong * Pharaoh on top, then nobles – priests and key government officials, then middle class – other officials, scribes, craftspeople, bottom – farmers made up 80% of population and worked on building projects during flood season , slaves below farmers * Traded with Nubia for gold, copper, ivory, slaves, and stone * Traded along Mediterranean for wood (Syria) * Very religious |
| Gods of Egypt | * Temples all over kingdom that collected payments from worshippers and government * Cities each had temple to own special god (Memphis – Ptah) * Many gods blended human and animal form * Important gods – Re (Amon-Re) sun god, Osiris (underworld),   Isis (magic), Horus (sky), Thoth (wisdom), Geb (earth)   * Shrines in home where they worshipped household gods |
| Afterlife & Burial | * Afterlife was believed to be happy, where they were young and healthy * Ka=life force or soul. Became a spirit but it needed to eat, sleep, and be entertained at tomb, so they were buried with lots of stuff * To make mummies, they embalmed the body by removing organs, during the body, wrapping it, and placing it in a sarcophagus * Only elite could afford mummification – the poor buried their dead in the desert where they dried naturally |
| Pyramids | * Built during Old kingdom * Made of limestone blocks * After pharaoh was buried, they sealed up the passages to his tomb inside the pyramid * Massive project over 100,000 workers were needed to build it * We have no idea how exactly the pyramids were built * Shape symbolic – pointed to sky to symbolize pharaoh’s journey to the afterlife * Wanted pharaoh’s spirit happy so they could have a happy afterlife * Wrote magic spells and hymns on tomb, called Pyramid Texts |