

A EGYPT'S ECONOMY

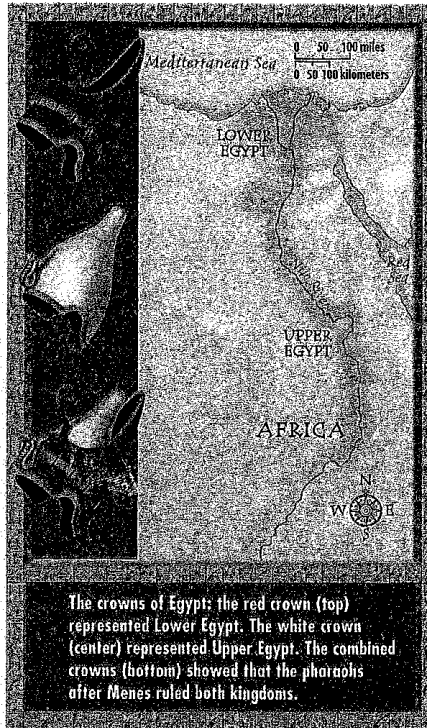
If someone offers you an ancient Egyptian coin, don't take it! The ancient Egyptians had no coins. In fact, they had no money at all!

Although ancient Egyptians did not use money, Egypt had a strong economy. An economy is the way a country's goods and services are produced and distributed. Most modern economies are a combination of agriculture and manufacturing.

Ancient Egypt's long growing season led to an economy based on agriculture. Its major products were barley and emmer, a type of wheat. Egyptians were also experts in glassmaking, metalwork, and pottery.

Since ancient Egypt had no coins or money, Egyptians had to barter. You have already learned that barter means to trade goods without the use of money. An economy that does not use money is called a barter economy. Egyptians sent some of their extra crops to other countries and traded them for luxury goods and other products. Any additional crops and supplies were stored in large warehouses in case of need.

The pharaoh ordered a tax on everything made or grown in Egypt. Since Egyptians did not use money, the pharaoh collected a part of every farmer's crops as a tax, as well as a portion of products such as leather goods, linen cloth, and baskets. The pharaoh's taxes also included days



of work. Almost all Egyptians worked on government building projects during the flood season.

QUICK CHECK

Cause and Effect What caused people to barter in ancient Egypt?