**Pharaoh Senusret**

Despite being known for long and peaceful reign within Egypt, Senusret I devoted his rule to protecting Egypt’s borders. Egyptologists consider him the most powerful pharaoh of the Twelfth Dynasty of the Middle Kingdom.

**Prepared for Power**

Senusret was the son of Amenemhat I and his chief wife Nefertitanen. Egyptologists believe that Amenemhat I made Senusret his **co-regent (co-ruler)** ten years before his death. This was the first instance of co-regency in recorded Egyptian history.

The position of co-regent prepared Senusret for his place as **king** and firmly established him as heir to the throne. **"The Story of Sinuhe”** recounts the events that led to his rise to the throne. While fighting in Libya, Senusret received word of his father’s **assassination**. Senusret returned home and easily took his place as the second king of the dynasty.

King Senusret would later repeat the same transitional processes introduced by his father by naming his son Amenemhet II as his co-regent. In addition to Amenemhet II, Senusret would have at least one daughter with his wife, Queen Neferu.

**Lengthy Reign**

Most historians place Senusret’s reign as 1956-1911 BC or 1971-1928 BC. It is generally accepted that he ruled for 44 years: 10 years as co-regent with his father, 30 years as sole ruler and 3 to 4 years as co-regent with his son.

Most records indicate Senusret’s years as pharaoh as **peaceful and prosperous** for Egypt. Trade flourished and provided Egyptians with cedar, ivory and other foreign goods. The many golden artifacts attributed to his reign reveal his rule to be one of **wealth and affluence**.

Senusret effectively managed the country through establishing clear **boundaries** between individual regions. While he allowed regional governors to continue their authority, he made it known that he was the **ultimate authority** over Egypt. This firm rule gave Egypt stability and prosperity.

**Military Campaigns**

Senusret continued his father’s **expansion** into northern Nubia with at least two military campaigns. By placing a military fort and a victory stele at Egypt’s southern border, he established a **strong military border** for Egyptian protection.

Records show that during his rule, he personally led several **expeditions** into the Libyan Desert to gain control and protect the Delta region. While it appears that he led aggressive military campaigns, the main goal of his military offensives was to **secure the borders** of Egypt against invasion.

**Major Building Projects**

Senusret I began his many building projects while still serving as co-regent by improving major temples, including those at [Karnak](http://www.ancient-egypt-online.com/karnak.html) and Heliopolis. Archaeologists credit King Senusret with over three dozen major projects.

The goal of Senusret’s building program was to **make his name known** throughout all the generations to follow him. He was the first pharaoh to build monuments at each of the main religious sites in Egypt.

To celebrate his 30th year of rule, he had two **red granite obelisks** constructed at the temple of Re-Atum at Heliopolis. Reaching a height of 66 feet, each [obelisk](http://www.ancient-egypt-online.com/obelisks.html) weighed 121 tons. One remains standing as the oldest obelisk in Egypt.

At his death, Senusret was placed in his pyramid at **el-Lisht**. Located one mile south of his father’s pyramid, his complex included nine additional pyramids for his wife and other relatives.

**Questions**:

1. List the achievements of Senusret:

2. Which achievement do you think was most important to the Egyptian civilization and why?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_