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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
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| 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
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| 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
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| 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
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| 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
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