

WHY ARE THERE PYRAMIDS HERE?



Archaeologists discovered hundreds of pyramids (some have been reconstructed) in an ancient African kingdom south of Egypt. Study the clues to determine who built them and why.

Evidence Clues

Clue 1:

The pyramids of Meroë were built in the Kingdom of Kush, a civilization south of Egypt.

Clue 2:

Kushite rulers built pyramids as tombs for kings and queens.

Clue 3:

Kush and Egypt traded, fought wars, and influenced each other for thousands of years.

Clue 4:

Kush became powerful through trade and resources such as gold and iron.

1. Who built the pyramids at Meroë?

- A. Egyptians
- B. Kushites
- C. Romans
- D. Greeks

2. Why might Kushite rulers have built pyramids? Use evidence from the clues.

3. What does this mystery reveal about the Kingdom of Kush?

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2. Why might Kushite rulers have built pyramids? Use evidence from the clues.

Kushite rulers built pyramids to serve as tombs for kings and queens (Clue 2). Because Kush and Egypt influenced each other for thousands of years (Clue 3), the idea of building pyramids may have spread between the two civilizations.

3. What does this mystery reveal about the Kingdom of Kush?

The mystery shows that the Kingdom of Kush was a wealthy and powerful civilization with its own rulers. It was closely connected to Egypt through trade, conflict, and cultural influence, but it was its own kingdom. Acceptable evidence: Students should mention ideas from Clue 1 (Kush was south of Egypt), Clue 3 (long relationship with Egypt), and/or Clue 4 (wealth from gold, iron, and trade).