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# ANCIENT EGYPT LOCATION

- Today, Egypt is a country in Africa. Did you know that thousands of years ago it was one of the most powerful civilizations? It included parts of what is today Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan.
- Ancient Egypt developed around **Nile River**. Nile River was very important because flooding that fertilized soil around it and river was used for transportation too.
- Ancient Egyptian civilization lasted nearly 3,000 years. It started around 3,000 B.C. and it ended around 30 B.C, when Egypt was conquered by the Roman Empire.



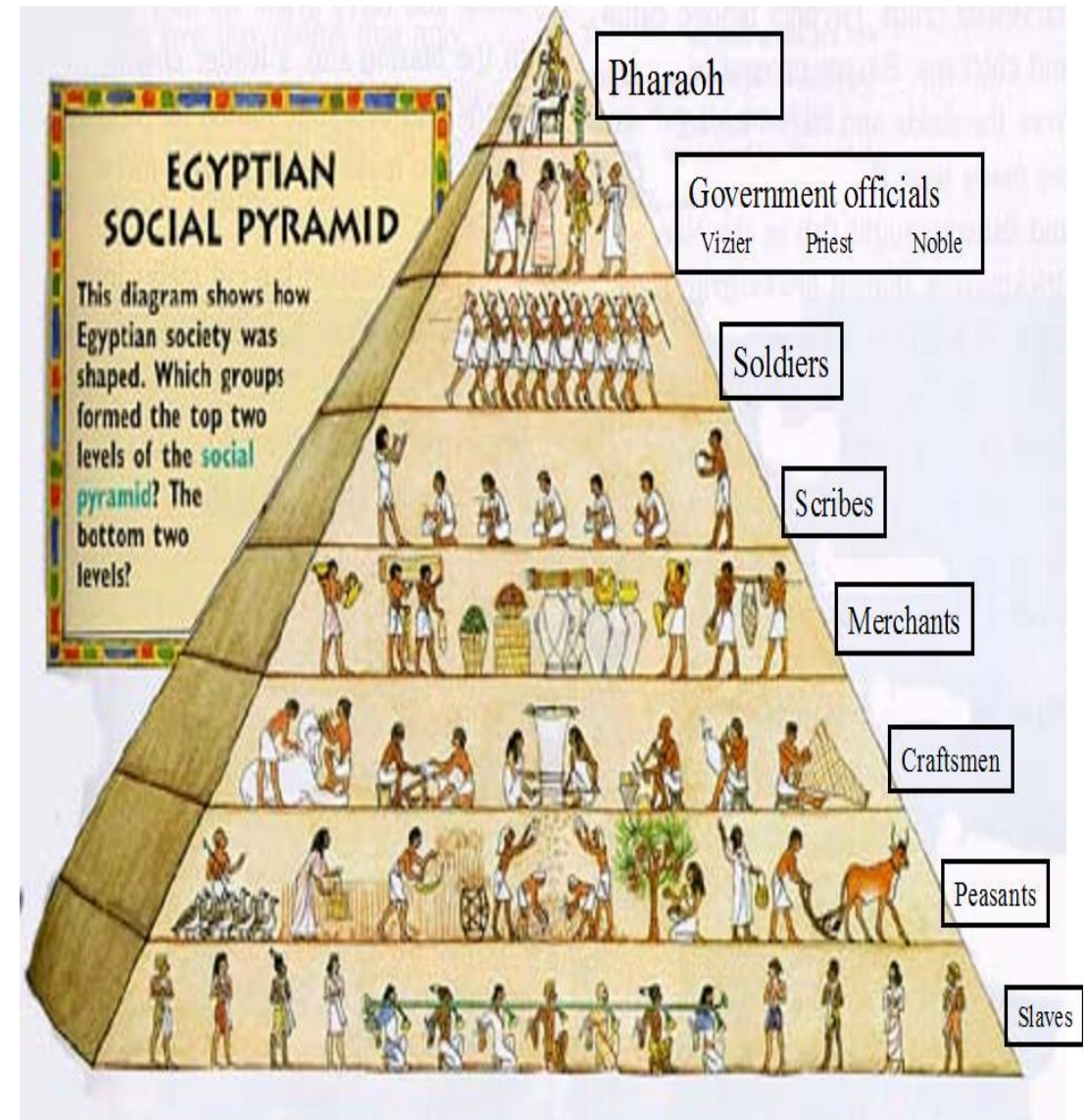


# PHARAOKHS

The **Pharaohs** were the kings and queens of Ancient Egypt. Did you know that word pharaoh means great house?

Ancient Egypt was **Monarchy** - a form of government headed by one ruler who had total power for life.

Ancient Egypt had a **hierarchy** - a system in which people are ranked according to their status. On the bottom were slaves. Above them were the free working people, such as farmers and soldiers. Scribes, priests, and nobles were higher up. And at the very top was the pharaoh, the political and religious leader of Egypt.



# HISTORY

The history of Ancient Egypt is divided into three main periods:

- ❖ The Old Kingdom lasted from 2,700 to 2,200 B.C.
- ❖ The Middle Kingdom lasted from 2,050 to 1,800 B.C.
- ❖ The final period was the New Kingdom. It lasted from about 1,550 to 1,100 B.C.

During these three periods, dynasty changed. A **dynasty** is a powerful group or family that holds onto power for many years. A dynasty ruled until it was defeated. Did you know there were more than 30 dynasties in Egyptian history?



# HISTORY / OLD KINGDOM

During the Old Kingdom, rulers built many pyramids.

The pharaoh Cheops built the **Great Pyramid of Giza** as his tomb.

Chephren, a ruler in the Fourth Dynasty, built the statue of the **Great Sphinx** - creature with the head of a human and the body of a lion.

At the end of the Old Kingdom, civil wars broke out between pharaohs and wealthy **nobles**. It ended in famine and chaos.





# HISTORY / MIDDLE KINGDOM

**Montuhotep II** was an Eleventh Dynasty pharaoh. He was the last ruler of the Old Kingdom and the first ruler of the Middle Kingdom.

The Middle Kingdom is known as a time of arts, especially jewelry making.

During this period, Egypt became rich and powerful from trading with its neighbors. It was a time of huge construction projects.

The **Hyksos**, group of foreigners, invaded Egypt and Middle Kingdom ended.



# HISTORY / NEW KINGDOM

Pharaohs threw out the Hyksos. This period was a time of art creation.

**Akhenaten** was a pharaoh who ruled during the Eighteenth Dynasty. He is famous for changing the **worship** of many gods to the worship of a **single god**, named Aten.

The boy-king **Tutankhamun**, began to rule at the age of 10. He ruled for just nine years. Did you know his name is famous today because of his beautiful tomb full of treasure?

After **Ramses' II** rule, Egypt fell into decline.

Pharaoh **Nectanebo II** became the last pharaoh born in Egypt. He escape in 343 B.C. to avoid being killed by invaders from the nearby country of Persia. This was the end of rule by dynasties in Egypt.





# HISTORY / CLEOPATRA

Cleopatra was the queen of Egypt from about 51 B.C. to about 30 B.C. Did you know she was the last Egyptian ruler to hold the title of pharaoh. She was known for her beauty, but she was also a great ruler for Egypt.

Cleopatra was a member of a Greek royal dynasty called the Ptolemies. They ruled Egypt for three hundred years starting in 305 B.C. Cleopatra became queen of Egypt when she was 18 years old and she had to share the throne with her 12-year-old brother.

In 48 B.C., Caesar arrived in Egypt and helped Cleopatra to become the ruler of Egypt. After Caesar's death, Rome was run by Mark Antony, a powerful general, and Octavian, Caesar's adopted son. Mark Antony fell in love with Cleopatra, they went back to Egypt together and got married. They had three children.

Octavian declared war on Egypt and he won. Mark Antony killed himself, and Cleopatra killed herself too. According to legend, she allowed a poisonous snake to bite her.

Octavian **conquered** Egypt. In 31 B.C., Egypt fell under Roman control.

Centuries later, in A.D. 640, Muslim warriors took over Egypt. They ruled Egypt for several centuries and founded the modern capital, Cairo.



# PYRAMIDS

Did you know Egyptian **pyramids** were built as tombs for **pharaohs** and their families? Over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.

The **Pyramid of Khufu** at **Giza** is the largest Egyptian pyramid. It took about twenty years and tens of thousands of workers to build! People today are still not sure how the Egyptians made them.

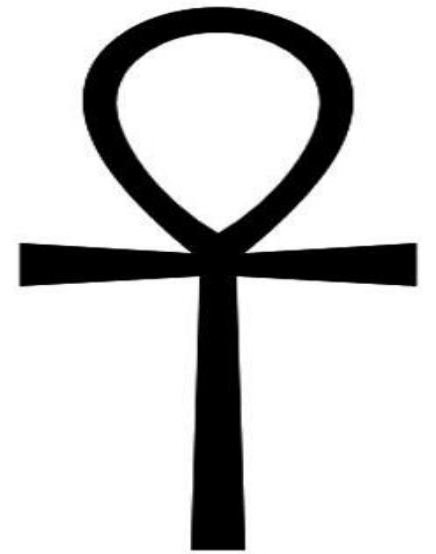


# HIEROGLYPHS

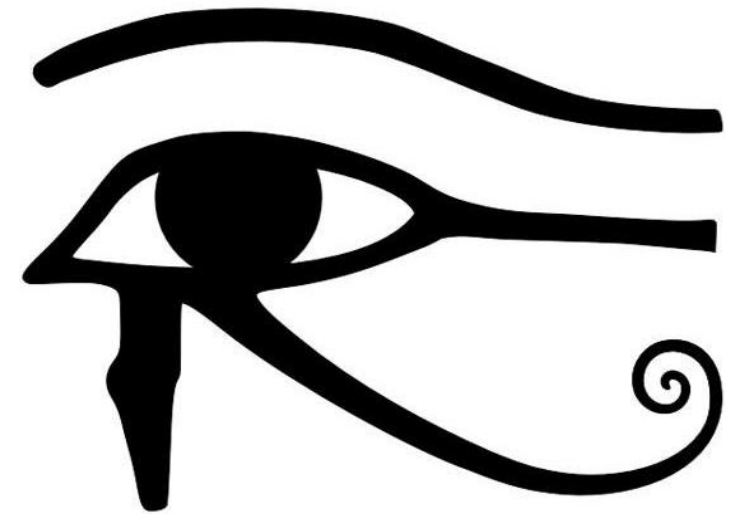
On the pyramid walls there are **Hieroglyphs**, the writing system in Ancient Egypt - pictures that represent words. What we know about Ancient Egypt comes from hieroglyphs. There are more than 700 hieroglyphs. Some were often seen, for example:

**Ankh** – the Egyptian hieroglyph meaning “life”. It was often used as an amulet representing eternal life.

**Eye of Horus** – the symbol that represents protection, royal power and good health. It was often used in jewelry and amulets.



**Ankh**



**Eye of Horus**



# MUMMIES

Did you know Egyptians believed in afterlife? After person dies their spirit travels through land of dead and faces a series of trials.

They believed that if they preserve a dead person's body through the process of **mummification** – their soul would live in the after-life forever.

First, they removed most of inner organs and put them in **Canopic Jars**. Then they washed the body, dried it, and wrapped it in bandages. By the end of this process, body had become a **mummy**.

The whole process of mummification took 70 days.

The mummy would be placed in a decorated coffins within outer **Sarcophagus**, the coffin made out of stone, and placed in the tomb – pyramid.



# FUN FACTS

- Did you know the Pyramid of Khufu at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid? It weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!
- Both Egyptian men and women wore make-up. The Egyptians believed make-up had magical powers!
- Unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for 1.6 km. Imagine that!
- Ancient Egyptians believed in more than 2,000 gods!
- Cat was a sacred animal for the Ancient Egyptians. They believed cat would bring the household good luck!
- **Senet** is one of the oldest known board games. A board was found in King Tut's tomb.
- The Ancient Egyptians invented lots of things we still use today, such as paper (**Papyrus**, paper in Ancient Egypt made by plant), pens, locks, keys and toothpaste!

## Pharaoh

A Pharaoh never let his hair be seen – he would always wear a crown or a headdress called a nemes.



## Makeup

Both Egyptian men and women wore makeup.



