

Ancient Egypt

Beginnings of Ancient Egypt

- ✦ 6,000 B.C.--The first inhabitants begin to settle around the Nile River.
- ✦ 3,100 B.C.--The King of Upper Egypt named Menes, united Upper and Lower Egypt.
- ✦ Menes makes the city of Memphis his capital city.





Egypt's Pharaohs ruled as Gods!

- ✦ Pharaohs were Gods. (Different from Mesopotamia civilizations...Kings were representatives of the gods).
- ✦ Pharaohs were the center of Egypt's religion, government, and army.

Hieroglyphics

- ✦ A form of Egyptian writing based on pictorial characters for words and sounds.
- ✦ Sacred writing connected to Egyptian religion

Rosetta Stone

- ✦ The Rosetta Stone carries an inscription in different languages which helped decipher the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic script.
- ✦ It is the only surviving fragment of a larger stone slab recording a decree on 27 March, 196 BC.

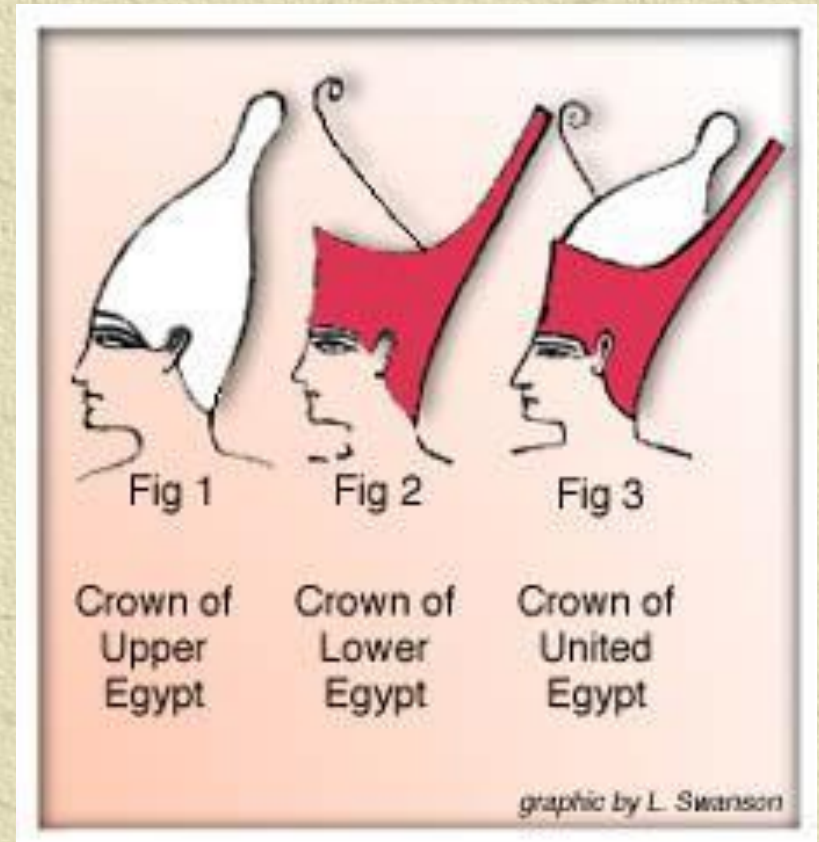


Social Classes in Ancient Egypt



Menes & The Old Kingdom

- ✦ Members of Menes's family passed the double crown of upper and lower Egypt from father to son to grandson.
 - ◆ A series of rulers from a single family is called a dynasty.
 - ◆ Ancient Egypt would consist of 31 dynasties, spanning 2,800 years.



Immortality of the Pharaoh

- ✦ Egyptians believed that their pharaoh ruled even after his death. He had an eternal spirit, or **ka**, that continued to take part in the governing of Egypt.
- ✦ Egyptians also believed that the ka remained much like a living pharaoh in its needs and pleasures.

Immortality of the Pharaoh

- ✦ Pharaoh's Tomb needed the following:
 - ◆ Eternal comforts: Artists decorated the walls of the burial chamber with pictures of whatever he might need or like. (Endless meals, loved ones, devoted servants, etc.)
 - ◆ Luxuries: Fine jewelry, game boards with precious stones, rich clothing.
 - ◆ Inscriptions: Writings of what the pharaoh achieved in life were also found on the tomb walls.

The Old Kingdom & Pyramids

- ✦ The Old Kingdom was the great age of pyramid building in ancient Egypt.
- ✦ The pharaohs expected to reign forever. Their tombs (pyramids) were more important than their palaces.

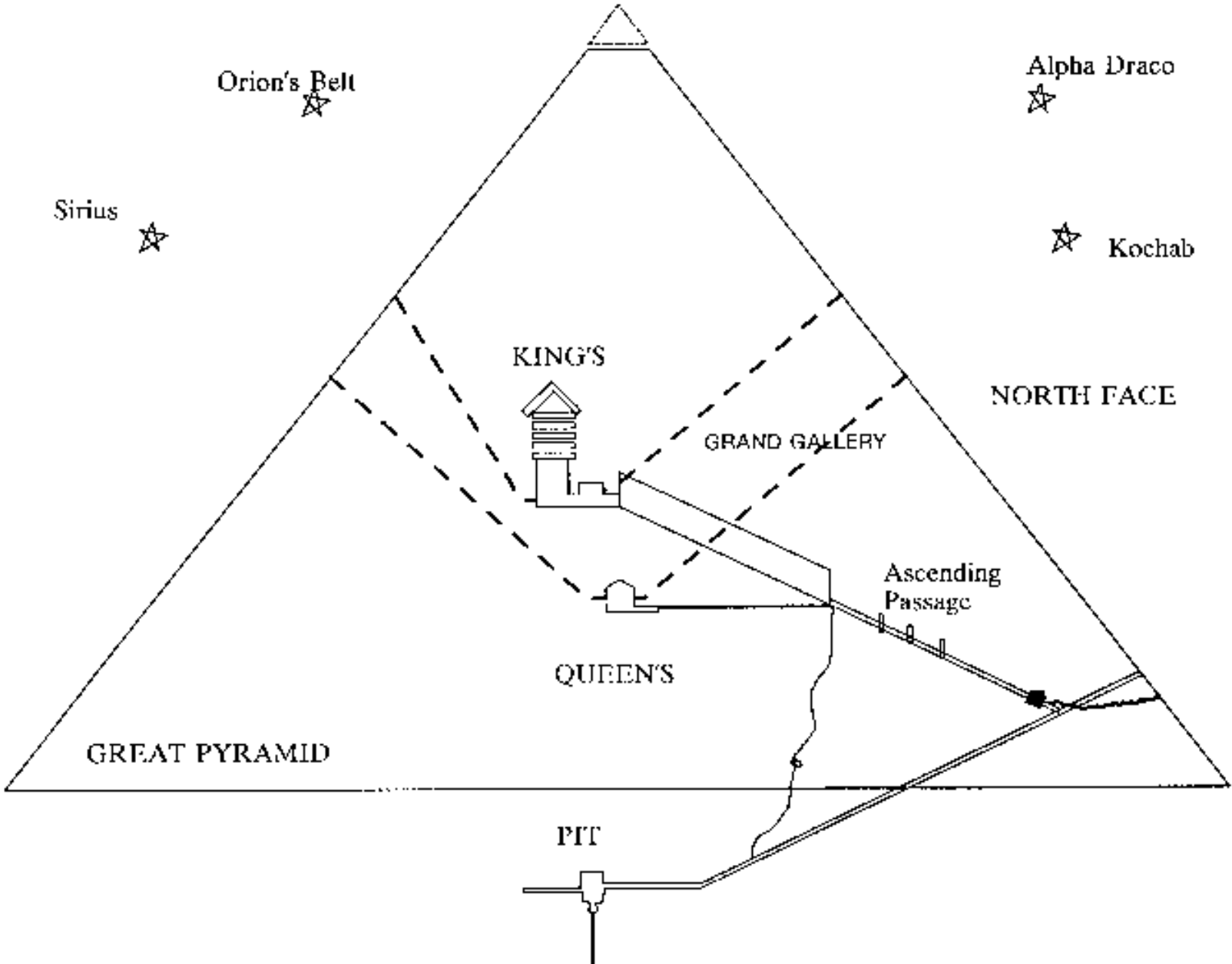
Pyramids at Giza

- ✦ Blocks from the pyramids weigh at least 2 ½ tons. Some weigh up to 15 tons.
- ✦ Peasants worked on the Pyramids in order to be fed during the flood season.
- ✦ About 80 pyramids still stand in the Egyptian desert.



Pyramids at Giza





First Intermediate Period: Sea Peoples

- ✧ The Old Kingdom comes to an end.
- ✧ Power of the pharaohs declined.
 - ◆ 5th – 6th dynasties weak central government
 - ◆ More and more power fell to the nobles and officials.
 - ◆ Local rulers struggled among themselves for power.
 - ◆ Civil War
 - ◆ Invasion by the Sea Peoples.

Royal Power Returns in the Middle Kingdom (2080-1640 B.C.)

- ✦ Law & Order returned to Egypt under some strong kings.
- ✦ Farming revived, trade grew, and the arts flourished.
- ✦ The capital moved from Memphis to Thebes.
- ✦ Public projects were created by the great trade brought in.

Royal Power Returns in the Middle Kingdom (2080-1640 B.C.)

- ✦ Time of turbulence
- ✦ Afterlife for pharaoh, royal family, powerful noble families:
 - ✦ During the Old Kingdom, only the pharaohs had expected to live forever. During the Middle Kingdom, an afterlife extended to the nobility.

Second Intermediate Period

- ✦ Civil War between royal family and powerful noble families broke out again.
- ✦ Egypt became prey to outside invaders.
 - ◆ Egyptians were ruled by Hyksos (Asian Nomads).
 - ◆ They ruled from 1640-1570 B.C.
 - ◆ Egyptians despised the less civilized Hyksos.

Hyksos Bring New Skills to the Egyptians

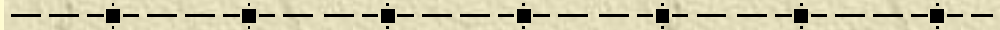
- ✦ Ability to make bronze tools and weapons vs copper
- ✦ Ability to wage war from horse drawn chariots.
- ✦ Shooting arrows from a powerful new kind of bow.
- ✦ Spinning and weaving techniques.

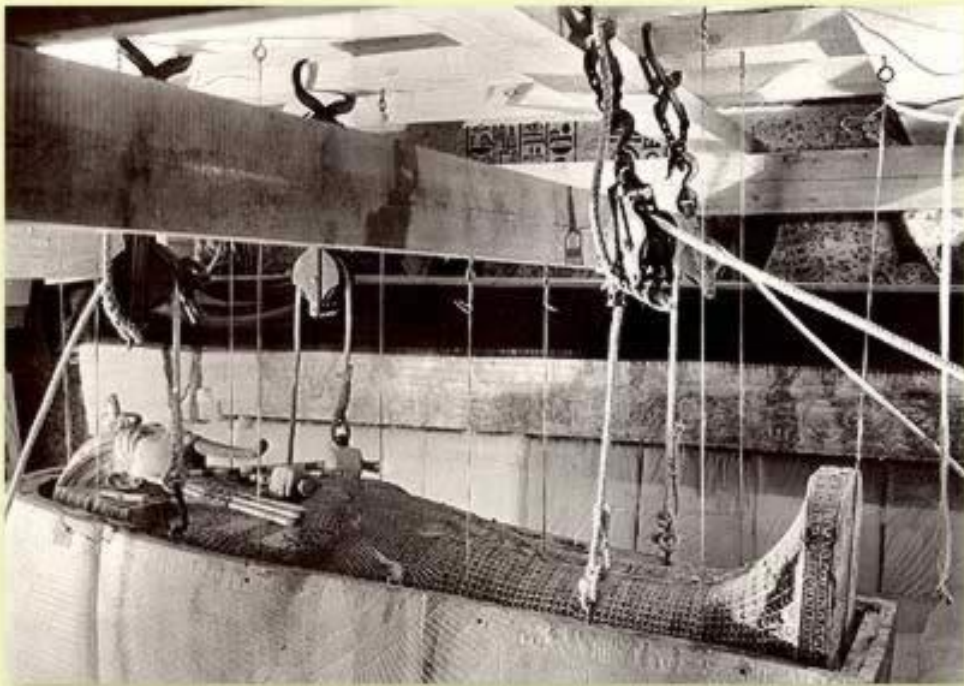


The New Kingdom: An Age of Empires (1570-1075 B.C.)



- ✦ This kingdom was more powerful and wealthier than ever before.
- ✦ Egyptians became conquerors.
- ✦ Professional army included: bowmen, charioteers, and infantry.
- ✦ King Tutankhamon ruled during this time period.



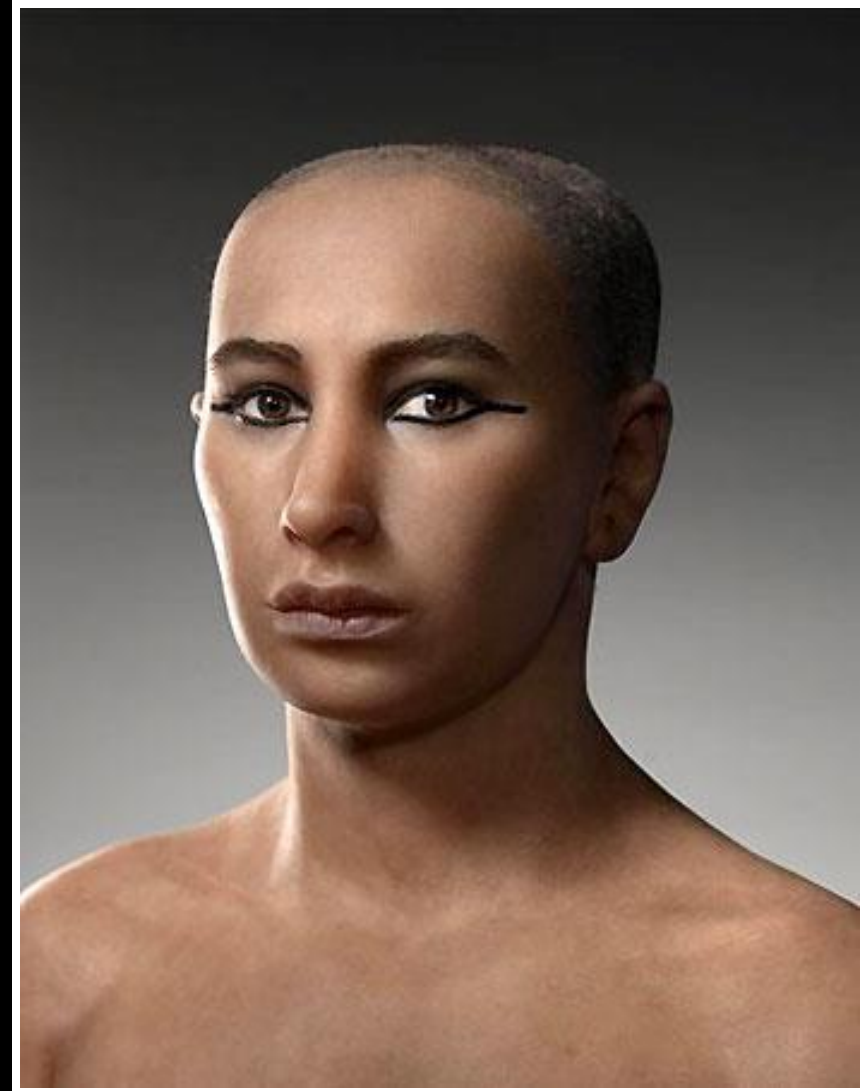






Above: Nov. 4, 2007: King Tut's mummy, unmasked and on public display in Egypt for the first time since being discovered 85 years ago.

Right: A facial-reconstruction model of King Tutankhamun made by a French team based on CT scans of the boy king's mummy.

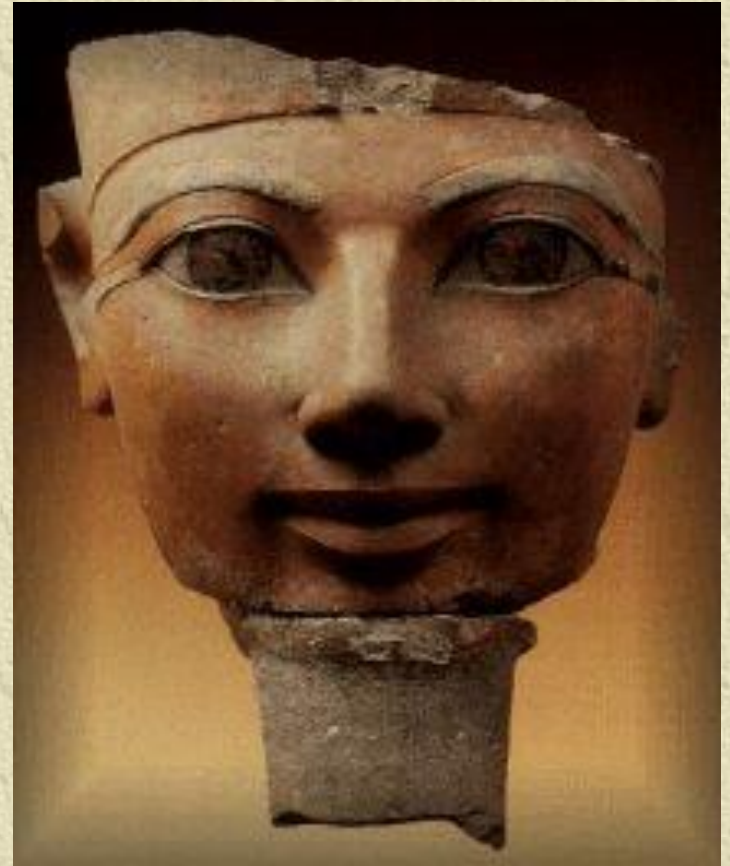


Right: One of the two mummified fetuses found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun in 1922 during modern preparations for a DNA test in Cairo, Egypt.



Rule By Queen

- ✦ Queen Hatshepsut declared herself pharaoh around 1478 B.C. (Her stepson was too young to rule).
 - ◆ She ruled for 22 years.
 - ◆ She was better known for encouraging trade than waging war.



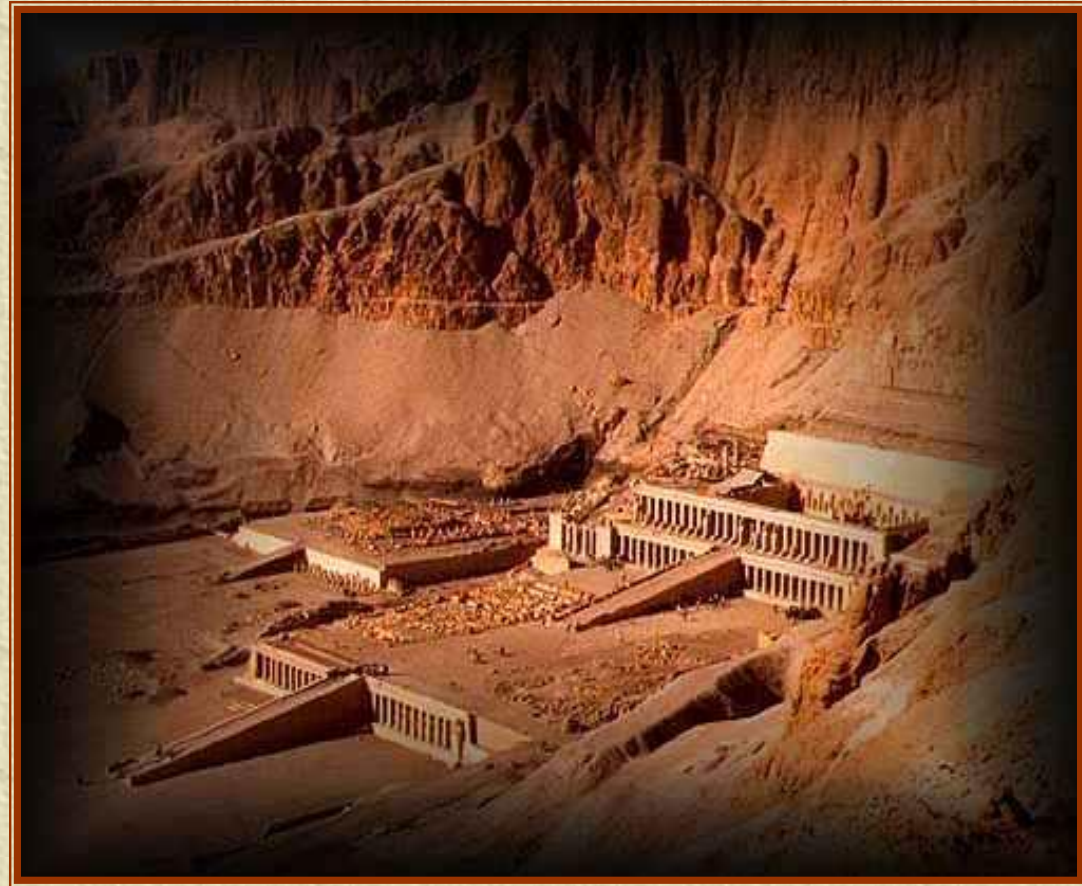
Queen Hatshepsut



Above: Archaeologists today used a missing tooth to positively identify the mummy of Hatshepsut, Egypt's greatest woman pharaoh who reigned more than 3,000 years ago.

The Temple at Deir-El-Bahri

- ✦ Hatshepsut was an 18th-dynasty pharaoh who was one of a handful of female rulers in Ancient Egypt.

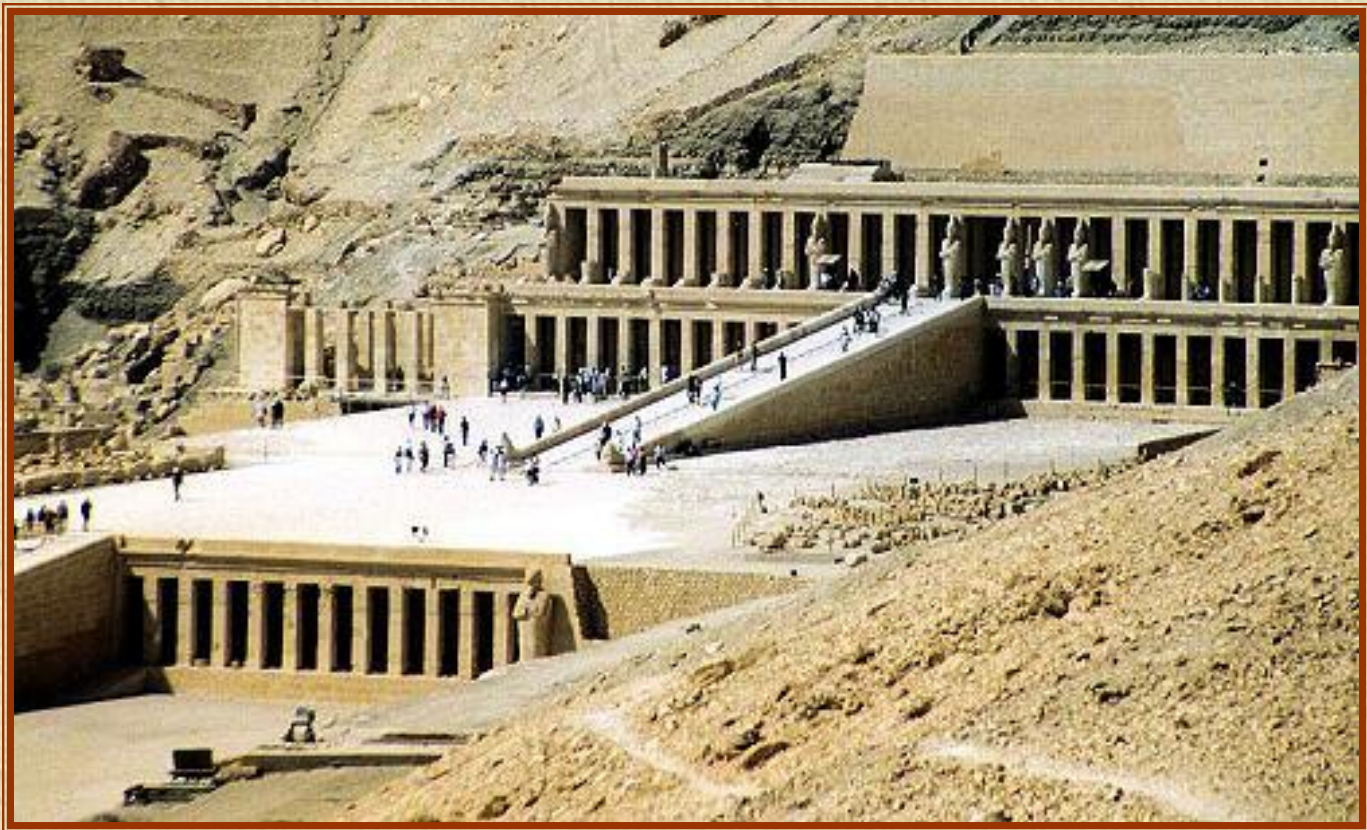


The Temple at Deir-El-Bahri

- ✦ Her reign was the longest of all the female pharaohs, and her funerary temple still stands as a tribute to her incredible rise to power.



The Temple at Deir-El-Bahri



Queen Hatshepsut

- ✦ Carved scenes on her great funeral temple show her officials on a trade expedition to the east African coast, buying myrrh, frankincense, ebony, ivory, and leopard skins.
- ✦ No one knows whether Hatshepsut died naturally or was murdered by her stepson (Thutmose III).

A Warrior Pharaoh

- ✦ Thutmose III proved to be a more warlike ruler than his stepmother.
- ✦ From 1450 - 1425 B.C., he conducted 15 victorious invasions into Palestine and Syria. His armies also pushed south as far as Nubia and returned with thousands of slaves.



Images of Thutmose III



Meeting Their Match: Hittites



✦ By 1300 B.C. – Egyptians came face to face with the Hittites.

- ✦ Their armies met at Kadesh in 1288 B.C. They fought each other to a stand still.

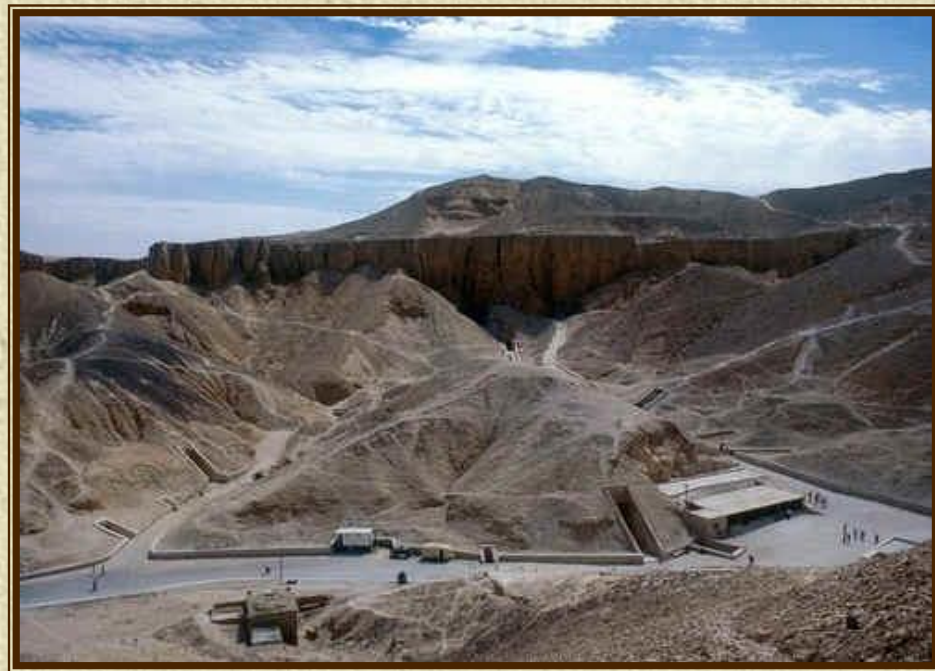
Meeting Their Match: Hittites



- ◆ The pharaoh and Hittite king made a treaty, promising “peace and brotherhood between us forever.”
- ◆ For the rest of the century the two kingdoms were allies.

An Age of Builders

- ✦ The Old Kingdom builders built pyramids for their pharaoh's tombs. The pyramids were too expensive, visible and easily robbed.
- ✦ Rulers of the New Kingdom built their tombs beneath desert cliffs.
 - ✦ Valley of the Kings near Thebes.
 - ✦ King Tutankhamon undisturbed tomb





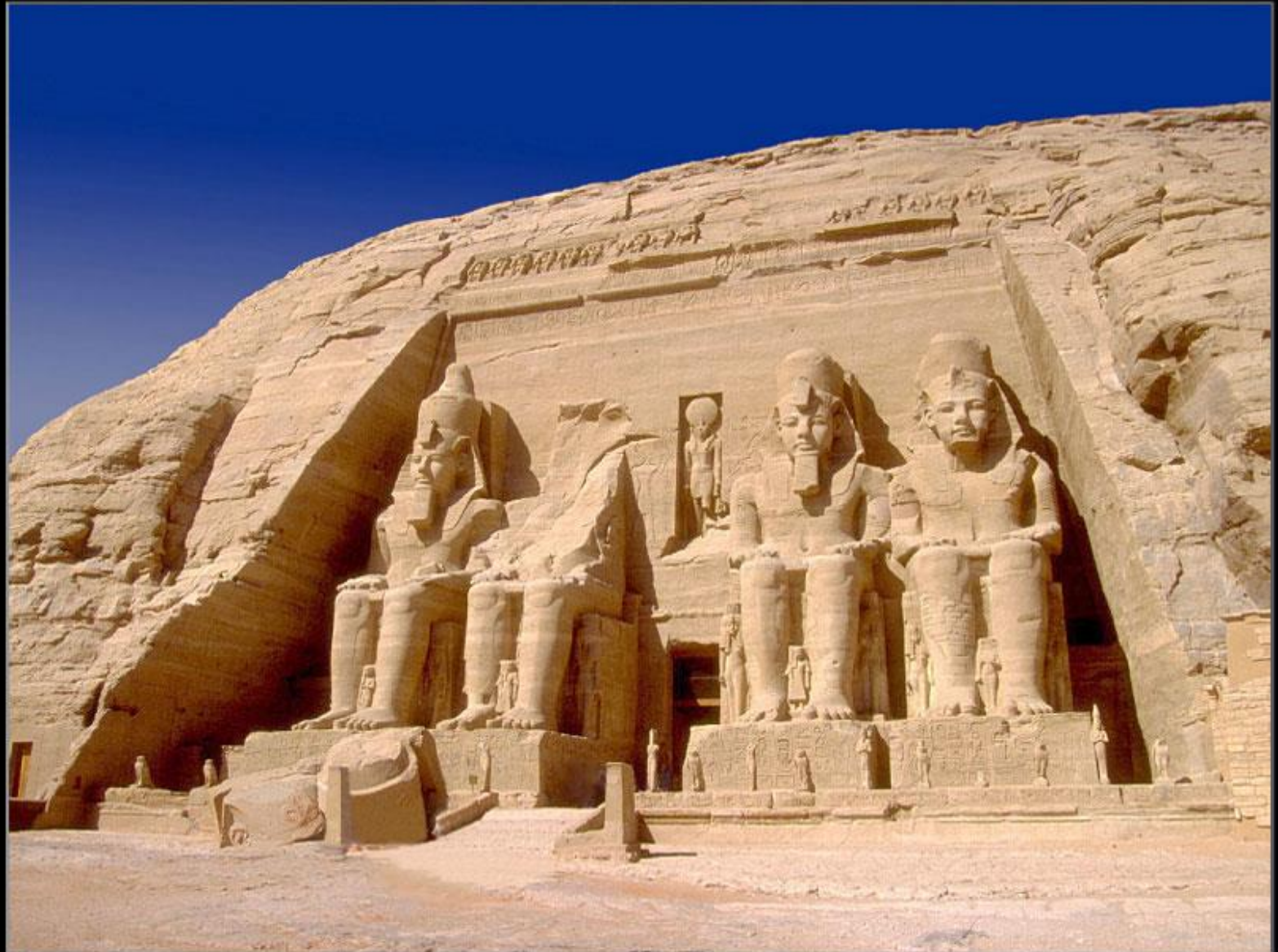
Tutankhamen's tomb (lower left) in the Valley of the Kings in western Thebes, Egypt.

Ramses II



✦ One of the greatest rulers of the New Kingdom
Ramses II.

- ✦ Ramses II reigned for 67 years (1279-1212 B.C.).
- ✦ He lived to the age of 99 and was the father of 150 children.
- ✦ Ramses created the giant temple of Amon (Egyptian's chief god) at Karnak.
- ✦ The buildings were huge and impressive, but they are not as skillfully built as those of the Old Kingdom.

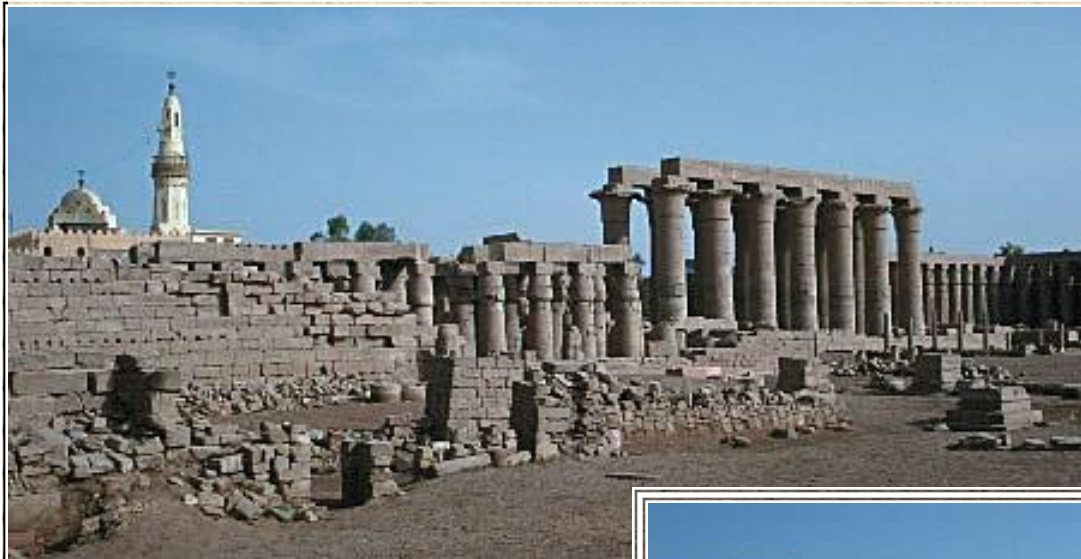


Egypt: The Great Temple of Ramses II



Rameses II ("the Great") may be the most famous of all Egyptian kings. He reigned for 67 years and lived well into his 80s. By the time of his death, he suffered from severe arthritis, arteriosclerosis, and abscesses in his teeth.

Temple of Amon at Karnak



Egypt's Power Declined

- ✦ 1200 B.C.— Invasions destroyed many kingdoms.
 - ✦ Egyptian records speak of attacks by “The People of the Sea.” Little is known of these invaders, but the destruction they left behind was vast.
- ✦ Both the Egyptian and Hittite kingdoms fell to these mysterious enemies.
- ✦ In 671 B.C. Assyrians took over Egypt. A century and a half later it was the Persians turn to conquer Egypt.