Intellectual Property of Ma'at Cultural Curriculum Consultants LLC Est 2017

DAY 1 KEMET BEFORE THE LATER CONQUESTS

Name _____ Date _____ Section _____

Identify two pieces of evidence for earlier Kemetic knowledge and explain one limit on a transfer claim.

DO NOW

What can a written mathematical problem reveal about its creators?

KEY VOCABULARY

Chronology means the order of events in time.

Primary source means a text or object from the period being studied.

Attribution means giving credit for an idea or work.

SOURCE 1 KEMET BEFORE THE LATER CONQUESTS

The civilization of Kemet developed in northeastern Africa along the Nile. Its surviving texts and objects allow us to study its people through their own work rather than only through later descriptions. The mathematical document now called the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus dates to approximately 1550 BCE. It is evidence of organized mathematical learning long before Alexander took Kemet in 332 BCE. The modern name of the document refers to a later collector, not its ancient creators. [S1, S6]

A date establishes that knowledge existed at a particular time. It does not, by itself, prove exactly how every later thinker obtained that knowledge. To establish a transfer, historians look for routes of contact, texts, objects, teachers, or specific shared methods. Recognizing Kemet's earlier achievements is essential. Explaining the movement of those achievements requires additional evidence.

In Book 2 section 109 of his Histories, Herodotus describes land measurement after changes caused by the Nile. He reasons that geometry developed through such measurement and later reached Greece. His statement is important because a Greek author credited Kemet with an earlier body of knowledge. It is also an interpretation recorded by a later observer, not a surviving account from the first inventor of geometry. [S2]

In section 50, Herodotus also attributes much Greek religious practice to Egypt while naming exceptions. The translation's note explains that his discussion of divine names can refer to forms of personification rather than identical words. These passages support investigating Kemetic influence. They do not establish that every Greek idea had a single Kemetic origin. [S2]

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DAY 1 EVIDENCE AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

1. Which reading uses a physical document and which uses a later writer’s explanation?

2. Why does an earlier date matter when assigning credit?

3. What evidence would help establish a specific route of knowledge transfer?

4. Why is Herodotus a primary source for his own views but not an eyewitness to geometry’s first invention?

MAP CONNECTION

On a world map locate northeastern Africa, the Nile, and the Mediterranean. Explain how the Nile relates to land measurement in the reading.

QUICK WRITE

Explain how an earlier Kemetic achievement can be acknowledged without claiming that a single source proves every later transfer.

EXIT RESPONSE

Identify one fact and one inference from today’s readings.