• King Mentuhotep of Thebes defeated the king of Heracleopolis and reunited Egypt starting the Middle Kingdom lasting from 2050 to 1652 B.C.E.
• The twelfth dynasty was important in the middle kingdom, founded by Amenemhet, a former vizier who established himself as a pharaoh.
• Nomes were reorganized and clear boundaries were drawn, as well as specific duties and purposes of the nomes and citizens.
• The prosperity was shown by Egypt through military expeditions capturing Lower Nubia and sending military to Syria and Palestine.

The social hierarchy of Egypt was very simple and mostly hereditary.

• The king was at the top, and he had the upper class of nobles and priests surrounding him. This class ran the government and had their own land.
• Below them were merchants and artisans, these people usually went on many expeditions for materials and had high standards.
• Most of the people worked on agriculture, called serfs, and they cultivated the land.

The Egyptians had a very amazing culture and made many technical advancements.

• Egyptians believed that religion was inseparable from everything and the Pharaoh maintained cosmic order.
• The Egyptians had many gods associated with heavenly bodies and natural forces; there were sun gods and land gods.
• The sun god was Re but had many other names, land deities included Osiris and Isis and their child Horus.
• Osiris was a big influence on the dead they believed that they could name people Osiris and they would reincarnate through the floods.
• Originally only the rich could be mummified, but in the middle kingdom anybody who wanted to live after death could be mummified.
• One of the great achievements of the Egyptians was the pyramids.
• Usually many pyramids would be built together, large ones for kings, smaller for their families, and mastabas for the noble officials.
• Bodies would be mummified to preserve them for after death.
• Pyramids were tombs for the mummified kings; the first one was built in the third dynasty during the reign of King Djoser.
• The first real and filled in pyramid was made in the fourth dynasty around 2600 BCE by King Snefru, but the largest was built under his son Khufu. The great pyramid of Giza was made around 2540 BCE measured 756 feet at each side and was 481 feet tall. It supposedly took 100,000 Egyptians 20 years to build.
• Egyptians made many wall paintings, statues of gods, and more.
• They made many artistic pieces were supposed to aid the journey of the deceased into the afterworld.
• Their artwork has shown us many things about how daily life was in Egypt.
• The artwork followed many specific proportions and views of how people are.
• During the first two dynasties writing emerged in Egypt and this separated many people into another social class. The Egyptians wrote in Hieroglyphs.

Instability in the thirteenth dynasty lead to another period of unrest and eventually the New Kingdom which was very different from the Old and Middle Kingdoms.

• The period of unrest was from 1652-1567 BCE, caused by and incursion of the Hyskos.
• Though the struggles caused Nubia to gain freedom from Egypt the Hyskos introduced Egypt to the Bronze Age and new aspects of war.
• The Egyptians used these new weapons to fight off the Hyskos.
• Pharaoh Ahmose defeated them and reunited Egypt, founded the eighteenth dynasty, establishes the New Kingdom and launched the Egyptians along an imperialistic path. Lasting from 1567-1085 BCE.