**The Egyptian Empire**

The Middle Kingdom

* Old Kingdom ends and pharaohs lose control
* New dynasty of pharaohs come to power
  + Middle Kingdom begins
* Middle Kingdom –golden age of stability, prosperity, and achievement

The Drive for More Land

* Egypt takes new lands
* Conquers Nubia to the south and Syria
* Conquered people pay tributes (forced payments) to the pharaohs

The Arts Blossom

* Arts, literature, and architecture thrive
* Paintings on walls, huge statues of pharaohs, love songs written
* Instead of pyramids, pharaohs tombs now cut into cliffs
  + Easier to make
  + Less expensive
  + Harder to find and rob

Hyksos

* Group of mighty warriors that take over Egypt for a time
* This ends the Middle Kingdom
* Leader named Ahmose defeats them and becomes pharaoh
* This starts the New Kingdom