

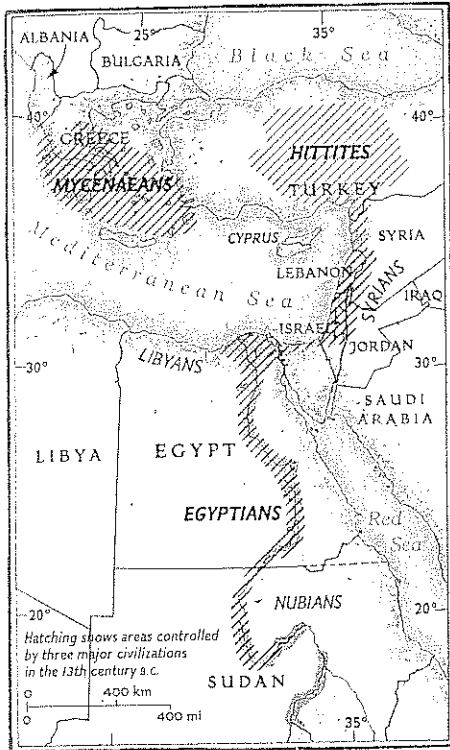
## ANCIENT EGYPT

Period Name		Date
Pre-Dynastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hieroglyphic writing, 3100 BC</li> <li>- unification of Upper &amp; Lower Egypt to form one state, ca. 3000 BC</li> <li>- royal burial in <i>mastaba</i> (underground) tombs</li> </ul>	5000-3000 BC
Early Dynastic	<p>(1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Dynasties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Narmer</i>, first king, poorly known</li> <li>- basic traits of Egyptian civilization created in Dynasties 1-2</li> <li>- <i>Djoser</i> (2668-2649), 3<sup>rd</sup> Dynasty; invents large scale stone architecture with his chief architect, <i>Imhotep</i>. The most famous example being his burial monument, the Step Pyramid at Saqqara.</li> </ul>	2950-2575 BC
Old Kingdom	<p>(4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Kheops</i>, also called <i>Khufu</i> (4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty); ruled from 2547-2524; responsible for the construction of the Great Pyramid at Giza, which was his tomb; it was later robbed and we have little information on <i>Kheops</i> himself. The Great pyramid is one of the seven wonders of the world.</li> </ul>	2575-2150 BC
1 <sup>st</sup> Intermediate Period	<p>(9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p>	2125-1975 BC
Middle Kingdom	<p>(11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p>	1975-1640 BC
2 <sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period	<p>(15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- royal tradition of pyramid burial ends (17<sup>th</sup> Dynasty)</li> </ul>	1630-1520 BC
New Kingdom	<p>(18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- royal burial tradition shifts to the Valley of the Kings. These were rock-cut tombs covered with masonry in order to conceal them. Tomb robbing was a major concern, especially with one's journey into the afterlife at stake.</li> <li>- <i>Tutankhamun</i> (18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty), the boy king; ruled from 1343-1333 BC; famous for the discovery of his intact tomb, but otherwise a pretty minor player in ancient Egyptian history. Underground chamber discovered in the 1920s (in the Valley of the Kings) by Howard Carter.</li> <li>- <i>Ramses II</i> (19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, grandson of <i>Ramses I</i>); ruled from 1279-1212 BC; famous for his enormous building program, including many statues of himself.</li> </ul>	1539-1075 BC
3 <sup>rd</sup> Intermediate Period	<p>(21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p>	1075-715 BC
Late Period	<p>(25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Dynasties)</p>	715-332 BC
Greco-Roman Period	<p>(Greek [332-30 BC] and Roman [30 BC-AD 395] Rule)</p>	

### Chronological Cart

- *Geography of Ancient Egypt (and what it meant): Consists of the Nile river (the world's longest) and the its huge Delta, a flat, extremely fertile area that empties into the Mediterranean Sea. The narrow part of the Nile (below the Delta) had annual floods (I say had because now it is regulated by a series of dams) which precisely regulated the agricultural cycle. As the river flooded, the area on either side was drenched with nutrient rich waters. This made it very productive—every year—a source of natural fertilizer. It also meant that labor for other pursuits (for example, monumental constructions like pyramids) could be scheduled around the agricultural cycle. This is important, for labor did not need to be put into creating intensive systems of agriculture.*
- beyond the Nile is desert...sand and very inhospitable. In some ways this insulated the ancient Egyptians from invasion. It lasted for nearly 3,000 years—longer than any other civilization in the history of the world. It was eventually overrun by Greek and later Roman domination.
- agricultural products included the list given to your earlier for the Sumerian civilization (see that handout). Also, a full range of domesticated animals, like cattle. Crops and herds were raised privately or under the control of state organizations, in the latter case often kept in official storage areas like granaries.
- taxes were levied by the state, with some goods redistributed. Also used to support labor projects and the bureaucracy that surrounded the Pharaoh and his court, specialists, and so on.
- The Pharaoh was immensely powerful. He set law and, more often than not (depending on the specific period), was considered divine. This was the case During the Old Kingdom). Very large harems were kept in the palace or adjoining court. Some Pharaohs had many children, most notably Ramses II.
- Religion was complex; polytheistic and animistic. There was no clear separation between everyday life and what was considered sacred. The otherworld was considered an extension of Egypt, although much more glorious. Funerary rites were also complex, sometimes (in the case of wealthy folks) involving mummification. Good accompanying the dead were intended to be used in the afterlife, and often included everyday objects.
- women enjoyed considerable status, with a few women Pharaohs known.
- large, standing military army in place and used during expansion beyond the kingdom's boundaries (especially in Old Kingdom period). Raiding for slaves and cattle was common (places like Nubia to the south, Libya to the west were common targets). Nubia, in particular, was important for the access/trade in raw materials (gold, ebony wood, ivory, incense, even animals like monkeys and giraffes. A great amount of exotic goods were brought to Egypt and made into artifacts.

*Be sure to review the two short essays I handed out. Don't try to remember everything, just the highlights. The paper on the building of the pyramids is a classic...fun (and easy) to read. If you have any questions about those readings please ask!*



# WORLD OF RAMSES II

Ramses was born in the eastern Nile Delta about 1303 B.C., during Egypt's golden age, known as the New Kingdom. Egypt had been unified 2,000 years earlier; by Ramses' time its borders reached the Fourth Cataract of the Nile, and its sphere of influence extended to northern Syria.

The Ramesside dynasty was born when Pharaoh Horemheb died with no heir, and his powerful vizier was proclaimed Ramses I, first pharaoh of Dynasty XIX. He was succeeded by his son Seti I and then his grandson Ramses II.

In 1279 B.C. Ramses II assumed the crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt. To keep neighbors at bay, he built forts in the Western Desert and invaded Syria with a highly trained army of charioteers, archers, and foot soldiers. Ramses left more monuments to himself throughout Egypt than any other pharaoh.

*Ramses the Great*

