For 3,000 years, until it was conquered by Rome in 30 B.C., the kingdom along the Nile River was one of the world’s first and most important civilizations. But in that same time frame, history was being made and civilizations were being built elsewhere as well. Study the chronologies, then answer the following questions.

**EGYPT**

3100 B.C.: King Menes becomes the first ruler of a united Egypt and the founder of its first dynasty (rule by a family).

3000 B.C.: Egyptians begin to use hieroglyphics, a form of pictorial writing.

2575 B.C.: The Pyramids of Giza, monumental tombs of the early kings, are built near the capital of Memphis during the 4th dynasty.

2150 B.C.: Egypt’s central government collapses. The rise of rival dynasties leads to civil war.

2008 B.C.: Mentuhotep II begins to reunite the kingdom of Egypt.

1539 B.C.: Thutmose I begins the process of hiding Egypt’s royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings.

1353 B.C.: Akhenaton (probably Tutankhamen’s father) begins his reign.

1333 B.C.: Tutankhamen becomes pharaoh at about age 9.

1279-1213 B.C.: During the reign of Ramses II, called Ramses the Great, Egypt’s power as a kingdom is at a peak. It will begin to wane after Ramses dies.

1085 B.C.: Egypt goes into a long decline under foreign influence.

525 B.C.: Egypt is conquered by Persia and becomes part of its empire.

332 B.C.: Alexander the Great, leading the armies of Macedonia, takes control of Egypt without a fight. Ptolemy, one of his generals, will found Egypt’s last dynasty in 323 B.C.

30 B.C.: After losing the Battle of Actium to Roman ruler Octavian (see 27 a.d. at right), Queen Cleopatra commits suicide. Egypt becomes a province of Rome.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

3300 B.C.: People in Mesopotamia (located in present-day Iraq) develop a pictorial language called cuneiform, the earliest-known writing.

3000 B.C.: Wrestling, the oldest known sport, develops in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

2500 B.C.: Ancient Britons haul huge sandstones—weighing up to 25 tons—to Stonehenge, a ritual burial ground on Salisbury Plain in modern-day England.

1792 B.C.: Hammurabi rules Babylon, a city-state in Mesopotamia. His legal decisions are written down and become the world’s oldest surviving body of laws.

1500-1200 B.C.: The Vedas, sacred texts of Hinduism—the world’s oldest still-practiced religion—are composed in India.

1206 B.C.: The earliest known mention of the Israelites, a people living in villages in Canaan (located in present-day Israel), is recorded in an Egyptian text.

1200 B.C.: The Olmec people—the first major Mesoamerican culture, located in present-day Mexico—grow corn, chili peppers, and cotton.


508 B.C.: Under the leadership of Cleisthenes, the Greek city-state of Athens develops an early form of democracy.

221 B.C.: Qin (also spelled Ch’in) Shi Huangdi defeats warring tribes and becomes the first ruler of a united China.

44 B.C.: Julius Caesar, the dictator of Rome, is assassinated, igniting a civil war.

27 B.C.: Caesar’s successor, Octavian, is renamed Augustus and becomes the first emperor of an expanding Roman Empire.

*All dates are approximate. Estimates by different historians can vary by hundreds of years.*
Ancient Egypt and the World, cont’d.

Questions

1. Why were the pyramids built?
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________

2. What were among the first known written languages, and where did they originate?
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________

3. Mesopotamia, often called “the cradle of civilization,” is located in what present-day country?
   ___________________________________________

4. Which Egyptian king began hiding tombs in the Valley of the Kings?
   ___________________________________________

5. Which African kingdom ruled Egypt for about a century?
   ___________________________________________

6. What society rose in the Americas during the time of the pharaohs?
   ___________________________________________

7. Which form of government mentioned here is closest to that of the U.S.?
   ___________________________________________

8. Who was the last ruler of Egypt before it was conquered by Rome?
   ___________________________________________

9. Based on the Around the World column of the chronology, where might the name China have come from?
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________

10. Which statement best explains the author’s purpose in arranging the chronology in two columns?
    A. Ancient Egypt was never a democracy like Athens.
    B. Egypt spent many years under foreign powers.
    C. Many significant events in the world occurred at the same time as those in Egypt.
    D. World civilization really began in Egypt.

Synthesize Locate the places in the chronology’s right-hand column on a map of the world. Do additional research to find other important developments and locations during this time frame.
Here are a few clues for you to puzzle over. Answers to starred clues are in the article on pp. 18-21 of JS. For the rest, you're on your own!

Across

1. Experts have been studying Egypt’s most famous tomb with _____ scans.
2. Modern Egypt’s capital
3. Uncovering the mummy of 10 Down could be the discovery of the _____.
4. Akhenaton switched worship from this god.
5. Egypt’s chief river
6. One of the continents
7. What follows middle school (abbr.)
8. New _____ scans of 20 Across’s burial chamber may indicate doors to other rooms.
9. Speak boastfully
10. Canada’s capital
11. Type of statue of 10 Down discovered in the ancient city of Amarna
12. The boy king of ancient Egypt, for short
13. Mountain chain of the American West
14. To open or untie, as you would a knot
15. In ancient Egypt, Aton was a god of the _____.
16. She may be in the same tomb as 20 Across.
17. Title of an ancient Egyptian king
18. Egypt has been in turmoil since the _____ Spring of 2011.

Down

2. Boxer Muhammad _____
3. Nicholas Reeves’s profession
4. Howard _____ uncovered the tomb of 20 Across.
Know the News: Who’s Buried in King Tut’s Tomb?

Read the article on pp. 18-21, then answer these questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   A. British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamen’s tomb in 1922.
   B. Many people worldwide are fascinated by ancient Egypt.
   C. Archaeologist Nicholas Reeves thinks Queen Nefertiti may be buried in Tut’s tomb, but other experts are skeptical.
   D. King Akhenaton switched worship from Amon to Aton, god of the sun.

2. Which statement best supports that central idea?
   A. “Generations of archaeologists since have owed their calling to Carter’s dramatic discovery.”
   B. “Though tantalizing, Reeves’s theory has its doubters.”
   C. “Little about Tutankhamen is known for sure, including what might have killed him at such a young age.”
   D. “Many other items, including games and chariots, had been left for the king to use in the afterlife.”

3. Which word best describes the tone of the article’s first three paragraphs?
   A. confused
   B. exciting
   C. outraged
   D. sad

4. How does the section “The Boy King” contribute to the article?
   A. It provides information about Tut and the discovery of his tomb.
   B. It describes what led Reeves to draw his conclusion.
   C. It explains why some experts disagree with Reeves’s theory.
   D. It discusses Nefertiti’s role in ancient Egypt.

5. Which of these happened first?
   A. Archaeologists discovered the bust of Nefertiti.
   B. Tut became pharaoh.
   C. Akhenaton came to power.
   D. Carter uncovered Tut’s tomb.

6. Which of these details should be included in a summary of the article?
   A. Carter’s discovery inspired many people to become archaeologists.
   B. Egypt’s antiquities minister is under a lot of pressure to avoid damaging Tut’s tomb.
   C. The Nile River Valley was the birthplace of one of the world’s first civilizations.
   D. Reeves believes that Nefertiti’s mummy lies beyond a wall in Tut’s burial chamber.

7. What does remote mean in this sentence?
   “Egypt’s rulers were buried in the remote Valley of the Kings. Their tombs were tunneled deep into the valley’s limestone cliffs.”
   A. easy to find
   B. hard to reach
   C. near a river
   D. on top of a hill

8. Details about political instability and terrorism in Egypt were most likely included to _____.
   A. explain how the Arab Spring protests have affected Egypt
   B. discourage people from visiting Egypt
   C. support the idea that Egypt could benefit from a major archaeological find
   D. point out some of what has taken place in Egypt since the age of the pharaohs

9. What is the main purpose of the map on p. 21?
   A. to show where Cairo is in relation to Aswan
   B. to point out the ancient city of Thebes
   C. to show the location of the Suez Canal
   D. to highlight the area along the Nile River

10. Which conclusion can you draw from the article?
    A. The controversy surrounding Tut’s burial chamber will likely continue for some time.
    B. Experts will soon drill a small hole in a wall of Tut’s tomb to see what lies on the other side.
    C. Researchers won’t conduct any more scans of Tut’s tomb.
    D. Experts will likely uncover Nefertiti’s mummy by the end of this year.