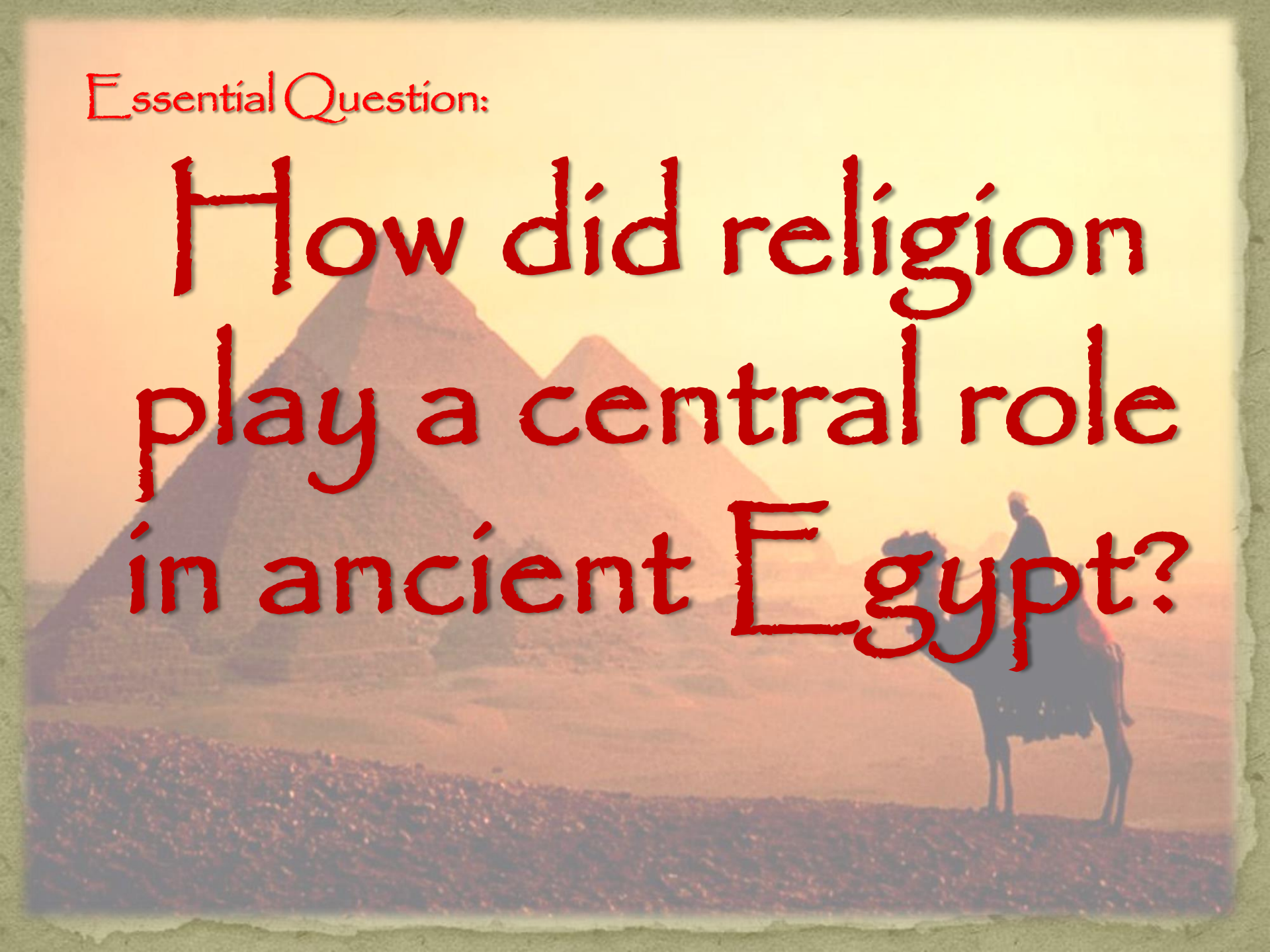


The Old Kingdom



Essential Question:

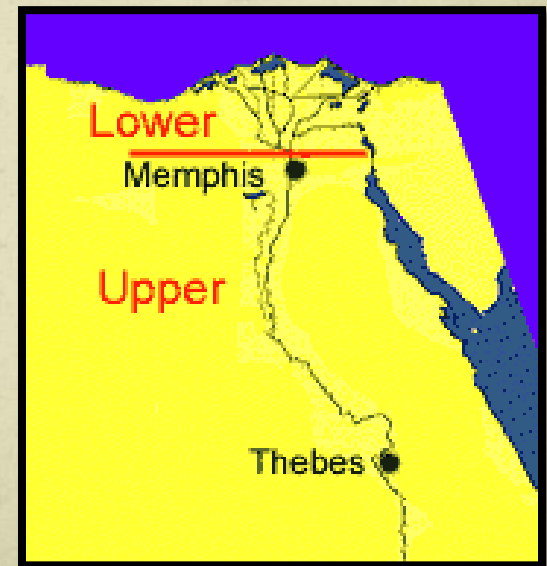
How did religion
play a central role
in ancient Egypt?

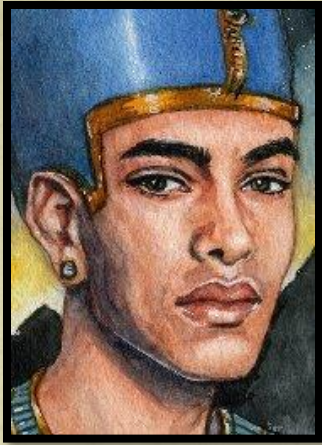
A person riding a camel in front of pyramids at sunset. The scene is set in a desert landscape with several large pyramids in the background. The sky is a mix of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person on the camel is silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is historical and serene.

How were Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt united?



- Between 3500 and 3100 BC Upper Egypt grew in wealth and power.
- They traded goods with Lower Egypt.
- Upper Egypt wanted to control Lower Egypt





- About 3100 BC, King Narmer of Upper Egypt, had conquered Lower Egypt
- He united the Two Lands and built the city of Memphis, which became the new capital

Egypt Unites



- Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt each had their own crown, when they were united by King Narmer, the **crowns** were joined together.



Egypt's Dynasties

- Egypt had established the first **nation-state**, which is a region with a united people and a single **government**.
- King Narmer's rule became known as the first **dynasty**
 - A dynasty is a series of rulers from the same **family**
 - About **31** dynasties ruled Egypt over a period of **3,000** years.
 - Egypt's dynasties are divided into the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom





NARMER

3100 B.C.



Egypt unites 6 min

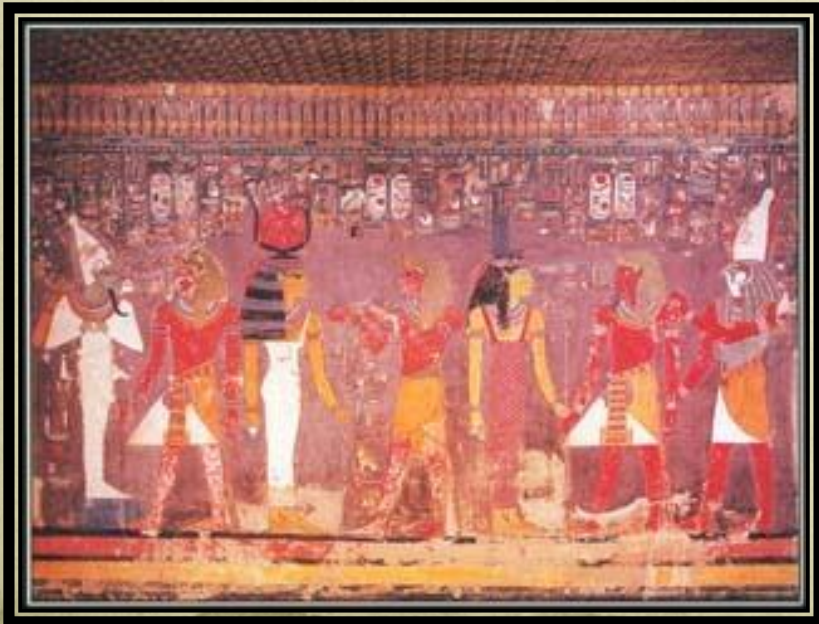
How were Upper and Lower Egypt united?



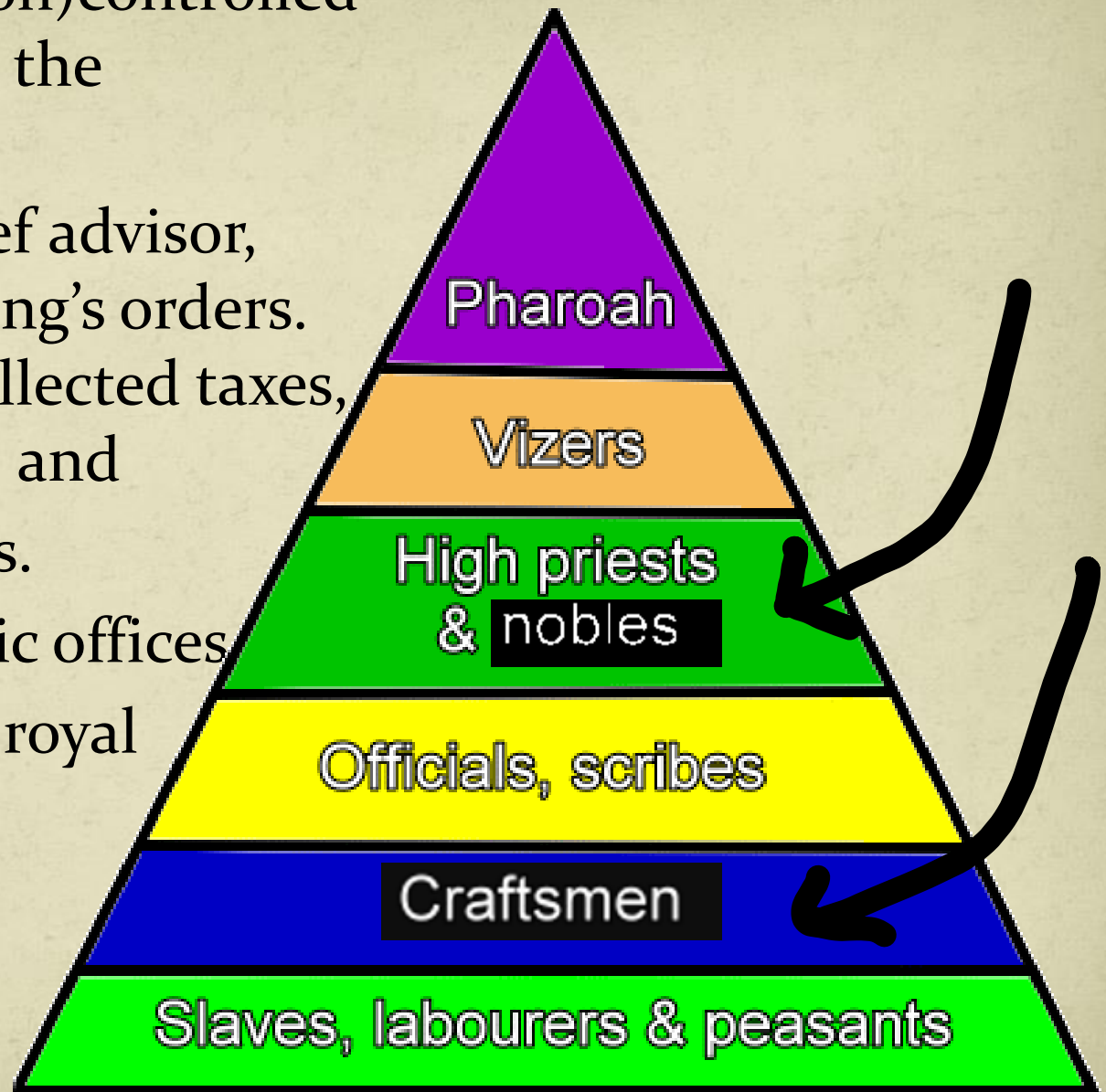
Hint: Questions 2-3

7 How did the belief that the kings were living gods help the kings maintain their authority?

- The Egyptians of the Old Kingdom considered their **kings** to be **living gods**.
- The people believed the kings could never be wrong, and were able to control the **Nile**'s flooding, they also owned all the **land**.
- These beliefs helped to unify Egypt; it also helped the kings to maintain their **authority**.



- The **king** (pharaoh) controlled the economy and the **government**.
- The vizier, or chief advisor, carried out the king's orders. Other officials collected taxes, planned projects, and enforced the laws.
- The highest public offices were held by the royal families.



How did the belief that the kings were living gods help the kings maintain their authority?



Hint: Question 7

What were hieroglyphs?



- About 3100 BC, the Egyptians developed a form of writing that used picture symbols, called hieroglyphs.
- Early hieroglyphic writing had more than 700 characters.
- Each symbol represented a sound, object, or idea.
- Hieroglyph means “holy carving”, at first it was just used for religious purposes.
- Egyptian scribes wrote on a paper like material called papyrus, they also carved their holy writing into stone

Cracking the code

11

- After the Ancient Egyptian civilization ended, the hieroglyphic writing was a mystery
- In 1799 AD, a large stone was discovered near the city of Rosetta, on this stone were written three different languages; Egyptian hieroglyphics, Egyptian demotic (kind of like Egyptian cursive), and Greek.
- In 1822, Jean-Francois **Champollion** decoded the writing, based on his knowledge of Ancient Greece.
- From this “**Rosetta Stone**”, the Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs could now be read.



What were hieroglyphs?

Hint: Questions 9-10

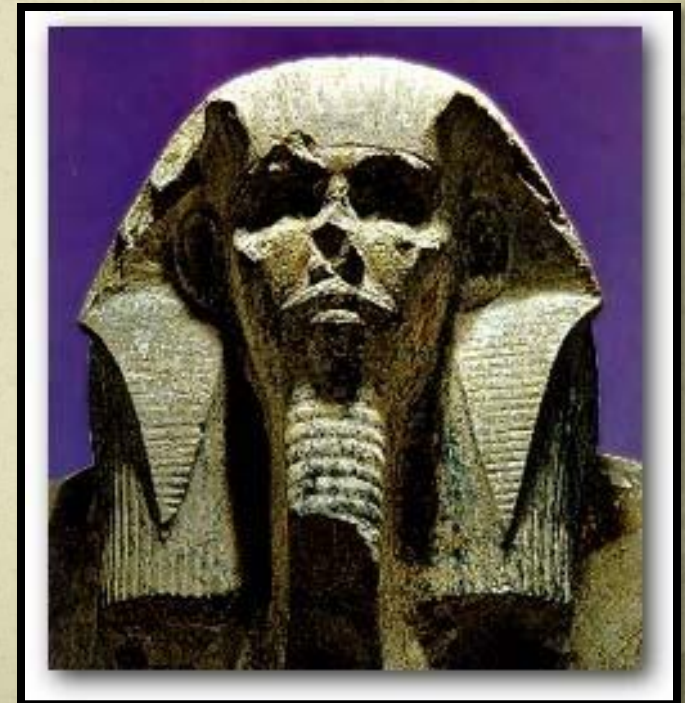
What were the pyramids used for?

- The Old Kingdom was known as the Age of the Pyramids.
- During this 500-year period the Egyptians built the Great Pyramids
- The pyramids served as tombs for their dead kings



The First Pyramid

- In 2600 BC King **Zoser** became the first king to be buried in a stone pyramid.
- His pyramid is known as the **Step Pyramid** of Saqqara.
- One of the first pyramids, it was named for its step-like sides.



- The Great Pyramid of Giza is the largest of the pyramids, it was built for King Khufu of the fourth dynasty, it was completed in 2566 BC, it was made of over 2.3 million stone blocks, each weighing about 2.5 tons!
- King Khufu's son, Khafre, ordered the building of one of the smaller pyramids, as well as the Sphinx



What were the pyramids used for?



Hint: Question 12

How did the Ancient Egyptians prepare for an afterlife?

- Egyptians had a strong belief in the afterlife.
- They believed the dead would need their bodies in the afterlife, so they developed ways to preserve the body
- By 2500 BC, Egyptians had invented new techniques for making a mummy.
- They removed all the organs and placed them in jars, however, the heart they returned to the body.

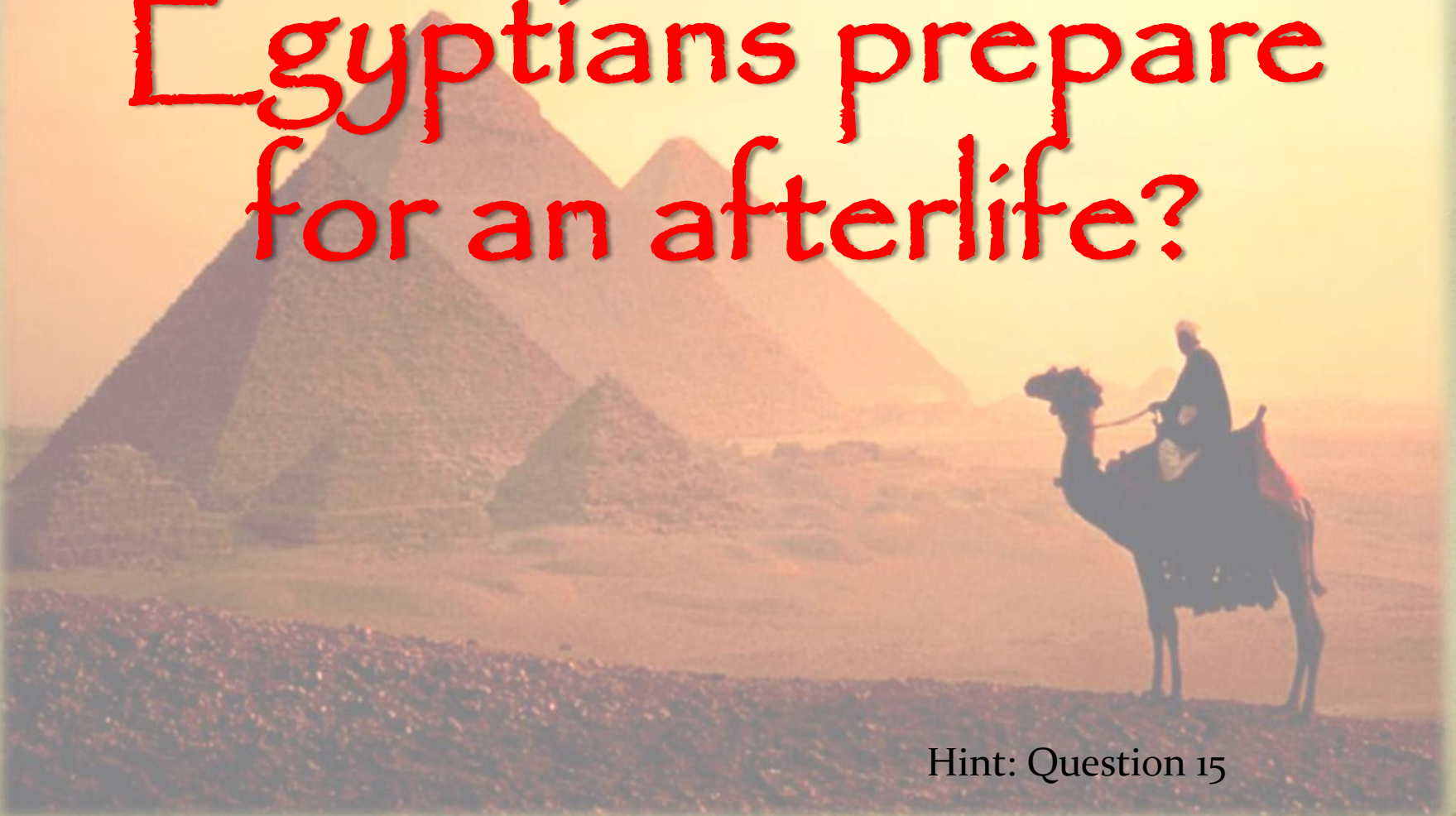


- 16-17
- The **body** was dried using Natron Salt, then wrapped in linen **cloth**.
 - The body was placed in a **sarcophagus** (coffin), then placed in a tomb for burial, along with everything they need for the afterlife (even pets sometimes!).
 - The **Book of the Dead** was placed in the tomb also, explaining the importance of Egyptian burial. No one could read it until the Rosetta Stone was deciphered in 1822.
 - It explained the **Weighing of the Heart** ceremony, in which the dead were judged based on their works during life.



How did the Ancient Egyptians prepare for an afterlife?

Hint: Question 15



Essential Question:

How did religion
play a central role
in ancient Egypt?

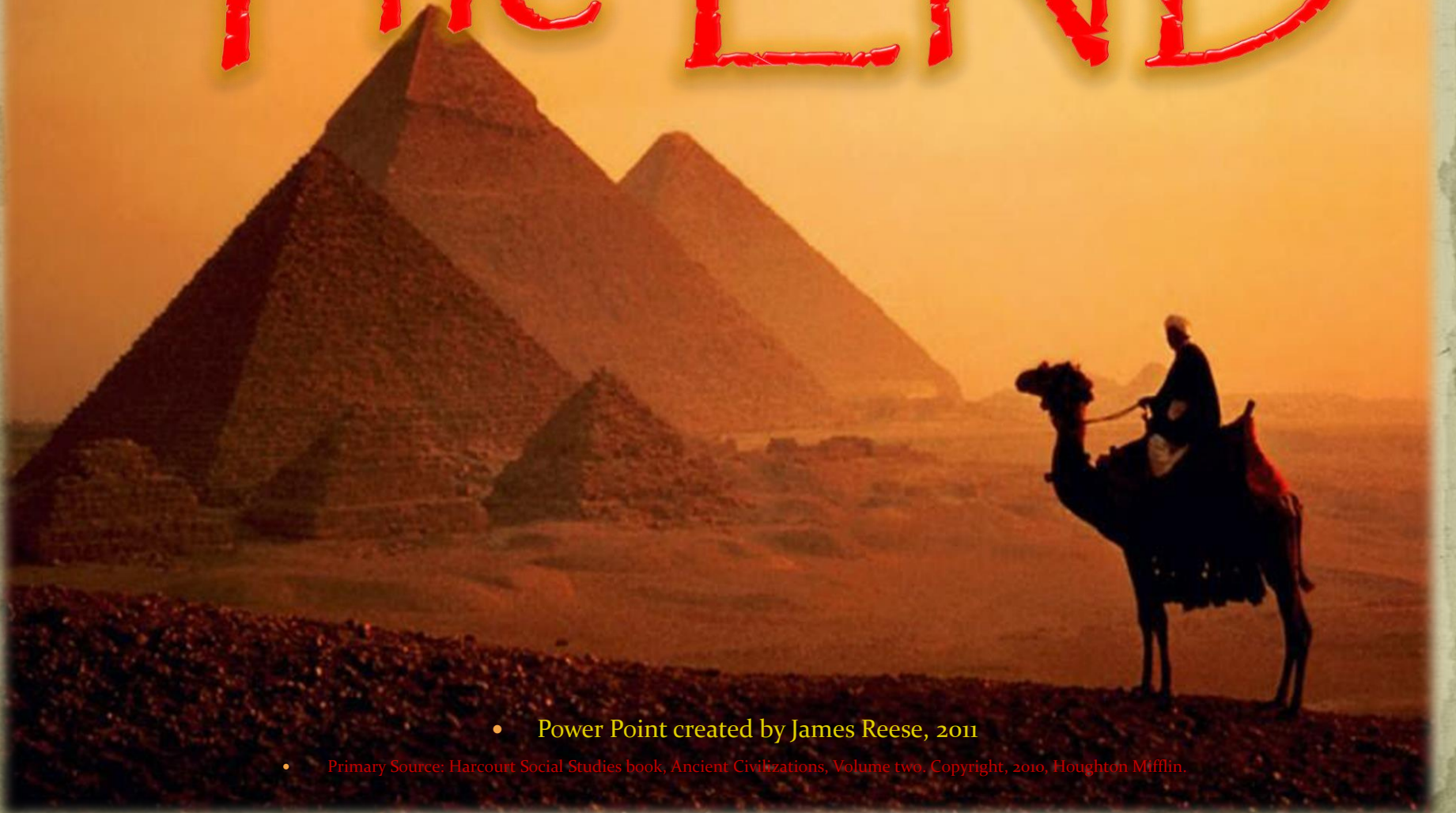
Hint: Copy down your sentences from each of the answers to make a paragraph.



The 1st of January

My Undead Mummy and Me (2 min)

The END



- Power Point created by James Reese, 2011

- Primary Source: Harcourt Social Studies book, Ancient Civilizations, Volume two. Copyright, 2010, Houghton Mifflin.