The Old Kingdom
Target

- List and describe the government, achievements, and reasons for decline of the Old Kingdom
Government

- Society was organized under the rule of the Pharaoh
- Considered both God and King
- His authority rested with **Maat**
  - balance and harmony
Building Projects

• Obelisks (Stone Monuments)
• Built as symbols to the sun God
Pyramids

- The step pyramid at Sakkara
- Zoser - Pharaoh
- Imhotep – architect
Sneferu’s Pyramids

- Pyramid at Meidum (failure)
- Bent Pyramid (failure)
- Red Pyramid (Success)
Pyramids at Gizeh

- The Great Pyramid
- Khufu (Cheops)
- Son of Sneferu
The Great Pyramid
Pyramids at Gizeh con’t

- Khafre, son of Khufu, also built a pyramid at Gizeh
- Also built the Great Sphinx
- Purpose?
Egyptian Society

• Also takes the shape of a pyramid

Pharaoh
Nobles, Priests, Royal officials, Scribes
Skilled Workers, Soldiers
Farmers, Unskilled workers, slaves
The end of the Old Kingdom

- Pharaohs were pre-occupied with building pyramids
- They ran out of money
- The treasury is empty
- Who has the money?
- The Nobles
End of the Old Kingdom ‘con’t

- Nobles give Pharaohs money
- In exchange for large tracts of land
- Positions of authority
- The nobles then developed smaller, individual kingdoms of their own
- The First Intermediate Period
The First Intermediate Period

1. Pharaoh’s power declines
2. No social order
3. No set policy or justice
4. Nobles want to experience an afterlife, just like the pharaohs
5. Periods of famine occur with no organized government to deal with it.
   - Egypt splits into two kingdoms again!