

# FANTASTIC PHARAOHS



Nile River

Most Ancient Egyptian **pyramids** were built as tombs for **pharaohs** (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. To date, over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt.



Without the **Nile River**, all of Egypt would be desert. Only about 2.5cm of rain falls throughout Egypt each year. But each summer, the Nile river rises because of rains at its source, far to the south in Ethiopia. When this happens, floods cover the river's valleys, leaving sediments needed for trees, plants and crops to grow.

Southern Egypt's landscape contains low mountains and desert.

Northern Egypt has wide valleys near the Nile, and desert to the east and west.

North of **Cairo** (Egypt's capital city) is the sprawling, triangular **Nile River Delta**. This fertile land is completely covered with farms.

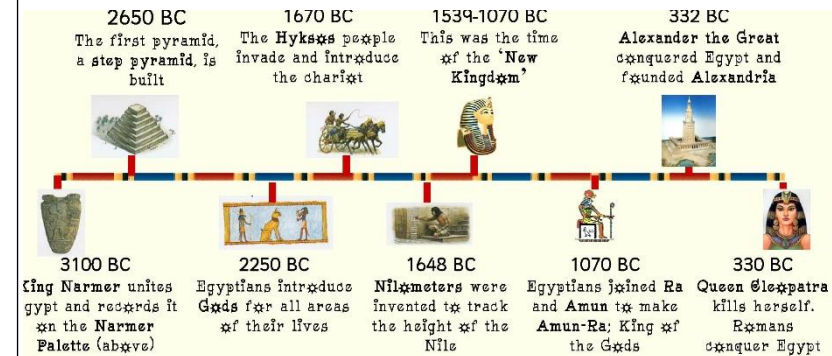
The **Pyramid of Khufu** at **Giza** is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings!



Tutankhaten took the throne at his father's death in c1336 BC, changing his name to the more familiar Tutankhamun when the Aten cult was terminated and worship of the state god Amun reinstated.

The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body – which they did through the process of **mummification** – their soul would live on in the after-life forever.

The first people to live on the banks of the Nile were hunters and fishermen, who settled there over 8,000 years ago. They learned to grow crops and raise animals, and they began to build villages and towns. They traded with their neighbours and learned to sail boats. By 3000 B.C., a civilisation was established.



Egypt is often divided into two sections – **Upper Egypt** in the south and **Lower Egypt** in the north. The sections are named this way because the Nile flows from south to north. The river empties into the Mediterranean Sea, on the country's north coast

**Canopic jars** - Special jars that held the organs of a mummy including the lungs, intestines, liver, and stomach.



**Afterlife** - The place where the Ancient Egyptians believed they would go after they died.

**Akhet** - The season of the year when the Nile river flooded.

**Amulet** - A charm worn that the Ancient Egyptians thought had magical powers.

**Ankh** - A symbol carried by the pharaohs and gods that meant "life".

**Aten Cult:** Aten is known as the **sun disk god**. He was first introduced in the Middle Kingdom as a characteristic of the sun god Re.

**Book of the Dead** - A text that had a number of magic spells that were supposed to help a person in the afterlife.

**Delta:** A delta is a wetland area that forms as river waters empty into a larger body of water.

