

Slide-1:

Moving on, let's now close our eyes and brace ourselves to get transported to the golden sands of ancient Egypt. Now, let's picture ourselves stepping into this vibrant world where colossal statues pay homage to gods and kings.

We've arrived at Memphis—the first capital of a unified Egypt, a city that whispers secrets of millennia gone by. Wondering what secrets these are?

Embark on this journey with me as I stand before you all to uncover the stories etched in stone, the splendor of its forgotten temples, and the echoes of the kings who once walked its streets.

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Memphis is situated in the heart of the Nile floodplain, about 12 miles south of Cairo. Today, towns like Abu Gorab, Abusir, Dahshur, and Mit Rahina lie within its ancient borders. Memphis was strategically located at the divide between Upper and Lower Egypt, making it a crucial hub for trade, governance, and religion.

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Now that we all came to know about the location, are you all ears to hear the glorifying history of the city?

This city was founded on the banks of river Nile around 3100 BCE by an Egyptian priest, Menes, who later on became the king on the bank of River Nile. Memphis served as the capital of Ancient Egypt for more than eight dynasties. The city is described as a "center of worship for the Ptah Dynasty." Ptah was the ancient Egyptian god of creation. It is said that Ptah created the cosmos, first creating himself out of the void then creating the physical universe to live in.

Now coming to prosperous age- which has been referred as the Golden age. It began during the Fourth Dynasty, with rulers receiving the double crown symbolizing the unification of the Two Lands, the Upper and Lower Egypt. Coronations and ceremonies were held in the Temple of Ptah.

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"A profound design process eventually makes the patron, the architect, and every occasional visitor in the building a slightly better human being." Now I present before you two marvels that a visitor simply cannot miss, the awe-inspiring Great Pyramid of Giza with the Sphinx and the magnificent Temple of Ptah.

Coming to the Great Pyramid of Giza, which is one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and stands as a testament to the engineering prowess of the Egyptians. It was built as a tomb for Pharaoh Khufu, and was the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years.

If you see besides the pyramid, lies the Sphinx which is the guardian of the Temple of Ptah. The Sphinx was carved out of rock, but can you see the stones that are laid around for support? Why do you think the Egyptians did this?

These stones were added to stabilize the structure, testament to the Egyptians' foresight and care in preserving their monuments over centuries.

Moving on to the Temple of Ptah, as I mentioned earlier, it was dedicated to Ptah, central to the religious life of Memphis, attracting worshippers and pilgrims from across Egypt and a hub of cultural and artistic achievement. Though it now lies in ruins, the temple's legacy endures as a symbol of ancient Egyptian spirituality and architectural ingenuity.

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Now since my topic is about lost cities of the world, I would like to talk about how Memphis declined and how it was revived.

Memphis's decline began during the Eighteenth Dynasty as Thebes rose to prominence. The shift in political and religious focus diminished Memphis's status. The Persians recognized Memphis's importance during their rule and revived it. However, the founding of Alexandria by Alexander the Great further eclipsed the city, leading to another decline. The establishment of Fustat marked the final blow, as Memphis's significance dwindled.

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The 19th century marked a turning point with significant archaeological discoveries led by Auguste Mariette, who established the first Egyptian museum in Cairo. Recent excavations have uncovered tombs, artifacts, and inscriptions that provide insight into daily life and religion in ancient Egypt. One among such discoveries is a 3,300-year-old tomb believed to belong to a mayor was recently rediscovered after being lost to artifact hunters, which is shown here.

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Coming to modern day Memphis, it blends its rich history with new innovations. The city is famous for its deep musical roots, particularly in blues and rock 'n' roll, with iconic spots like Beale Street attracting visitors. The culinary scene, renowned for its barbecue, thrives through events like the Memphis in May World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest. As a logistics hub, Memphis is home to major companies like FedEx, bolstering its economy and job market.