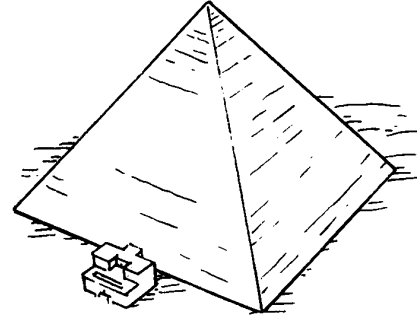


**GLOBAL HISTORY I  
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS  
DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008**

**I. Egyptian Contributions**

The ancient Egyptians contributed a great deal to other civilizations which came after them. Their achievements include the building of the pyramids, the development of a calendar, and much more.

The ancient Egyptians' greatest achievements were in the fields of engineering and architecture. They were the first builders to use columns effectively for framing large openings and supporting massive roofs. Their knowledge of arithmetic and geometry enabled them to construct imposing temples and pyramids. The largest pyramid ever built was that of the Pharaoh Khufu. It stands more than 450 feet high and is the length of two city blocks at the base of each of its sides. More than eighty thousand workers labored for twenty-five years to build this huge structure at Giza. The fact that the Great Pyramid contains over two million limestone blocks weighing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons each attests to the engineering skill of the ancient Egyptians.



The ancient Egyptians developed hieroglyphics, a system of writing using pictures. Each picture at first stood for an idea, but eventually evolved into a word. The Egyptians wrote on papyrus, a kind of paper made from a river reed.

The ancient Egyptians also made outstanding contributions in science and medicine. Their calendar, though not precise, was much more accurate than a calendar based on the moon. In the field of medicine, Egyptian doctors classified and prescribed treatments for almost fifty diseases. They knew how to set broken bones and even performed simple surgery.

The ancient Egyptians were traders who sailed their ships on the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Red seas. They passed aspects of their civilization on to the peoples with whom they came in contact during their travels.

1. Which ancient Egyptian contribution do you think had the greatest impact on later civilizations? Give reasons for your answer.

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2. Some people believe the pyramids represent the greatest architectural achievement of the ancient world. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

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## II. News – Egypt discovers Ramesses II head statue

CAIRO, Sept. 25 (Xinhua) -- Egyptian archaeologists have discovered a granite head statue, believed to be that of the 19th Dynasty King of ancient Egypt Ramesses II, the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) said in a press release on Thursday.

The red granite head was discovered during routine excavations at the archaeological site of Tell Basta, about 80 km to the northeast of Cairo, in the eastern Nile Delta, said Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni.

Announcing the discovery on Wednesday, Hosni said the head statue is likely to belong to a colossal statue of the king that once stood in the area.

According to Secretary General of the SCA Zahi Hawass, the nose of the 76-cm-high statue is broken and the false beard is missing,

He said the finding is of great importance "because it may indicate that the excavators are close to the ruins of a major temple of Ramesses II in the area."

A development plan for the construction of a museum and a visitor's center is currently being carried out in Tell Basta, the site that was sacred to the ancient Egyptian cat-goddess Bastet.

Ramesses II, who is believed to have ruled ancient Egypt from 1279 BC to 1213 BC (others said from 1304 BC to 1237 BC), is one of the longest-serving pharaohs and most powerful kings in ancient Egypt.

Article taken from [www.chinaview.cn](http://www.chinaview.cn) 09-25-2008



In this undated photo released Thursday Sept. 25, 2008 by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities the 3,000-year-old red granite head believed to be that of 19th Dynasty pharaoh Ramses II is seen at the site at Tell Basta, 80 kilometers (miles 50) northeast of Cairo, Egypt, after it was unearthed by Egyptian archaeologists. (AP Photo/Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, HO)

*Answer the following questions/prompts on a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper.*

1. What are archaeologists and what are excavations? (**Look up these words** in your notes or a dictionary.)
2. According to Secretary General of the SCA Zahi Hawass, why could the fact that they found this statue in this particular place be important for archeologists?
3. Describe the image of the head statue in your own words in at least two complete sentences using the picture to the left.
4. What is missing from the statue, according to Secretary General of the SCA Zahi Hawass?
5. Why do you think it is missing?

### **Extra credit**

What have you learned about Egyptian culture that might be important for archeologists to know about when examining this artifact?