The Middle Kingdom
In about 2181 BC, the Old Kingdom came to an end when Egypt fell into a civil war.

Egypt no longer had a united king.

Egyptian nobles fought with one another for power.

A horrible drought also caused food shortages.

Egypt was no longer united...
“One can cross the water [Nile] on foot... The land is in sickness... One will take up weapons of warfare... a Son as an enemy, a brother as a foe.”

Egypt was reunited in 2040 B.C., this started what is known as the Middle Kingdom.

Egypt would grow and prosper until about 1786 B.C.

Dynasty 12 started during this period, in about 1991 B.C.

King Amenamhet from Lower Egypt became king.
Amenemhet and his successors conquered all of northern Nubia.

They set up forts to protect the region, along the northeastern borders they constructed the Walls of the Prince to help protect the Nile Delta.
During Dynasty 12, more **irrigation canals** were made, in order to secure water.

They built temples and **pyramids** to honor the dead.

They built the famous temple called the **Labyrinth**, it had over **3,000** rooms connected by a maze of hallways. It was built for Amenemhet III.
During the Middle Kingdom, Egyptians made great advances in art, literature, and jewelry.
Scribes not only wrote religious texts, but also wrote about daily life.
What achievements were made during the Middle Kingdom?
Trade during the Middle Kingdom

- Caravans and ships took goods and supplies between Egypt and parts of southwestern Asia, eastern Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean region.

- Egypt had a lot of grain to trade, but they did not have much wood or copper.
Silver was brought from Syria, copper was brought in from the Sinai Peninsula, Lebanon supplied cedar and pinewood, and gold, incense, ebony, and ivory were brought up through Nubia.
Travel through the desert was slow going, caravans could only travel about ten miles a day.

Caravans were threatened by sandstorms and robbers.

Ships were often threatened by pirates, strong winds, and storms.
Towards the end of Dynasty 12, Egypt’s government grew weak.

At least 70 kings ruled during the 13th dynasty.

Many people from other countries started to settle near the Nile Delta, these people, called the Hyksos, or “rulers of foreign lands”, tore Egypt apart and brought an end to the Middle Kingdom of Egypt.

The Hyksos fought with horse-drawn chariots, stronger bows and body armor.

In 1640 B.C. the Hyksos conquered Lower Egypt, this brought an end to the Middle Kingdom.
The Hyksos ruled lower Egypt for **100** years, they started Dynasty 15. Egyptians still ruled Upper Egypt. The Hyksos introduced superior weapons, **horses**, and new musical instruments to Egypt. In turn, the Hyksos learned **Hieroglyphics**, and started to worship Egyptian gods, they also expanded trade routes. In the mid 1500’s BC, the Egyptians forced the Hyksos into southwestern **Asia** and regained control of Egypt.
How were the Hyksos able to conquer Lower Egypt?
The End

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