

Nubia was an ancient civilization that existed from about 3100 B.C. to 400 A.D. It was located in a region that today is part of southern Egypt and northern Sudan. Very few people knew much about the Nubian culture until the 1970s. Nubian monuments and artifacts recovered prior to the construction of the Aswan dam were displayed in museums around the world and people began to learn about this African civilization.

In 1995 a major exhibit of Nubian artifacts traveled across the United States to more than twenty museums. The name of the exhibit was *Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa*. The curator of the exhibit believed that the Ancient Nubian culture rivaled that of Ancient Egypt. What does rival mean? Webster's dictionary defines it as "striving to equal or excel; to be in competition to possess the qualities of another." Was Nubia a rival of Egypt? Did the Nubian culture equal the power, strength, and success of Ancient Egypt?