



GUIDE TO READING NOTES

Read Sections 9.3–9.7 in *History Alive! The Ancient World*. For each section, write four things you learned about daily life for the members of that social class.

Possible answers:

9.3 Government Officials

- The vizier served as chief judge, appointed and supervised other officials, and advised the pharaoh.
- The chief treasurer collected taxes in the form of such things as grain, cows, and beer.
- The general of the armies advised the pharaoh on protecting Egypt from invaders and helped make alliances.
- Government officials lived a life of luxury, including banquets with exotic foods and entertainment.

Pharaoh

9.4 Priests

- Priests followed many rules, such as bathing several times a day.
- Priests had different jobs, such as advising the

9.5 Scribes

- Becoming a scribe was one of the few ways men could rise to a higher social class.
- Students spent 12 years or more in the scribe schools.

9.6 Artisans

- Egyptian artisans included carpenters, jewelers, leather- and metalworkers, painters, potters, sculptors, and weavers.
- Artisans rarely received recognition from the upper classes for their work.

9.7 Peasants

- Peasant life revolved around three seasons: flooding season, planting season, and harvest season.
- Peasants often sang songs to help pass the long hours working in the fields.



pharaoh and
supervising ceremonies.

- Priests oversaw the important task of embalming dead bodies.

- Life in scribe schools was difficult, and teachers often beat their students.
- Scribes used pens made from reeds, paper made from papyrus, writing tablets, and two ink wells.

- Stone carving was difficult work because artisans worked with hard rock such as granite.
- Artisans and their families lived in modest, rectangular homes that were barely 10 yards long.

- The diet of peasants was simple: bread, beer, some vegetables, and maybe fish.
- During harvesttime, peasants were allowed to gather and keep leftover grain, but they also could be beaten if they had a poor harvest.