Below is the text for the sample StoryMap, “A Voyage across Egypt”. Simply copy and paste!

(The text from the pop-ups in the map are also included at the end.)

*Section 1: A Trip to Egypt*

The civilization of ancient Egypt has sparked the interest of people around the globe. This has made Egypt a popular tourist destination, traveling to sites throughout the country which showcase the accomplishments of the past. In this StoryMap, we will virtually travel to different sites throughout the country. The locations of these sites are all shown on the map below.

*Section 2: Map of Egypt*

This map shows all the different sites we are visiting in this StoryMap. Go ahead and click on each one to see a preview of the site. You'll notice that this trip can be divided into three groups: Memphis (Cairo), Thebes (Luxor), and other temples throughout Egypt. There is also a special section highlighting Luxor temple, which is open to tourist both during the day and with lighting at night.

*Section 3: Memphis Necropoli*

*Giza*

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the only remaining wonder of the ancient world. The three pyramids of Giza were built during the fourth dynasty in the Old Kingdom period by the kings Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure. These pyramids were each the gigantic superstructure over the tomb for their respective king. Nearby, the Great Sphinx was carved out of the bedrock to resemble King Khafre.

*Saqqara*

The area including Giza, Saqqara, and Dahshur was likely at one time a single extremely large cemetery for the Memphis area, with different areas known today by local names. While this area is known best for the large pyramids of the Old Kingdom period kings, there are a great deal of private burials as well, such as this tomb of Irukaptah at Saqqara from the fifth dynasty. Known as the “butcher’s tomb”, this tomb has well preserved colorful high-relief statues.

*Dahshur*

Dahshur, like Saqqara and Giza, is the home of pyramids of the Old Kingdom, including this pyramid, known today as the “Red Pyramid”. This pyramid was the first “true” pyramid to have ever been built, constructed by King Snefru in the early fourth dynasty. It was actually the third pyramid Snefru built, but was likely the pyramid that housed his final burial. It is also the third largest pyramid in Egypt, after those of Khufu and Khafre at Giza.

*Section 4: Ancient Thebes*

*Deir el Bahri*

King Montuhotep II of the Eleventh Dynasty reunited all of Egypt and began the Middle Kingdom period. Thus, it is no surprise that Queen Hatshepsut of the Eighteenth Dynasty would choose to model herself after such a king, building her own large mortuary temple next to his at Deir el-Bahri. This temple is also dedicated to the goddess Hathor, but is known for its exquisite reliefs, including the famous depiction of a voyage to the land of Punt.

*Deir el-Medina*

The workers and artisans who built and decorated the gorgeous tombs of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens during the New Kingdom all lived in a planned community known today as Deir el Medina. This site was close to the tombs which they worked on, and so it was farther into the desert than most towns, allowing the architecture to be well preserved. In addition to living there, the workers also built their own tombs there, using their professional skills to create high-quality burials. Many of these tombs were accompanied by chapels, such as the one pictured here, with entrances shaped like pyramids.

*Temple of Karnak*

Ancient Thebes was a thriving city, and thus housed more than just tombs and mortuary temples. The temple of Karnak was the main center of worship for the Theban triad of gods – Amun, Mut, and Montu. Begun in the Middle Kingdom period, the temple went through several phases of construction, with the latest additions being in the Ptolemaic period. Today the temple is still monumental enough to leave many tourists gaping in awe at the structure.

*Section 5: From Day to Night at Luxor Temple*

*Luxor Temple*

The temple today known as Luxor Temple was also dedicated to the Theban triad of gods. One particular ancient festival, the Opet festival, involved parading the cult statues of the gods from their home in Karnak temple to Luxor Temple. The processional route was lined with statues, known as the Avenue of Sphinxes. Luxor Temple is unique in that it is still a functioning religious center, as the Mosque of Abu Haggag was built on top of the ancient temple. While Luxor Temple is beautiful during the day, it is perhaps even more beautiful at night. The statues and columns are magnificently lit, allowing visitors a magical view of the temple.

*Section 6: Egyptian Temples*

*Abydos*

One of the most sacred sites in ancient Egypt, Abydos was a popular tourist destination even thousands of years ago. Numerous monuments and temples dot the landscape, including this temple of Seti I of the 19th dynasty. The temple is famous for the Abydos King List, a chronological list of Egyptian kings that has helped modern scholars reconstruct the ancient history of Egypt. This temple, like most at Abydos, is dedicated to the god Osiris, king of the Underworld.

*Dendera*

The temple of Dendera was dedicated to the goddess Hathor, goddess of music and fertility. This temple is one of the best preserved in Egypt. The current temple dates to the Greco-Roman period, but the site has held a temple to Hathor from at least the Middle Kingdom period onward. The brightly painted ceiling in the main hall shows various astrological and astronomical themes.

*Kom Ombo*

The temple of Kom Ombo is unique in that it is a double temple, dedicated to two deities and split perfectly down the middle. The southern half is dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, while the northern half is dedicated to Haroeris (Horus the Elder). The current temple is of the Ptolemaic period, but like Dendera, earlier temples were built on the same site.

*Abu Simbel*

The Great Temple of Abu Simbel was built by Ramses II, known as Ramses the Great, in the 19th dynasty. This temple along with its companion Small Temple dedicated to his Queen Nefertari were both built on the west bank between the first and second cataracts of the Nile. The area was flooded when the Aswan Dam created Lake Nasser, but a huge salvage project was undertaken to move the temple to its new location before it could be lost forever.

*Quote:*

“The man who knows and dwells in history adds a new dimension to his existence…He lives in all time; the ages are his, all live alike to him” – Sir William Flinders Petrie, Egyptologist

Popups :

Giza – The Great Pyramid of Giza is the only remaining wonder of the ancient world. The three pyramids of Giza were built during the fourth dynasty of ancient Egypt in the Old Kingdom period. They, along with the Great Sphinx, are some of the country’s largest tourist attractions.

Saqqara – The area including Giza, Saqqara, and Dahshur was likely one extremely large cemetery for the Memphis area, with different areas favored at different times by different populations. While this area is known best for the pyramid burials of the Old Kingdom period kings, there are a great deal of private burials as well, such as that of Irukaptah at Saqqara from the fifth dynasty.

Dahshur – Dahshur, like Saqqara and Giza, is the home of pyramids of the Old Kingdom, including this pyramid, known as the Red Pyramid. The Red Pyramid was the first “true” pyramid to have been built, built by Snefru in the early fourth dynasty.

Abydos – Abydos was associated with the god Osiris, king of the Underworld in ancient Egyptian mythology. As the home of such an important deity, Abydos remained an important site throughout Egyptian history. This image is of a temple built by Seti I of the nineteenth dynasty, one of many important monuments at the site.

Dendara – The most prominent deity of Dendara is the goddess Hathor, and a Greco-Roman temple dedicated to her stills stands at the site today. The temple is particularly famous for the colorful reliefs that have survived, including the brightly painted ceilings depicting celestial themes.

Deir el Medina – The workers and artisans who built and decorated the gorgeous tombs of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens all lived in a community known today as Deir el Medina. In addition to living there, they also built their own tombs there, using their professional skills to prepare their own tombs. Many of these tombs were accompanied by chapels, such as the one pictured here, with entrances shaped like pyramids.

Deir el Bahri – The famous queen Hatshepsut of the 18th dynasty built her funerary temple at the site of Deir el-Bahri, next to the temple of Montuhotep II of the Middle Kingdom 11th dynasty. The temple was dedicated to Hatshepsut herself along with the goddess Hathor. The temple is known not only for its beautiful and unique architecture, but also for the famous reliefs inside the temple.

Karnak – The main temple complex to the Theban god Amun, the temple of Karnak still impresses visitors in its sheer monumentality. This giant temple complex was consistently added to over many generations in ancient Egypt, with the original temple being founded in the Middle Kingdom period. The temple standing today includes sections from the New Kingdom, Late Period, and Greco-Roman periods.

Kom Ombo – The temple of Kom Ombo is an unusual Greco-Roman double temple dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris (Horus the Elder). The unusual double nature of the temple is created by a symmetrical design along the main axis of the temple. A temple was built here in the New Kingdom period, but the temple standing today is that of the Ptolemaic period, during which period the site gained importance.

Abu Simbel – The temple of Abu Simbel was built by Ramses II during the Nineteenth Dynasty. The original location of the temple is now underneath Lake Nasser, so the temple was moved in a giant relocation and salvage project during the 1960s.

Luxor Temple – Built during the reign of Amenhotep III, Luxor Temple was particularly important in the Opet Festival. Like the temple at Karnak, it was also added onto over time. The latest addition to the structure was the modern Mosque of Abu Haggag, built on top of the ancient temple.