

# Ancient Egypt Monuments

## Day 1 of 2

### The Pyramids

The Ancient Egyptians are famous for the building of the Pyramids. The pyramids were built as the burial places of the Egyptian kings from before the start of the Old Kingdom until the end of the Middle Kingdom. Because the Egyptians kept religious and government records, we are able to read about the building of some of these pyramids.

### The Step Pyramid at Saqqara

- The Step Pyramid at Saqqara is the earliest pyramid that is still there today, which was the burial place of King Djoser.
- The architect of the Step Pyramid was Imhotep, who was the High Priest of Ra, the Sun-God. He became famous for his great wisdom and knowledge. The Egyptians later worshipped Imhotep as a god.
- The Pyramid rose in six giant steps. These steps were meant as a huge stairway for King Djoser to climb up to join Ra, the Sun-God.



## The Great Pyramid at Giza

The Egyptians also built magnificent temples, which they believed were the homes of the Gods and Goddesses. The temples were added to over the centuries so several architects helped to plan them.

- The most famous of all the true pyramids is the Great Pyramid at Giza, which is the largest of the three Giza pyramids.
- The Great Pyramid was built in 2528 B.C. for King Khufu, which means that it is more than 4500 years old.
- Because the pyramids were the burial places of kings, they were full of treasure. All the king's riches and belongings were buried with him to keep him happy in the afterlife. Robbers tried to break into the pyramids to steal the treasure. So the architects tried to fool the robbers:
- Each pyramid had only one true entrance, but several other, false, entrances were made. The inside of the pyramid had lots of false doors and false passages which led to rooms filled with rubble or blank walls.
- The doors were built of granite and were almost impossible to move. Even if the robbers managed to open a door, they might find a blank wall behind it. However, almost all the royal tombs were eventually broken into and all the treasure removed.



### Task 1:

Try to describe the two monuments on two separate "knowledge cards". They are both pyramids, so you will need to describe them further by including facts that you know about them. After you have finished, test a family member and see if they can figure out which description matches each monument!

#### What I expect to see:

- Extended sentences, which include detail.
- Coordinating conjunctions such as: so, if, but, to, yet
- Exciting adjectives to describe the monuments & no boring words!
- Cohesion so your sentences are not just random facts. Make sure your sentences follow each other appropriately.

## Day 2 of 2

### The Temples

The Egyptians also built magnificent temples, which they believed were the homes of the Gods and Goddesses. The temples were added to over the centuries so several architects helped to plan them.

- The temples were built of stone, as at Luxor (village), or built into the solid rock, as at Abu Simbel (village).
- The temples were filled with high stone pillars which supported a heavy stone roof. The walls were covered with carvings showing the Pharaoh's victories in war. The pictures also showed the Pharaoh together with the Gods.
- Many of the temples contained enormous statues of the pharaoh. The temple at Abu Simbel has four huge statues of the Pharaoh Ramses the Second, 20 metres high, wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt.
- There are also several temples at Luxor with statues of the Pharaoh Ramses the Second, who was worshipped as a god.

## Karnak Temple.

The great temple at the heart of Karnak is so big that St Peter's, Milan, and Notre Dame Cathedrals would fit within its walls. The Temple of Luxor Luxor does not boast the same depth that Karnak does; Karnak is significantly older and was impacted by many Pharaohs, whereas Luxor reflects just a few of Ancient Egypt's leaders.



## Luxor Temple

Luxor Temple is an Ancient Egyptian temple, located in modern-day Luxor, which was known as Thebes at the time. The temple was dedicated to the god Amun, his wife Mut, and their son Chons. The temple was built during the time of the New Kingdom.



## The Great Sphinx of Giza

When the Sphinx was built, it was built to have a head of a God or a Pharaoh. Since Pharaohs were the leaders of the land, they were considered to be Gods. The Great Sphinx was built because the Ancient Egyptians believed that the statues could be built to protect certain areas that were important, such as tombs. The Great Sphinx was meant to protect the temples and the tombs of the Pharaohs in the area. There were many Sphinx statues that were built but the most famous one is the one that guards the tombs of Giza. This Sphinx is called the Great Sphinx of Giza.

- The Great Sphinx of Giza is the oldest statue that exists in the world.
- Some historians believe that the Great Sphinx was carved out of stone and sand in 2500 B.C. and that it has the head of Pharaoh Khafra.
- It has the head of a pharaoh and the body of a lion.
- It is the largest free-standing sculpture to survive from ancient times. The Great Sphinx is 20m (66ft) tall, about the height of one and a half buses stood on end.
- The nose of the Great Sphinx was over 5 feet long, but the nose got knocked off. No one is really sure how this happened and there is a lot of stories and myths that are told about how the nose broke off. Some think that the nose was knocked off by Napoleon's army, but historians found this to be untrue. Other people think that it happened because the Turkish soldiers shot it off. The newest legend is that someone broke it off because they thought the Great Sphinx was evil and they wanted to break it down. We may never really know what happened to it.



## Task 2:

Try to describe the two monuments (temples and sphinx) on two separate "knowledge cards". Try to describe them by including facts that you know about them. After you have finished, test a family member and see if they can figure out which description matches each monument!

### What I expect to see:

- Extended sentences, which include detail.
- Coordinating conjunctions such as: so, if, but, to, yet
- Exciting adjectives to describe the monuments & no boring words!
- Cohesion so your sentences are not just random facts. Make sure your sentences follow each other appropriately.