

# EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS

The pyramids are the stone tombs (burial grounds) of Egypt's kings - the Pharaohs and one of the seven wonders of the world. They have stood for thousands of years, filled with many clues about what life and death was like in Ancient Egypt.

## WHY WERE THEY BUILT?

The Egyptians believed that if the pharaoh's body could be mummified after death the pharaoh would live forever. As part of their religion, the Egyptians believed that the Pharaoh needed certain things to succeed in the afterlife. The tombs were designed to protect the buried Pharaoh's body and his belongings.

## WHERE WERE THEY BUILT?

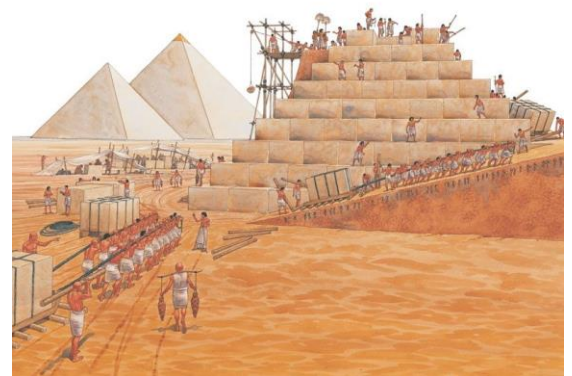


Most of the pyramids can be found on the western side of the Nile River, just into the dry desert. The reason they built the pyramids next to the Nile River was so the stones could be bought nearer to the pyramid building site by boat. The dry desert heat worked to keep the Pharaohs's body and his belongings from decomposing and rotting away.

## HOW WERE THEY BUILT?

It is believed that thousands of slaves cut up the large blocks of limestone and then slowly moved them up the pyramid on ramps. Because it took so long to build them, Pharaohs generally started the construction of their pyramids as soon as they became ruler.

The largest pyramid is called The Great Pyramid of Giza which was built for Pharaoh Khufu. It once stood at 146m tall which made it the tallest man-made structure until the Eiffel Tower was built. It is estimated to have taken 20,000 workers 23 years to build and would cost \$5 billion to build today.



## WHAT IS INSIDE?



Deep inside the pyramids lays the Pharaoh's burial chamber which would be filled with treasure and items for the Pharaoh to use in the afterlife. The walls were often covered with carvings and paintings. Near the Pharaoh's chamber would be other rooms where family members and servants were buried. There were often small rooms that acted as temples and larger rooms for storage. Narrow passageways led to outside. Sometimes fake burial chambers or passages would be used to try and trick grave robbers. Despite the Egyptian's efforts, nearly all of the pyramids were robbed of their treasures by 1000 B.C.



## FIND OUT MORE...

Building the pyramids part 1 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z849wmn>

Building the pyramids part 2 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zwk8q6f>

Building the pyramids part 3 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zqdw2hv>

Building the pyramids part 4 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z2jqxnb>

Building the pyramids part 5 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zx72tfr>

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## EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. In which country are the pyramids located?
2. Who were entombed inside the pyramids?
3. What is the largest pyramid called?
4. The pyramids are located nearby to which river?
5. What happened to most of the treasures inside the pyramids?