

Bureaucracy Activity

Names: _____,

_____,

_____,

_____.

Directions: The following pages will have scenarios that would be solved by members of the Egyptian Bureaucracy. Each of you are members of at least the middle class ranging from scribes to high ranking noblemen. Your jobs here today are very important as to how the government will function and how the people will be treated.

Be sure to follow the instructions on each page carefully and complete the questions connected to each activity. Be sure to answer the group follow up questions at the end after you have all finished with your individual task.

Activity #1

You have been given the task of dividing up the land so that the peasants will be satisfied. You need to divide the land into sections that allow each peasant to have access to the river and room to grow their crops. You will have to include room for a home on each section of property. You will need to make plots for a total of 8 peasants.

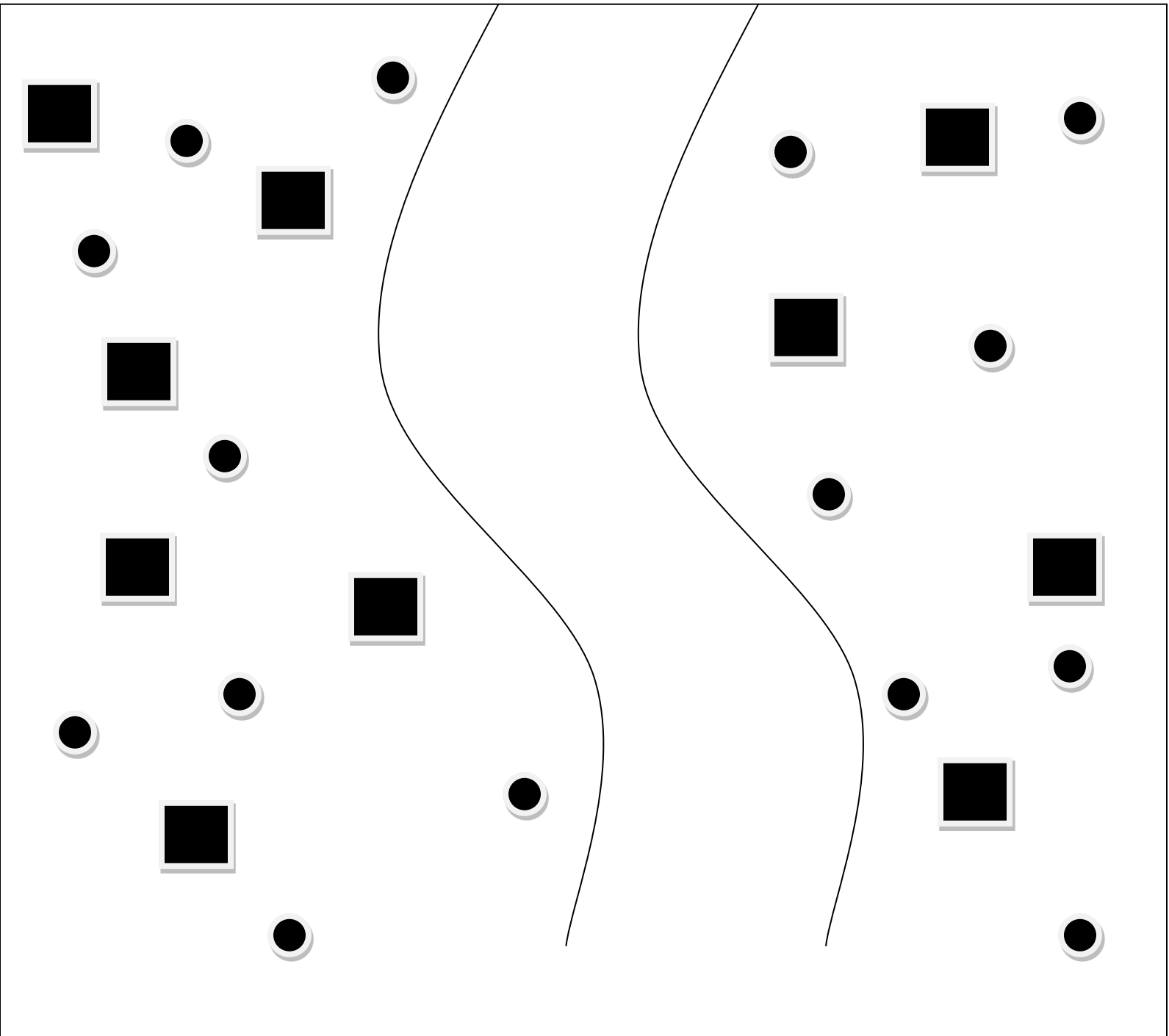
The black squares on the map are wells and the black circles are larger rocks that cannot be moved. Each property must contain at least one well and cannot have more than two of these large rocks. You must also mark where the house will be located by drawing a small house on each property.

Questions: (use the back of this page to answer the questions)

Did you divide the land up equally or are some properties larger than others?

Was it difficult to equally divide the properties while making sure each had at least one well?

Explain your answer.



Activity #2

You have been assigned the task of collecting taxes from the peasants. Each peasant is to offer up 20% of their wheat harvest as a tribute to the Pharaoh. Some will say that they will not be able to pay the tax this year but they are most likely not being good citizens so you must take exactly 20% anyway. Use a calculator to figure out the exact amounts needed to meet the tax and round to the nearest whole pound.

Peasant #1: 400 lbs. _____
Peasant #2: 35 lbs. _____
Peasant #3: 74 lbs. _____
Peasant #4: 112 lbs. _____
Peasant #5: 354 lbs. _____
Peasant #6: 287 lbs. _____
Peasant # 7: 23 lbs. _____
Peasant #8: 17 lbs. _____
Peasant #9: 59 lbs. _____
Peasant #10: 135 lbs. _____

What is the total number of pounds of wheat collected from the taxes?

After doing these numbers, do you think it is better that each person gives an amount based on a percent or should every have to give a certain number (say 60 lbs. every year)? Explain your choice.

Activity #3

You are in charge of deciding how this year's tax money will be spent. You need to ensure that the pharaoh will have enough money to continue construction on his pyramid so that will make up at least 50% of the total taxes. With the rest of the money, decide how much you feel would be appropriate for the following items and complete the pie chart at the bottom followed by the questions. Label your pie chart and feel free to use colors for each slice.

Pyramid: 50%

Building of other religious temples: _____

Welfare for the poor: _____

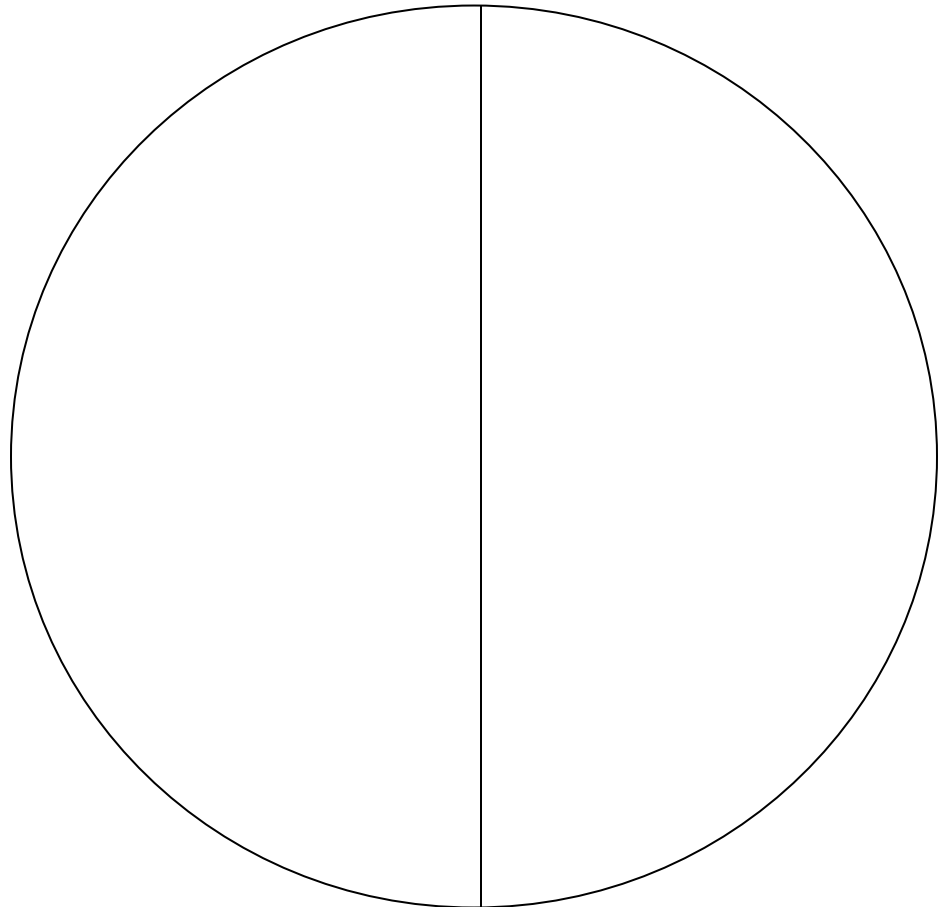
Supplies for the Military: _____

Wages for the Bureaucracy: _____

After the pyramid costs, what item received the most funding?

Why did you decide that this item needed to be the next highest priority?

Which item received the least funding? Explain why you decided this.



Follow up Questions:

1. Which activity do you as a group feel was the most challenging?
2. Why do you think it is important that a bureaucracy handles this kind of task instead of the Pharaoh?
3. How does the theme of Teamwork play into this activity?