

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

The Nubians have had a strong interest in archaeological discoveries of recent decades that have brought a richer knowledge of ancient Nubia. Nubians were often subjected to discrimination in Egypt before this research became widely known. Nubians now take pride in their cultural history.

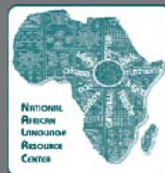
Some express an affinity with Sudanese culture, as many have relatives in Sudan. This common identity has been celebrated in poetry, novels, music and storytelling. Nubian kings were considered pious scholars and patrons of the arts, copying ancient Egyptian texts and even restoring some Egyptian cultural practices.

The language is said to be disappearing because the last living fluent speakers are passing away. As a result, they take with them that culture's centuries of knowledge and tradition that's etched into every word, phrase and even inflection. In the 1960s, the Egyptian government submerged many Nubian villages to make way for the construction of Aswan dam displacing tens of thousands.

Most of them moved to Uganda and Kenya where they have since lived and they have adopted many other languages ditching their native Nubian language.

STUDYING NUBIAN IN THE UNITED STATES

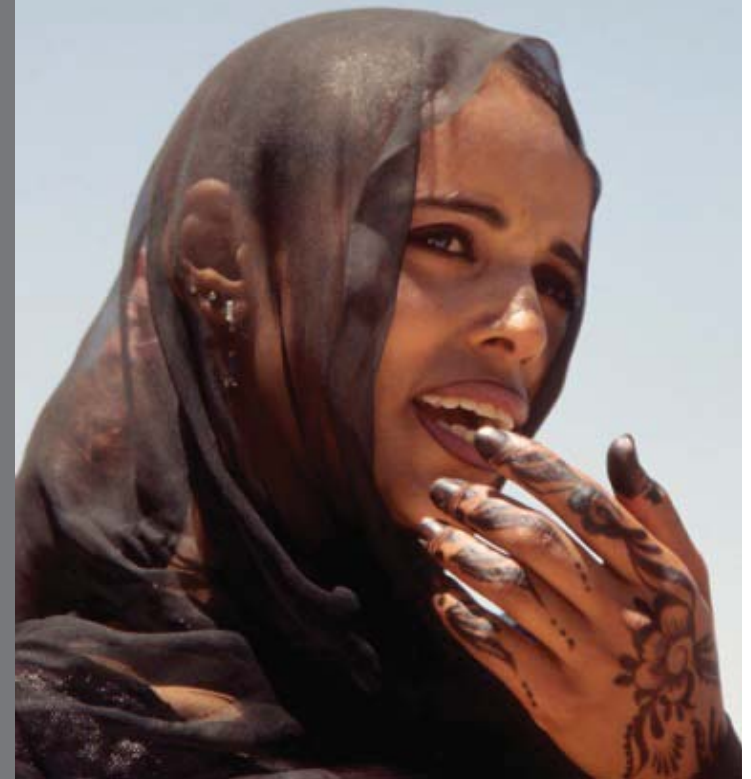
Please contact the National African Language Resource Center or check the NALRC website at <http://www.nalrc.indiana.edu/>



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NUBIAN



A NUBIAN WOMAN

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WHO ARE THE NUBIANS?

When discussing the civilizations of Nile Valley many histories focus almost exclusively on the role of Egypt. But this approach ignores the emergence further south of the Nile of the kingdom known to Egyptians as Kush, in the region called Nubia - area now covered by southern Egypt and Northern Sudan. The Nubian first settled along the banks of Nile from *Aswan*

Along this great river they developed one of the oldest and greatest civilizations in Africa. Until they lost their last kingdom only five centuries back, the Nubians remained as the main rivals to other great African civilization in Egypt.

In ancient times Nubians were depicted by the Egyptians as having very dark skin, often shown with hooped earrings and with braided or extended hair. Ancient Nubians were famous for their skill and precision with the bow.



An Egypt_Nubian Wedding

WHY STUDY NUBIAN?

Nubian is one of the languages that are close to extinction. That's why there is a massive drive for people to preserve one of the languages whose natives witnessed the birth of ancient civilisation.

Learning Nubian gives you a great insight into a culture that has long existed among the Egyptians.

Historians would also find Nubian an interesting language to study because the Nubians had many trade relations with Egyptians, Romans, Judeans and Assyrians.

Nubia was colonized by Egypt from around 1500 to 1000 BC. In 750 BC, Nubian King Piye turned the tables, conquering a weakened and disunited Egypt and becoming the first of several Nubian pharaohs who ruled a unified Egyptian and Nubian state for the next century.



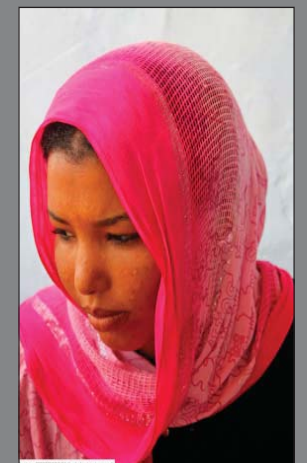
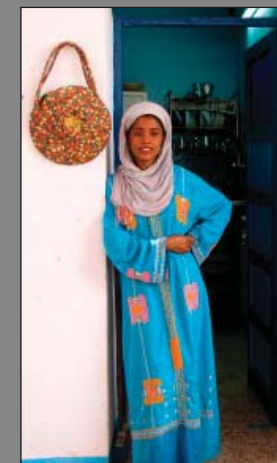
A Nubian Man



Ancient Nubian culture



Nubian Weaver



Nubian girls in Aswan