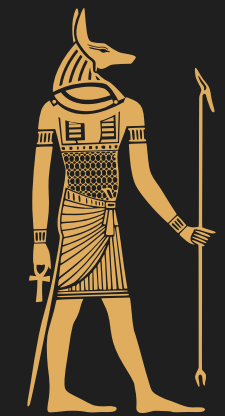




Egypt, the birthplace of civilization, is tucked away along the sly embrace of the powerful Nile River, which tells its enthralling story. Its cultural legacy dates back to the Pharaohs' rule, a time characterised by magnificence, inventiveness, and a strong spiritual bond with the universe. Pharaohs were the heads of state and the religious authorities of their people when they ruled over ancient Egypt. The palace where the pharaoh dwells is referred to as the "Great House" in the term "pharaoh."

Although the early Egyptian kings were referred to as "kings," the term "pharaoh" persisted over time.

Life was a grand symphony of heavenly power and earthly riches in the Pharaonic kingdom. The enormous and enduring Pyramids of Giza are evidence of the amazing architectural feats accomplished during this time. These enormous constructions were magnificent representations of the Pharaohs' cosmic ascension into the afterlife rather than just massive tombs. The Great Sphinx is a mysterious defender who watches time pass while concealing the mysteries of a another period. The Pharaohs, who were regarded as heavenly kings, carefully incorporated religion into everyday life. The domains of creation, fertility, and the afterlife were ruled by a pantheon of deities. These gods' hallowed temples, like Luxor's Karnak Temple, were thriving hubs of worship and artistic expression.





Ancient Egypt's fertile soil was a fertile ground for literature and the arts. The walls of temples and tombs were covered in intricate hieroglyphics, a visual language that recorded the civilization's victories, customs, and beliefs. Uncovering the intricacies of Egyptian hieroglyphs, the linguistic marvel known as the Rosetta Stone was uncovered in 1799 and established the groundwork for the study of ancient languages. Egypt's wealth was powered by trade, which was made possible by the rich plains of the Nile. The river gave the gift of agricultural plenty with its yearly floods. As astute managers, the Pharaohs built a complex network of irrigation and canals to capture the life-giving waters. Together with strategically controlling trade



channels, this agricultural surplus promoted both cultural and economic growth. With the passage of time, Egypt evolved into a crossroads of cultures. The indigenous fabric was woven with Greek and Roman influences, creating layers in the cultural mosaic. A centre of intellectual illumination, the Library of Alexandria attracted intellectuals from all across the ancient world and promoted information exchange across cultural boundaries.

Following the Arab conquest of Egypt in the seventh century, Islam was easily assimilated into Egyptian culture. Cairo's minarets now pierce the sky, a testament to centuries of interfaith harmony and cultural fusion. The timeless Egyptian monuments coexisted well with the rich traditions of Islamic art and building.







Egypt survives as a living museum of its illustrious history in the modern world. Egyptian culture endures because it is resilient and adaptable, from the busy streets of Cairo, where the Khan El Khalili bazaar vibrates with the spirit of old trade, to the serene waters of the Nile that nevertheless support life. Across millennia, the Pharaohs' legacy invites the world to delve into its mysterious and complex story—a historical journey where each new chapter reveals a new aspect of Egypt's ongoing cultural fabric.

Compared to the wide range of modern American characters, the major people from ancient Egypt are frequently limited to smaller roles, mostly related to political and religious leadership. Even though the Egyptians used hieroglyphs to record their history, the records that are currently available focus mostly on rulers, and it is difficult to distinguish reality from fiction because of the layers of mythology that have been added over centuries. Several significant ancient Egyptian figures are still unknown as a result of destroyed or unrecoverable documents. Three categories of significant individuals will be the subject of this investigation: those who contributed to the pyramid's early construction, notable leaders, and powerful non-Egyptian rulers.





## Monumental Figures



There are three key figures of the Old Kingdom (circa 2700–2100 B.C.E.) who drove the development of Egypt's most famous monument, the pyramid. As the architect to King Djoser (circa 2650–2575 B.C.E.), Imhotep is credited with the development of a six-layer step pyramid at Saqqarah and is the only key figure we cite who is not a ruler. The world's oldest stone monument, the Step Pyramid, was built over a mastaba, an older form of a rectangular, one-layer tomb in use at the time and is considered the essential first step in the development of the pyramid.

It was Snefru (reigned circa 2600 B.C.E.) who covered the ground between a stepped pyramid and a true pyramid, albeit with some issues along the way—such as the limestone casing falling off the Meidum Pyramid and getting the angle wrong on the Bent Pyramid. But with the Red Pyramid at Dashur, he achieved what is widely considered to be the first true pyramid.



Snefru's son, King Khufu (reigned circa 2580–2565 B.C.E.), learned from his father's technological advances. He had the Great Pyramid at Giza built, a structure that—with a height of 147 meters (481 feet)—was the world's tallest building for about 3,800 years, until the Cathedral at Lincoln, England, was completed in 1311 C.E.







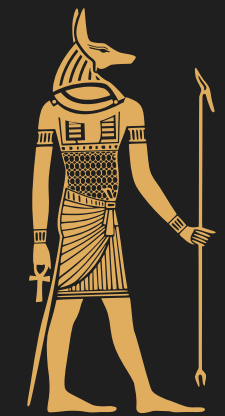
## Egyptian Rulers of Renown

In the New Kingdom (circa 1560–1070 B.C.E.), a set of Egyptian rulers achieved renown for vastly different reasons.

### Queen Hatshepsut



(reigned circa 1473–1458 B.C.E.) began her rule first as a queen married to Thutmose II, then as regent to her stepson Thutmose III, but ended it as a king in her own right, the first woman to rule Egypt as king.



### Thutmose III

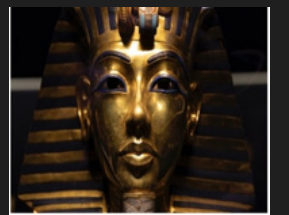


(reigned circa 1479–1425 B.C.E.) followed Hatshepsut to the throne after she died and apparently tried to eradicate all evidence of her rule. It is now believed he did this to secure the tradition of males serving as the ultimate rulers. Under his rule, Egypt reached the height of its power, with holdings in southwest Asia up to the Euphrates River, supply ports along the Levantine coast in the Middle East, and continued dominance over Nubia, the region along the almighty Nile River.





menhotep IV (reigned circa 1353–1336 B.C.E.) instituted dramatic changes in Egyptian religion by promoting the worship of the sun god, Aten, at the expense of other traditional Egyptian gods. Changing his name to Akhenaten, he declared that as pharaoh, he was the highest priest in the land. Through this move, he effectively dismissed the priests of the chief god of the pantheon, Amun. Busy establishing a new capital in Amarna, he neglected other aspects of political rule, which would have been disastrous, had he not died. Shortly thereafter, the priests and people went back to traditional worship and the capital returned to Memphis.



King Tutankhamun, son of Amenhotep IV, the last pharaoh of the 18th Egyptian dynasty, reigned from approximately 1332 to 1323 B.C.E. King Tutankhamun was a little-known king in Egyptian history compared to pharaohs like Ramses the Great, Thutmose III, Hatshepsut, or Cleopatra. The reason we remember him is that his tomb is the only one to be discovered nearly intact—or untouched. Most tombs were looted and robbed in antiquity. Tutankhamun's tomb remained hidden for more than 3,000 years. This 1922 find—made 100 years ago—has provided us with a wealth of information about the boy king and the world he lived in. His story is known around the world, and we continue to learn from him.







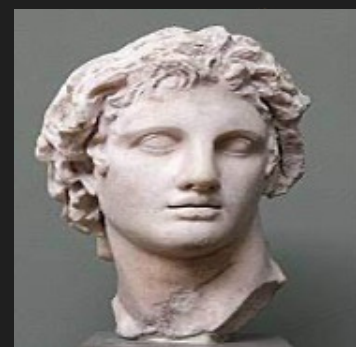
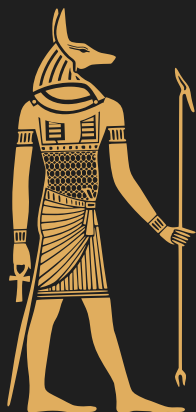
## Non-Egyptian Rulers of Note

### Cambyes II



(reigned circa 530–522 B.C.E.), a king of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, conquered Egypt in 525 B.C.E. during the reign of Pharaoh Psamtik III. Cambyses initiated the rule of Egypt as a pharaoh, and Persian control of Egypt lasted until 404 B.C.E.

There was a second shorter period of Persian rule from 343 to 332 B.C.E., which was ended by Macedonian King Alexander the Great



(reigned circa 332–323 B.C.E.). Alexander conquered Persia and its extended provinces through Southwest Asia, reaching Egypt in 332 B.C.E. After being greeted by the surrender of the current governor, Alexander proceeded to adopt local customs to foster acceptance. In part, this included traveling to the oracle of the chief god, Amun, where he received the priest's greeting to a pharaoh, under which title he was crowned ruler of Egypt. He also founded the city of Alexandria.





After Alexander's death, the rule of Egypt was taken up by one of his companions, Ptolemy Soter (reigned circa 323–282 B.C.E.). Cleopatra VII Philopator (reigned 51–30 B.C.E.) was the last of the Ptolemy line. She ascended the throne along with her brother, Ptolemy XIII, but was forced out of Egypt by ministers loyal to her brother. Raising an army, she returned to fight her brother, but Julius Caesar's intervention brought about a transient period of peace. After Ptolemy XIII's death, she co-ruled with another brother, Ptolemy XIV, until his death in 44 B.C.E., the same year Caesar was murdered. Eventually, Marc Antony and Cleopatra combined forces and faced off against Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, who defeated them in the Battle of Actium in 30 B.C.E. and was crowned Emperor of the Roman Empire three years later, with Egypt incorporated into the empire. Thus ended ancient Egypt's existence as an independent state.

How to be a pharaoh!!!

