

EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS

Ancient Egypt was a civilization that lasted over 3000 years located along the Nile River in northeast Africa. A civilization is a group of people who have their own culture and way of life. This civilization was one of the longest and most powerful ones in history. They are well known for their pyramids, which were built as a burial and memorial for pharaohs. Pyramids were large structures built out of rocks and limestone with four triangular sides coming to a point on top.

Ancient Egyptians had many beliefs. Their religion had many gods, each one representing different parts of life such as the sun (Ra), the sky (Norus) and knowledge (Thoth). Alongside the gods, there were individuals called pharaohs. Pharaohs were the kings, or rulers, of Ancient Egypt. They were also the leader of religion. The word pharaoh means "great house." Ancient Egypt included 31 dynasties with nearly over 170 pharaohs. Pharaohs were held at a very high standard and seen almost as gods. Two types of temples were built in Ancient Egypt. The Cultus was a temple built to house a specific god and the Mortuary temple was built to worship a dead pharaoh.

Another belief Ancient Egyptians had was that their souls never died. When they passed away their souls remained alive in the afterlife. They also believed that in order for pharaohs to succeed in the afterlife, they had to be buried with their worldly items such as their treasures, clothes, food, and more. They would use these items after they passed away. As a place to be buried and to keep their items, pharaohs built pyramids for themselves.

Pyramids were very large, usually having tunnels and chambers (rooms) for different purposes. Since there were treasures and items stored away for the pharaohs to use in the afterlife, there would be a chamber dedicated for those. The walls would usually be covered in picture carvings and hieroglyphics, Ancient Egypt's form of writing using pictures and

TEXT MARKING



Where was Ancient Egypt?



What does the word pharaoh mean?



What is a cultus temple?



What was buried in the pyramids with pharaohs?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

culture -

civilization -

symbols. The pharaohs would be placed in the pyramids as mummies (their bodies would be wrapped in cloth to preserve it) in their own chamber. The embalming process (preserving the bodies) could take up to 40 days. Near the room where the pharaoh would be, there would be other chambers for family members to be buried. Egyptian pyramids were always built to the west of the Nile River because that area was associated with the land of the dead.

The pyramids were mostly built during the Old Kingdom. Ancient Egypt went through 3 main wealthy and united periods over the course of their civilization. They were called the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. During the time of the Old Kingdom, Egypt was very wealthy and Pharaoh Djoser built the first pyramid. Earlier pyramids of the Old Kingdom, called step pyramids, had large ledges. The concept was that the pharaoh would use the steps to climb to the sun god.

Building a pyramid was no easy task. It took years to complete and for that reason, pharaohs would begin the construction for their pyramid as soon as they became the ruler. Although no one is sure exactly how they were built, it is believed that people used rocks and ramps to slowly build them up.

The largest pyramid was the Great Pyramid of Giza. It took over 20 years to build and was over 400 feet tall. The pyramid was built as the burial site for Pharaoh Khufu with chambers for him and his wife. Historians estimate that this pyramid was made from more than 2.3 million stone blocks with each block weighing over 2000 pounds!

There are about 138 pyramids that were built over time. Today, many of them don't have the treasures they once had. Although they were built with traps and fake passageways to confuse thieves, many were still able to find their way inside and steal the treasures. Most pyramids are also not as grand and tall as they once were. Weather and other factors have removed pieces of them over time.

TEXT MARKING



Why were pyramids built west of the Nile?



What were the 3 main periods of Egypt called?



How did Egyptians build the pyramids?



Who was the Great Pyramid of Giza built for?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

embalming -

historians -

NEW KINGDOM

The New Kingdom was the period of time in Ancient Egypt from 1520 BC to 1075 BC. Ancient Egypt was divided into three main kingdoms at different time periods: the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. The New Kingdom, also known as the Golden Age, was the most prosperous (successful) and powerful one of the three. Ancient Egypt was established along the Nile River in northeast Africa.

There were 3 dynasties throughout this period; the Eighteenth, the Nineteenth, and the Twentieth. A dynasty is a royal family who rules over a period of time. Many famous pharaohs ruled including the Thutmose III, Hatshepsut, and Tutankhamun (known as King Tut).

Before the New Kingdom, and after the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt went through a time called the Second Intermediate Period. During this time northern Egypt was ruled by foreigners known as the Hyksos.

In 1540 BC, a 10 year old boy by the name of Ahmose I became king of Lower Egypt. He was the first pharaoh of the New Kingdom. He was able to defeat the Hyksos and bring Egypt back under one ruler, beginning the New Kingdom.

The New Kingdom brought on many conquests of new land. They conquered lands to the south such as Nubia, as well as east such as Lebanon and Syria. They began trading with many other kings and nations, expanding further than they had before. They also discovered gold mines in one of the areas they conquered, Nubia. They were able to use the gold to buy things from others and it led them to become a very wealthy civilization. The cultural center of the Egyptian Empire was the city of Thebes. Much Egyptian art was inspired by the afterlife.

Because of the wealth they had, the pharaohs built many temples. Temples honored the gods of Ancient Egypt. They believed in many gods, each one having a special purpose such as the god of the sky Horus, or Thoth, the

TEXT MARKING



What was the New Kingdom also known as?



Who was Ahmose I?



What was the 'Second Intermediate Period'?



Where was gold discovered?

WORDS TO KNOW

UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE

conquests -

foreigners -

god of wisdom. Some temples were also built by the pharaohs to honor themselves as gods. Some of the most famous temples include the Temple of Luxor, Temple of Karnak, and the Temple of Hatshepsut. **Pharaohs in Ancient Egypt were the only people allowed to wear a headdress with the uraeus, or cobra, on it.**

Pharaohs were buried in different places during each kingdom's time period. For example, during the Old Kingdom, they built pyramids and pharaohs were buried in them. During the New Kingdom, the pharaohs were buried in a place called the Valley of the Kings. This was a large site, similar to a graveyard that held the tombs of pharaohs for over 500 years. These tombs were very large, some with entire rooms dedicated to holding treasures and valuable items. There would also be a special area for the mummy of the pharaoh. **The mummy is the body of the pharaoh wrapped in cloth and was done to preserve the body forever, known as mummification.** Ancient Egyptians believed that their souls, or Ka, never died and that they needed valuable items in the afterlife. **Pharaoh Akhenaten named their new capital city Amarna to honor the sun god, Aten.** The Amarna period of Akhenaten lasted for just 16 years.

The Pharaoh Ramesses III ruled Ancient Egypt for 31 years when it began to weaken. Many foreigners tried to invade, which meant many battles had to be fought. Egypt was already doing very poorly because of a drought (no rain) and famine (very little food). There was also a lot of corruption in the government. **Corruption is dishonest or illegal behavior.**

The battles, the famine, and the corruption led to Egypt becoming unruled after Ramesses III reign ended. Ramesses XI was the last pharaoh to rule in the New Kingdom. **There were eleven pharaohs with the name Ramesses (or Ramses) during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Dynasties.**

The Third Intermediate Period followed the New Kingdom. During this time, foreigners continued to attack and try to invade Ancient Egypt.

TEXT MARKING



What did Akhenaten name the new capital city?



What is the uraeus?



How many pharaohs were named Ramesses?



What is mummification?

WORDS TO KNOW

**UNDERLINE (IN PASSAGE)
THEN DEFINE**

headdress -

corruption -

SPARK SOME *creativity*

ESCAPE
ROOMS

SCAVENGER
HUNTS

SPY
MYSTERY

THINKTIVITY

SECRET
MESSAGES

TEXT
DETECTIVE

BREAKOUTS

READING
CHALLENGE

INTERACTIVE
NOTEBOOK

COLOR BY
NUMBER

DIGITAL
ESCAPES

DIGITAL
BOARD
GAME

GOOGLE
SLIDES

TASK
CARDS
GAME

GOOGLE
FORMS

PUZZLE
STATIONS

BOOM
CARDS

READING
PASSAGES

LET'S CONNECT

f

E

BLOG

p

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GRAB A FREEBIE

Grab a FREE
Boston Tea
Party activity!

