Egypt Vocabulary

Quarry- place where large rocks are mined

Polytheist- someone who believes in more than one god

Monotheist- someone who believes in one god

Pectoral- large, ornamental necklace worn on the chest

Obelisk- tall, four-sided tower with pyramid shape at the top, show pharoah’s link to the gods

Papyrus- writing surface (paper) made from a plant by the same name

Sphinx- half human, half lion figure. Guarded tombs.

Rosetta stone- stone found with greek, demotic Egyptian, and hieroglyphics. Helped translate hieroglyphics

Fresco- a mural painting on plaster

Faience- type of ceramic. It was used to make jewelry, jars, and sculptures

Mummy- preserved dead body wrapped in linen cloth

Canopic jars- containers used to hold vital organs during mummification

Sarcophagus- stone coffin

Vizier- high-ranking government official

Lapis lazuli- semi-precious blue stone that was highly valued

Pharaoh- kind of Egypt, believed to be a god

Delta- fertile, flat plain created where the river empties into the sea

Shaduf- a tool used for irrigation

Inundation- a flood

Lotus- a water lily, symbol of the unification of Egypt, the sun god, and resurrection

Hieroglyphics- Egyptian writing using pictographs to stand for words and sounds

Scribe- person trained to read and write as a profession