Chapter 2 Study Guide

1. **Silt -** a rich deposit of fertile black mud.
2. **Nile River** - Egyptian settlements arose along this river.
3. **Cataract -** where boulders turn the river into churning rapids.
4. **Delta -** broad, marshy, triangular area of land formed by deposits of silt at the mouth of the river.
5. **Narmer** - the kingdoms of Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt were united under him.
6. **Memphis -** where Narmer settled his capital.
7. **Pharaohs** - were thought to be almost as splendid and powerful as the gods of the heavens.
8. **Theocracy -** type of government in which rule is based on religious authority.
9. **Pyramid -** an immense structure that was the resting place for a pharaoh after death.
10. **Polytheistic** - believing in many gods.
11. **Re -** Egyptian sun god.
12. **Osiris** - Egyptian god of the dead.
13. **Isis -** Egyptian goddess whorepresented the ideal mother and wife.
14. **Anubis** - Egyptian god and guide of the underworld.
15. ***Book of the Dead -*** collection of texts intended to guide the soul in the afterlife.
16. **Hieroglyphics -** Egyptian writing system.
17. **Papyrus** - dried plant strips and sap glued together into a paperlike sheet.
18. **Rosetta Stone** - black stone inscribed in three languages that helped to decipher hieroglyphics.
19. **Hyksos** - ruled much of Egypt from 1630 to 1523 B.C.
20. **Indian subcontinent -** the landmass that includes India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
21. **Indus** and **Ganges -** the two rivers that make up the Indus River Valley.
22. **Deccan Plateau -** high plateau cut by twisting rivers in the center of the Indian peninsula.
23. **Monsoons  -** seasonal winds that dominate India’s climate.
24. **Levees** -  earthen walls, to keep water out.
25. **Citadel -** a fortified area.
26. **Shiva** - a major Hindu god.
27. **Aryans** - a nomadic people from north, swept into the Indus Valley around 1500 B.C.
28. **Huang He** and **Chang Jiang** - the two rivers that make up the Chinese River Valley.
29. **Loess -** fertile soil, which is blown by the winds from deserts to the west and north.
30. **Xia Dynasty -** the first Chinese dynasty.
31. **Shang Dynasty** - Chinese Dynasty that lasted from around 1700 B.C. to 1027 B.C.
32. **Shang Di -** worshiped a supreme god by the Shang.
33. **Oracle bones** - bones and tortoise shells on which priests had scratched questions for the gods.
34. **Zhou Dynasty** - Around 1027 B.C., they overthrew the Shang and established their own dynasty.
35. **Mandate of Heaven** - A just ruler had divine approval.
36. **Dynastic cycle -** the pattern of rise, decline, and replacement of dynasties.
37. **Feudalism** - a political system in which nobles, or lords, are granted lands that belong to the king.
38. Explain the process of mummification and discuss why this was so important to the people of ancient Egypt.