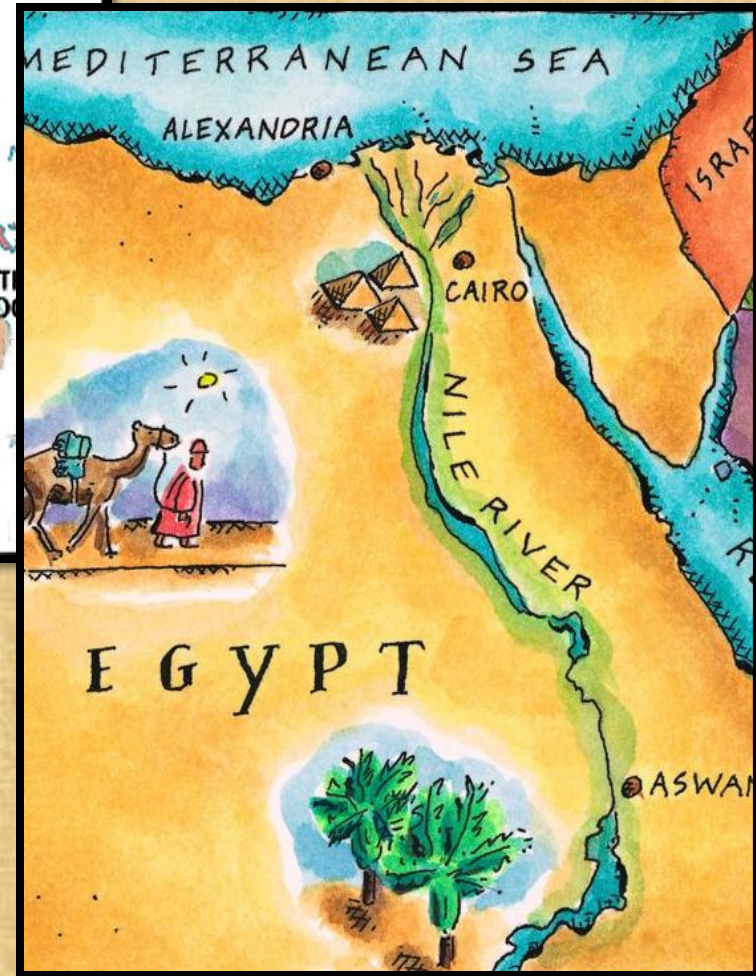
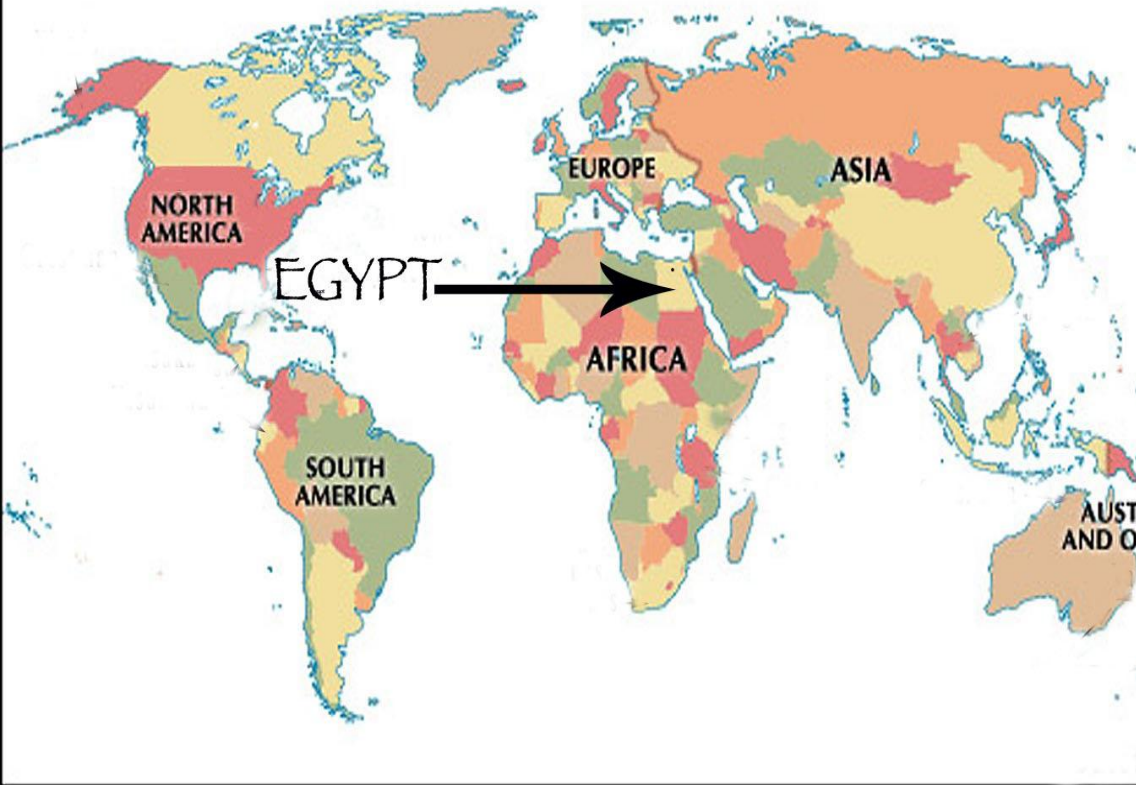




Ancient Egypt

# Geography



In northern Africa surrounded by the shifting sands of the Sahara Desert, a great civilization grew along the banks of the NILE RIVER. The NILE was Egypt's 'lifeline' providing fresh water, rich top soil, fishing & hunting and a transportation route.

# Religion

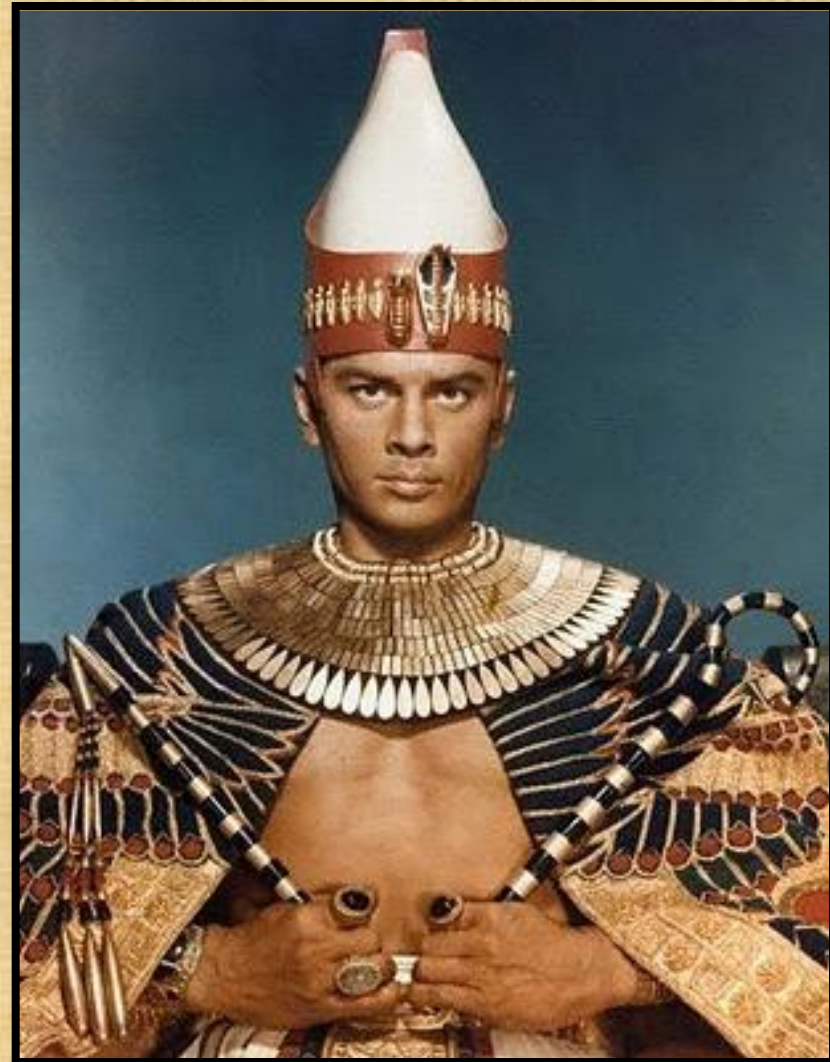
- Egyptian religion was based on polytheism (worship of many gods and goddesses).
- The Egyptians had as many as 2000 gods and goddesses.
- Certain animals were sacred. Egyptians believed that the spirit of a god resided in these animals which were worshipped as reincarnated gods during their lifetimes.
- Therefore their gods and goddesses were often represented as part human and part animal.



•The Pharaoh was the absolute ruler of both religious and political matters.

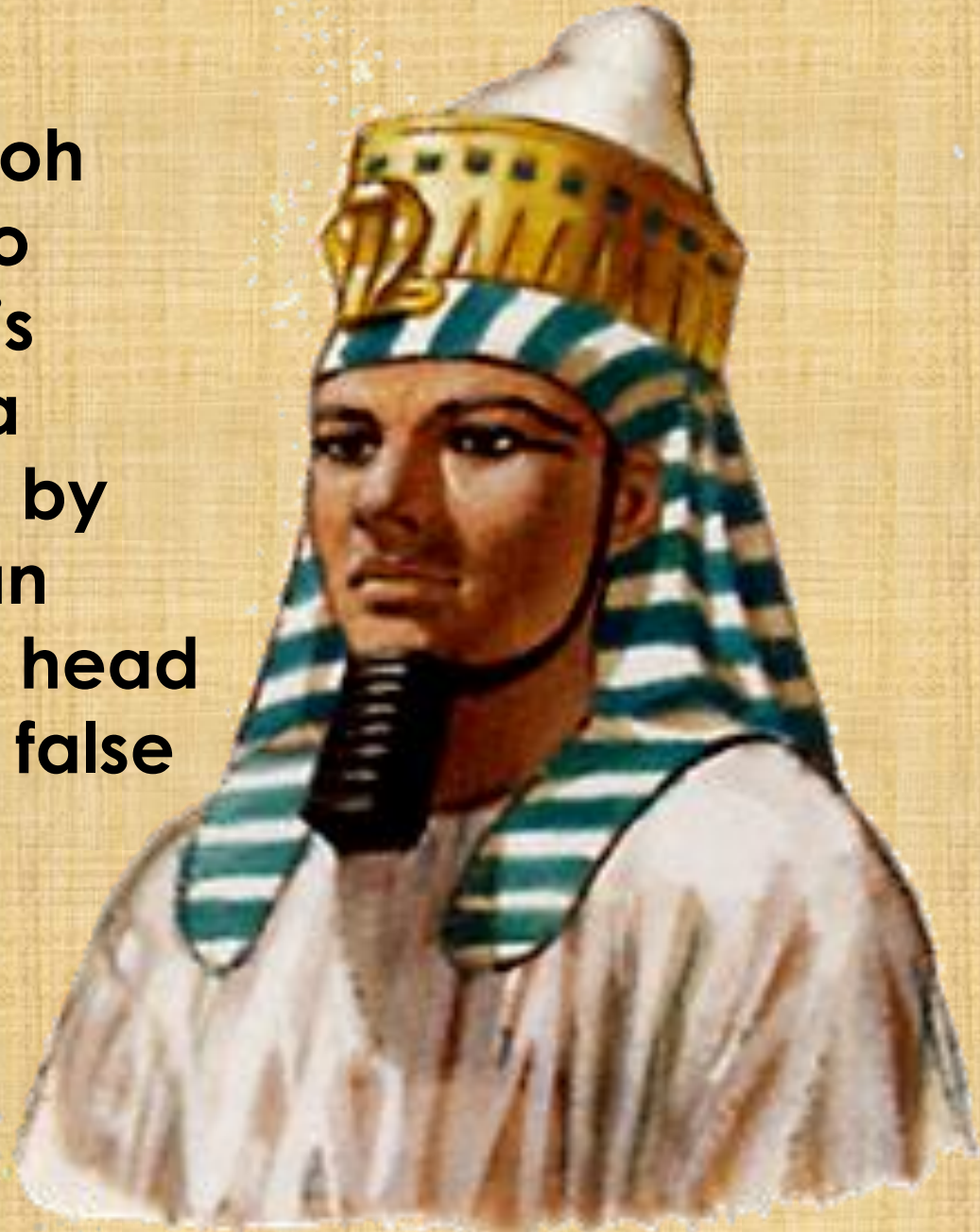
•He was responsible for protecting the well-being of all Egyptians by performing sacred rituals in the temples of the gods. If the pharaoh failed to please the gods with offerings and prayers, Egypt could face suffering through war, famine or plague.

•The royal duties of the Pharaoh are symbolized by the crook and the flail. The crook, like a shepherd's crook, is a symbol of leadership, protection, and the fatherliness of the pharaoh. The flail is a symbol of discipline (as a whip or weapon).



PHARAOH

**The Pharaoh would also express his status as a living god by wearing an elaborate head dress and false beard.**



Ancient Egypt was called the  
LAND of ETERNITY because they  
believed in **LIFE** after **DEATH**.

Therefore, much of the ART &  
ARTIFACTS they created dealt with  
the **AFTERLIFE**.



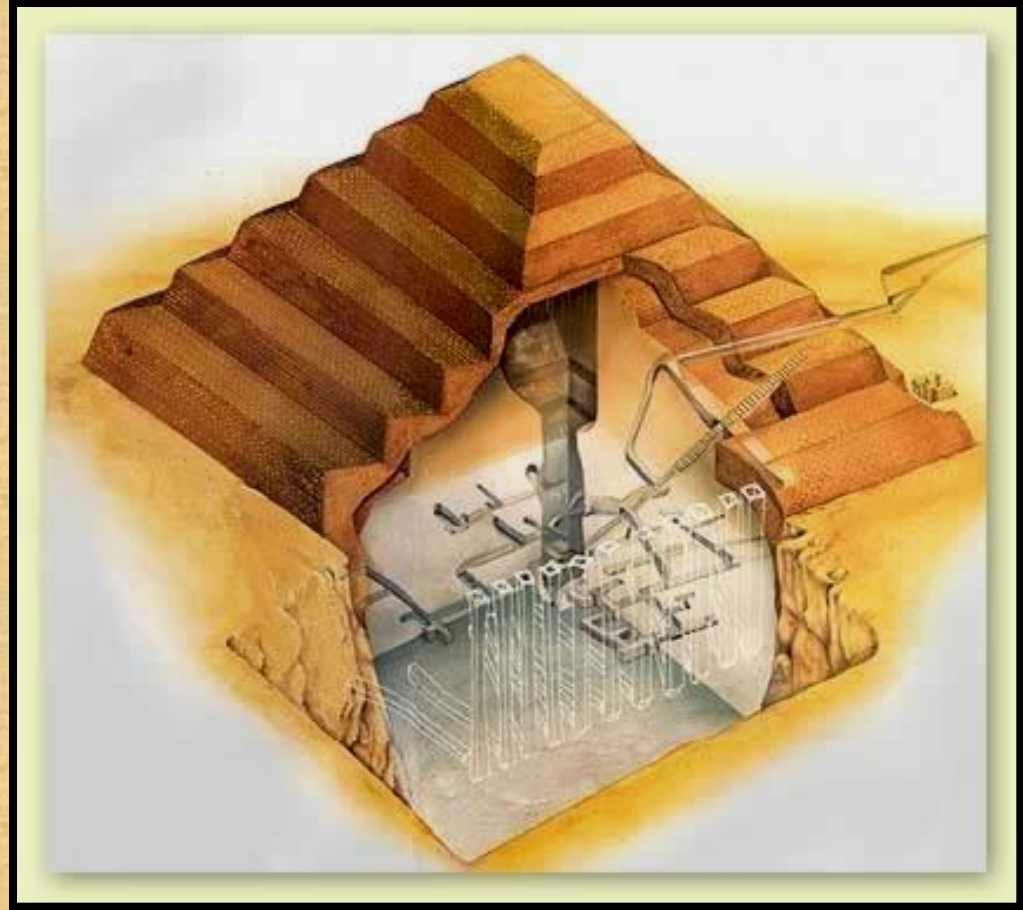
Soul travelling by boat  
to the afterlife

# TOMBS



To protect the bodies of Pharaohs from being destroyed by the environment, wild animals and thieves, the ancient Egyptians developed a series of tombs to bury their dead.

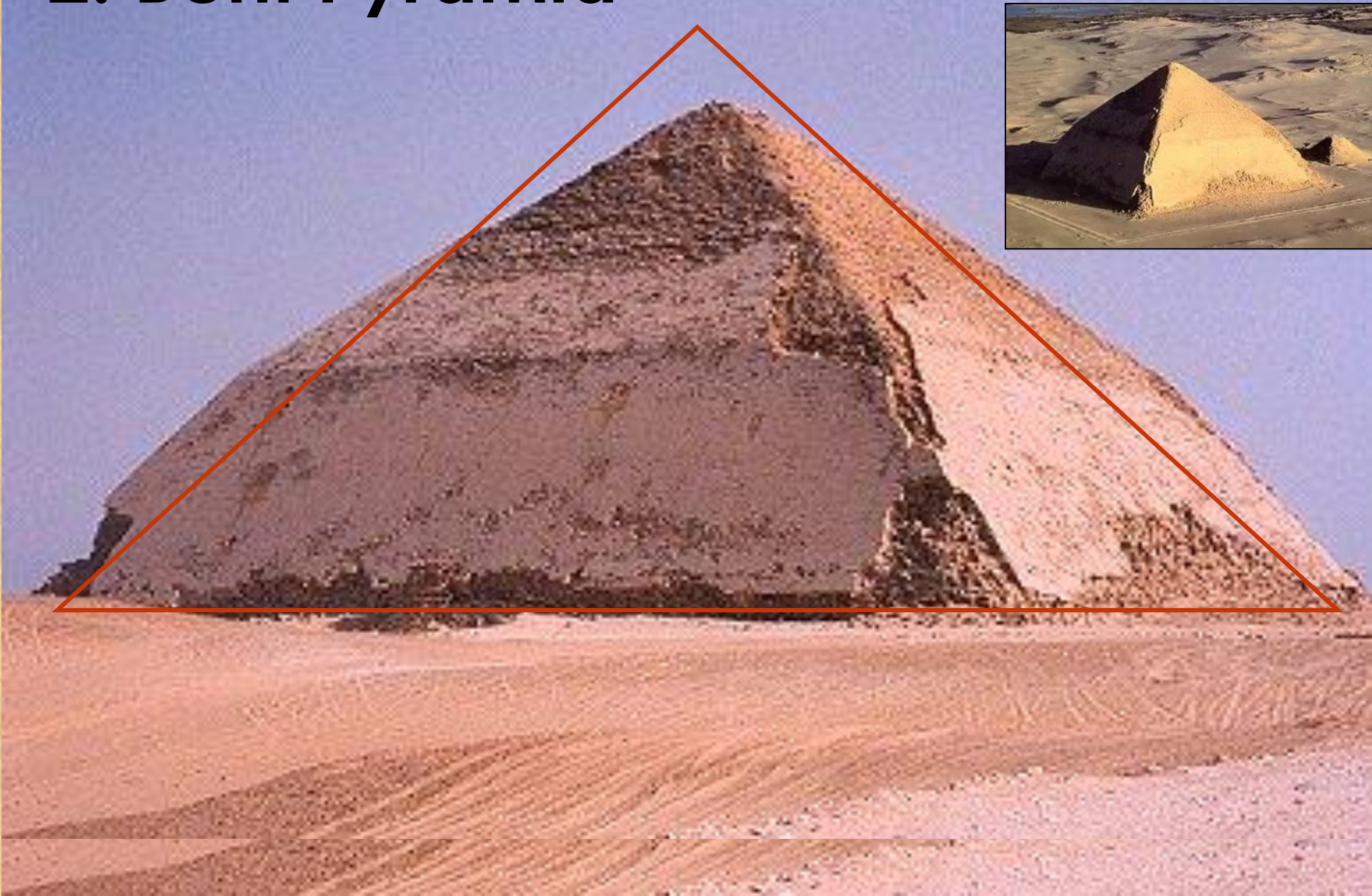
# The Evolution of the Pyramid



**1. Step Pyramid**



## 2. Bent Pyramid



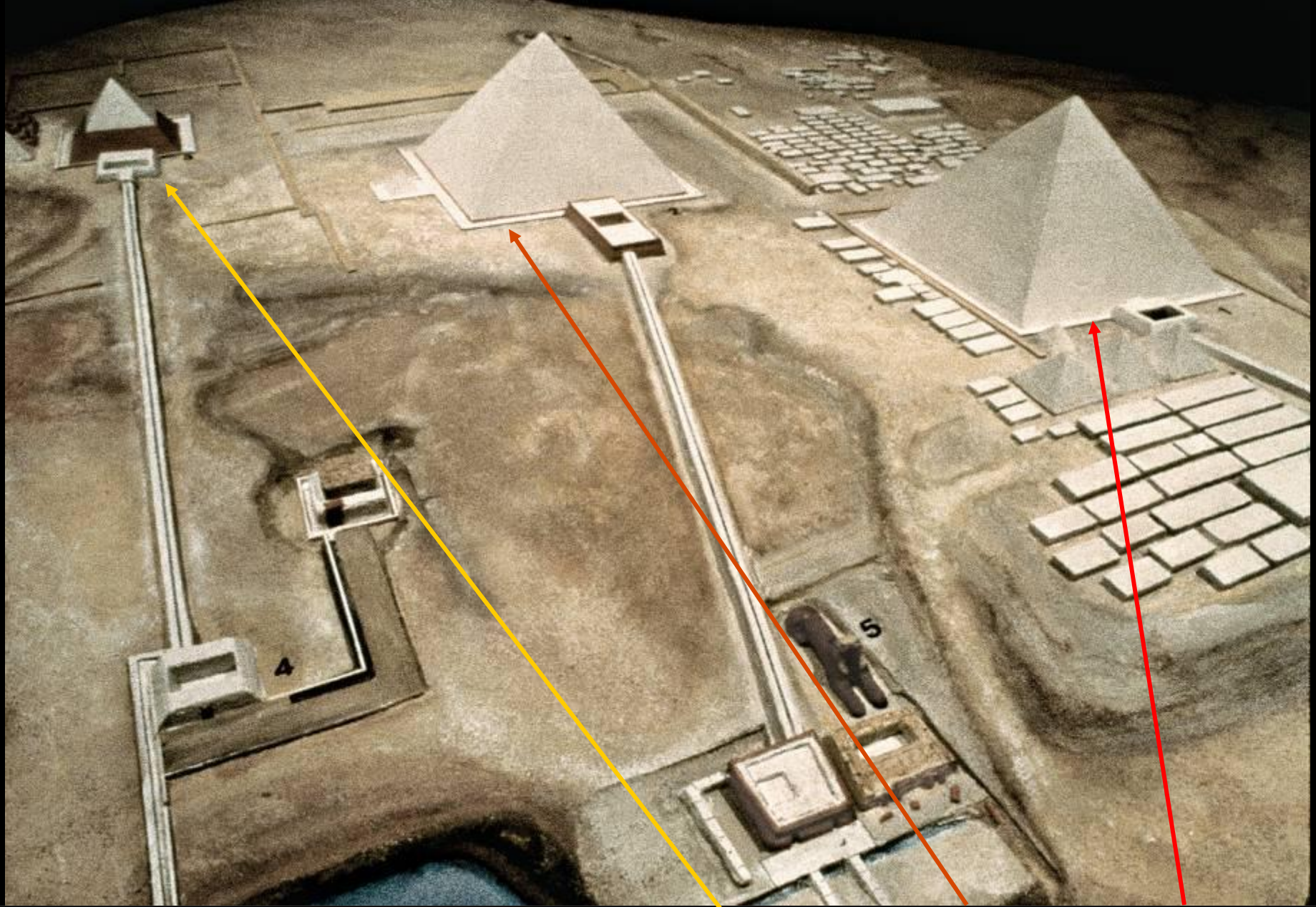
# 3. True Pyramids

The GREAT PYRAMIDS of GIZA were the most massive & well constructed pyramids ever built in ancient Egypt.

The largest, the Pyramid of Khufu, remains one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

These pyramids were built with many chambers and tunnel to protect the Pharaohs body from robbers and thieves.





Model of the Great Pyramids at Giza: (1) **Menkaure**, (2) **Khafre**, (3) **Khufu**

**Inside its tomb deep in a pyramid, the mummy is surrounded by all the worldly goods needed to live well in the AFTERLIFE**

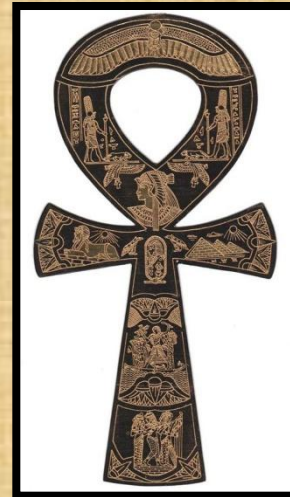


# Mummification



# Mummification

Ancient Egyptians believed that the human body was required in the afterlife where it could be reunited with the deceased's spirit, the KA.



**ANKH = SYMBOL of ETERNAL LIFE**



# Mummification

The earliest ancient Egyptians buried their dead in small pits in the desert.

The heat and dryness of the sand dehydrated the bodies quickly, creating lifelike & natural 'mummies'.



# Mummification

- Initially, mummification was so expensive that it was a privilege enjoyed only by the Pharaoh and few nobles. Everybody else was given a simple grave burial in one of the vast cemeteries of the time.
- The promise of eternal life was so alluring that eventually every Egyptian who could afford it, was mummified.



Unwrapped mummy of Pharaoh





# How to Make a Mummy

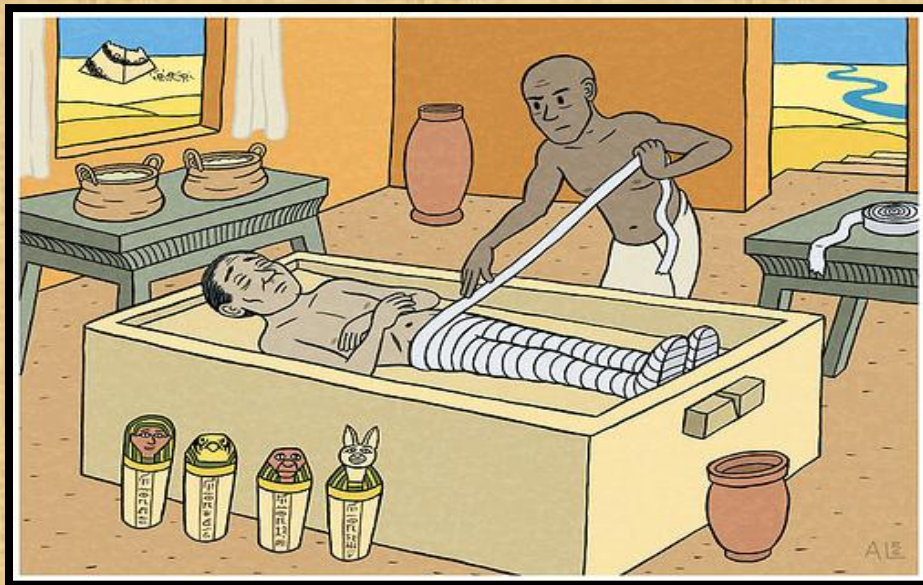
1. Get four jars to hold the liver, lungs, intestines, and stomach. Keep the heart inside the body & discard the other internal body organs.
2. Poke a rod with a hook on it through the nasal cavity to pull out the brain (throw away). Stuff the head with sawdust.
3. Soak the body in salt for 40 days. Then put the body on an inclining couch so the liquids & salt fall to the bottom into a pan. Throw away.
4. Rub the body with sweet smelling oil to make the skin soft. Pack the body to make it more lifelike with spices or sawdust.
5. Tear fine linen into strips.
6. Wrap the toes and fingers) first. Next, wrap the limbs, and finally, the torso.
7. Sing appropriate chants over each body part.



# Canopic Jars



The preserved liver, lungs, stomach and intestines were placed in canopic jars that were put in a box & placed in the mummy's tomb.



Each jar had a lid in the shape of a god's head.

# Mummy Case and Sarcophagus

- Lastly, the mummified body was placed in a mummy case.
- The mummy case was then placed into a decorated sarcophagus.
- The sarcophagus, along with other things the dead person might need, was housed in a Pyramid.



The ancient Egyptians also mummified thousands of animals: cats, bulls, dogs, crocodiles, monkeys, even fish.



King Tut

# KING TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB DISCOVERED in 1922

King Tut became a pharaoh at the age of 9.

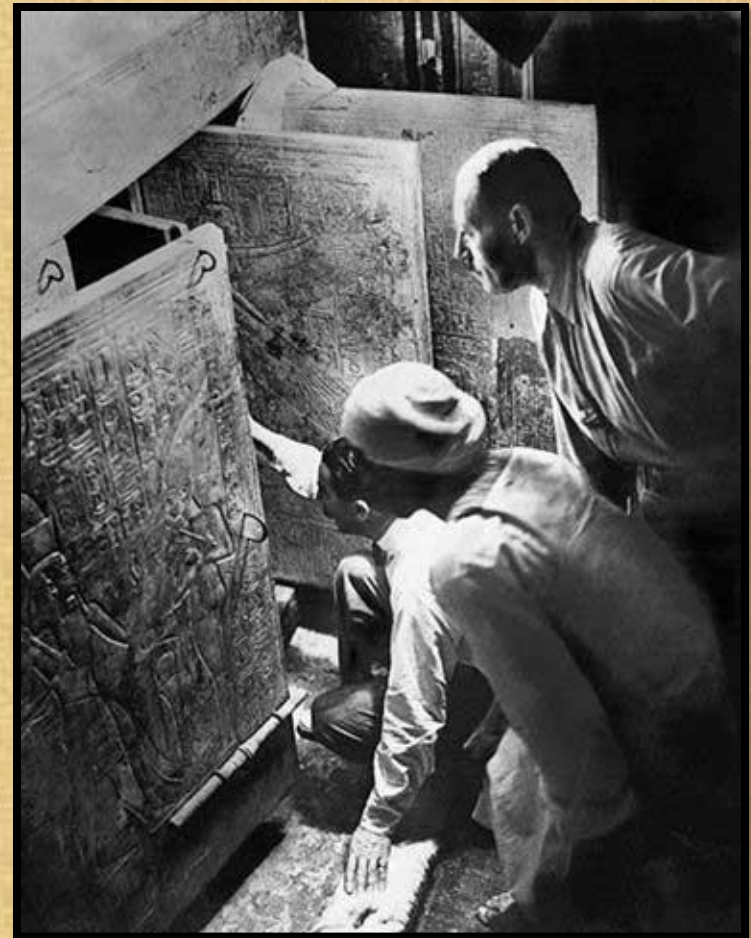
His father was Akhenaten, mother was Nefertiti.

He married his sister. (this was considered normal in order to keep the blood line pure in each dynasty)

He died at the age of 18 very mysteriously.

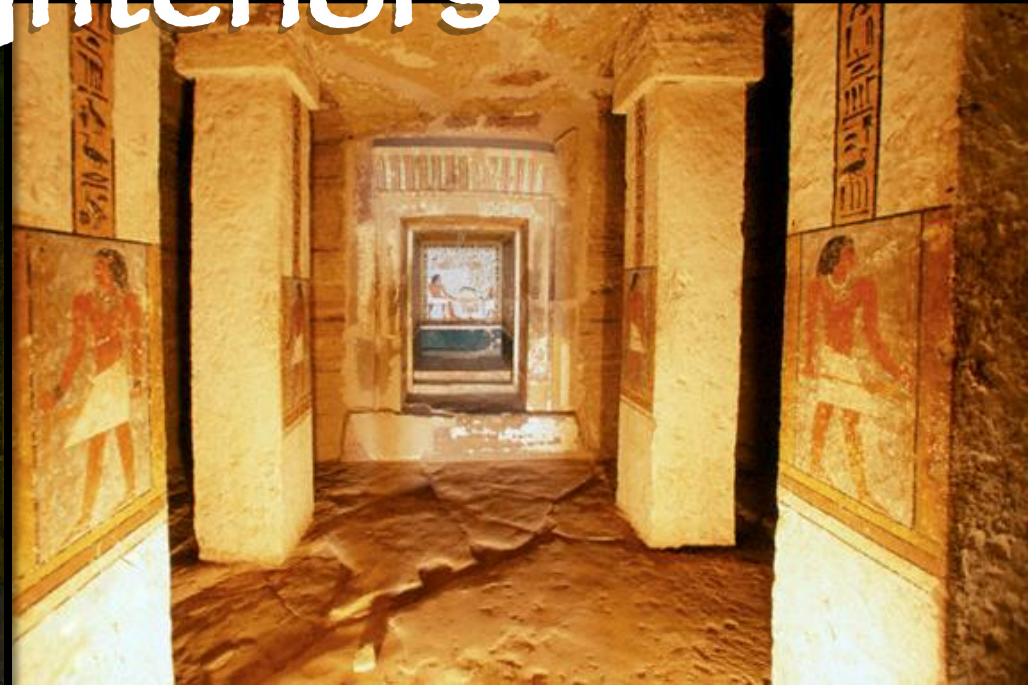
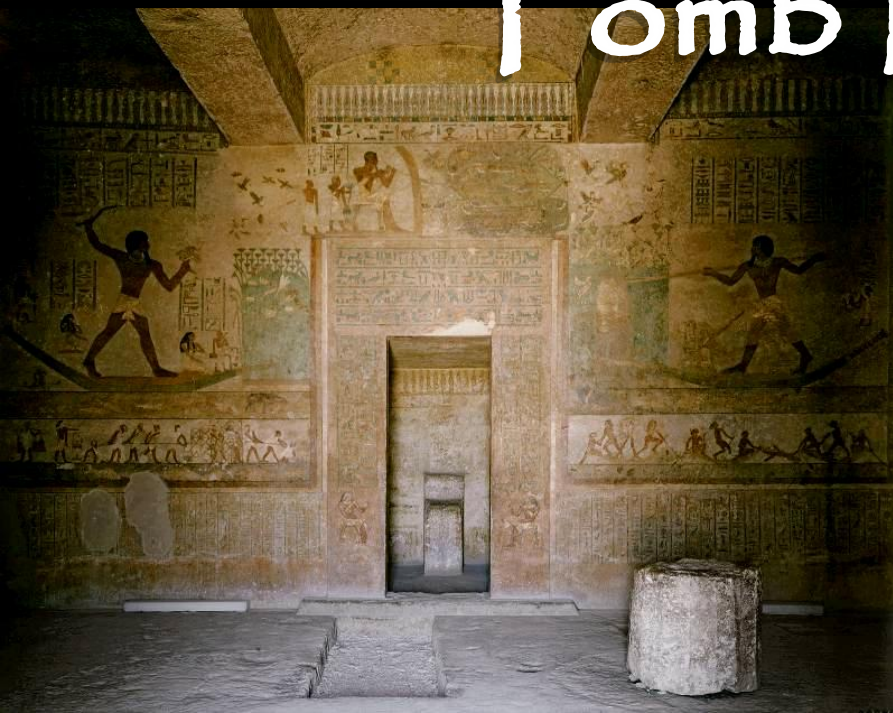
His tomb was discovered untouched.

Many treasures were found inside.





# Tomb Interiors





**Why do you think the ancient Egyptians decorated the walls and ceilings of their window-less tombs even though they were in perpetual darkness?**

# Tomb Murals

- Tomb wall paintings & painted relief sculptures told a story.

- They often depicted the journey through the afterworld and scenes of the deceased's life.

- Many times protective gods introducing the deceased to the gods of the underworld (such as Osiris) were shown.



The jackal-headed Anubis preparing a pharaoh's mummy.



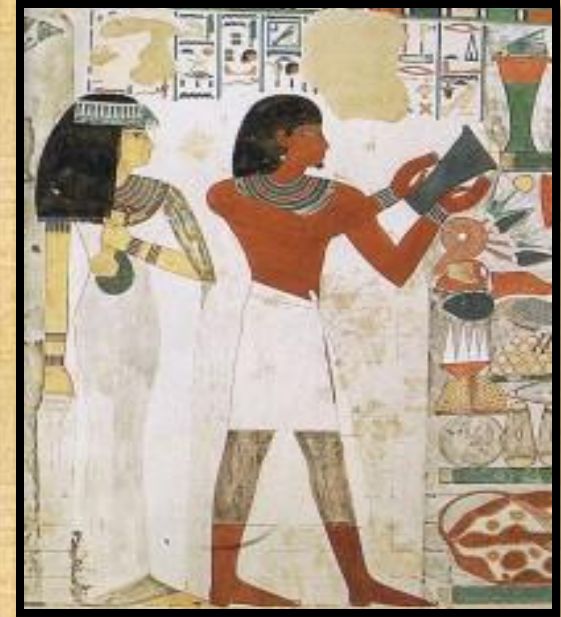


**Many of the stories came from the BOOK of the DEAD showing the deceased being led by Anubis (far left), to the weighing of his heart on the Scale of Justice. After Thoth has passed judgment and found the person worthy to enter the Kingdom of the Dead, Horus led him to Osiris (green face), King of the Underworld.**

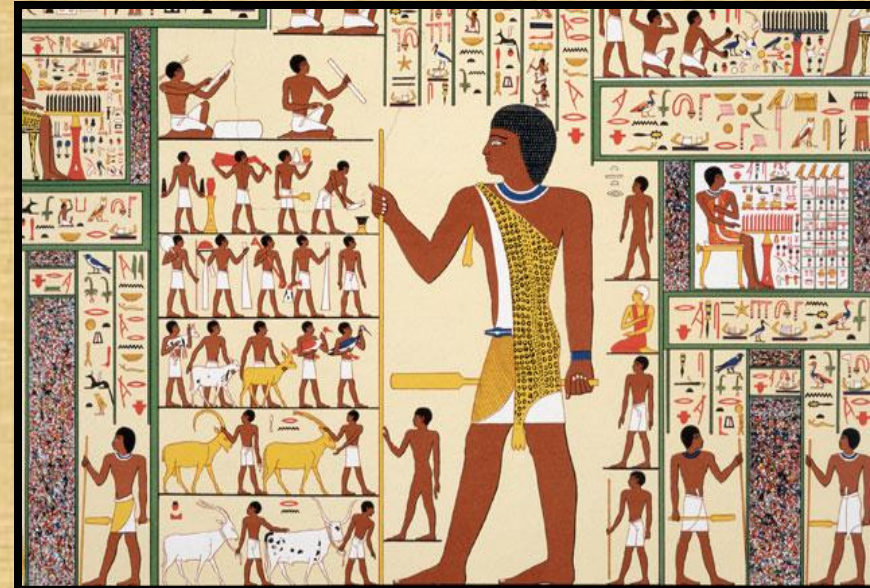
# Egyptian Painting Characteristics

- Standardized pose:

- Figures appear rigid, stiff, stylized and shown from the most visible angle so that the Ka (soul) would recognize it.
- Heads, hips, legs & feet shown in profile.
- Frontal view of the eye and torso.

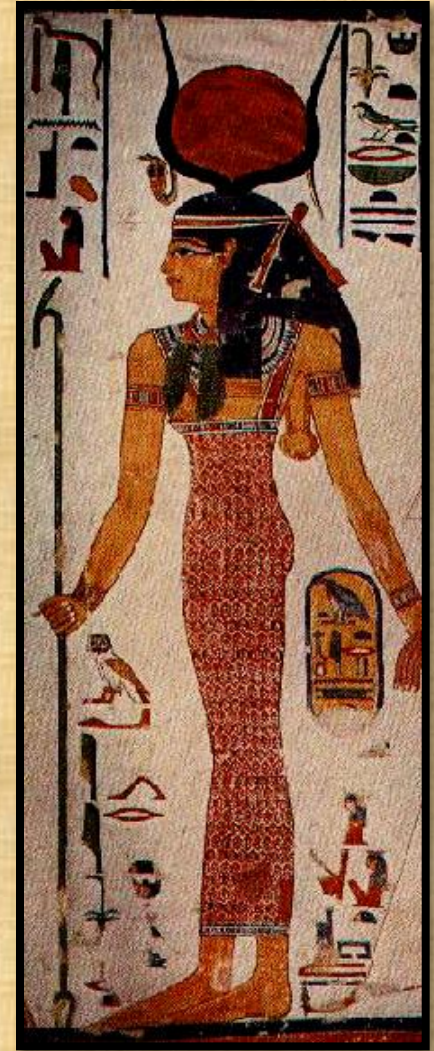
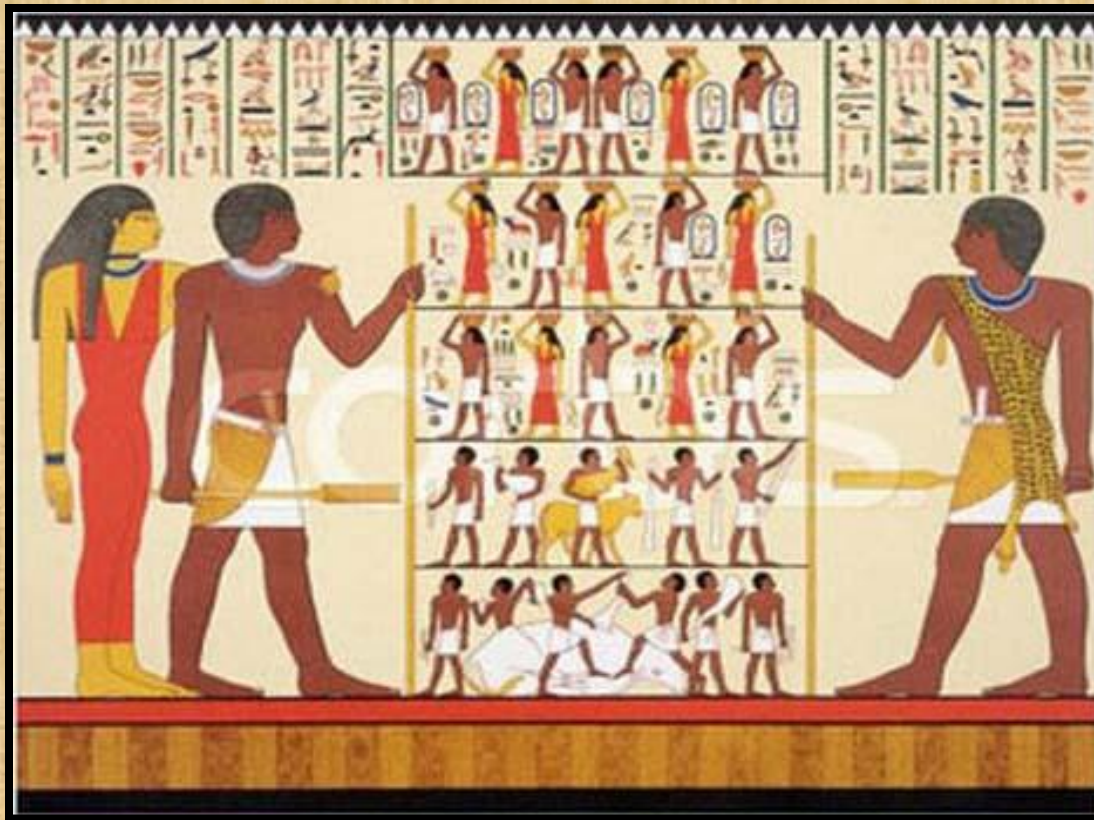


Natural profile vs. Egyptian profile



## Other painting characteristics:

- Always brightly painted
- No shading so figures appeared flat
- Figures arranged in horizontal bands
- Hieroglyphic picture symbols were included
- Sitting or standing with little or no movement





- Pharaoh's were drawn bigger since they were more important.
- Men were painted darker than women.
- Pharaoh's were depicted wearing a fancy headdress or animal head.
- Egyptian artists followed strict rules that dictated how their art should look. This stylized look remained unchanged for 3,000 years.



# Temples of the Gods



The purpose of the temple was to be a spiritual center by which the people had communication with the gods. Only the Pharaoh was allowed to enter to perform the sacred rituals.



Egyptian temples were brightly painted with images and hieroglyphics

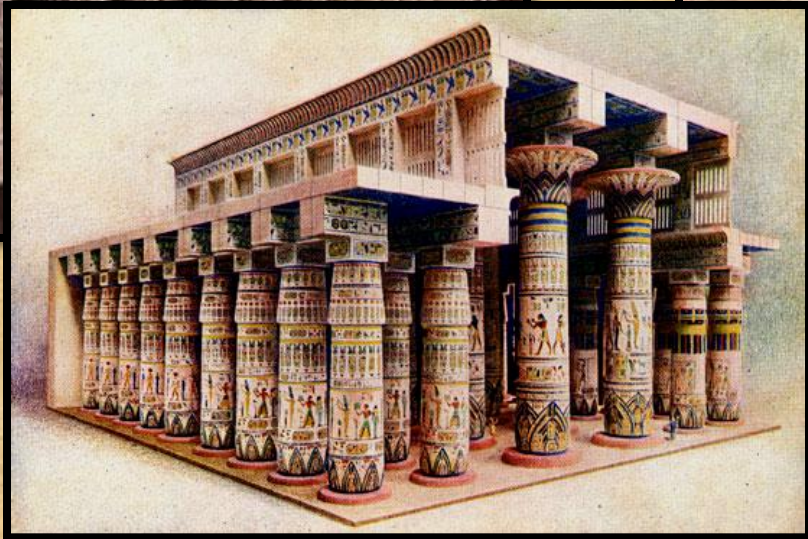
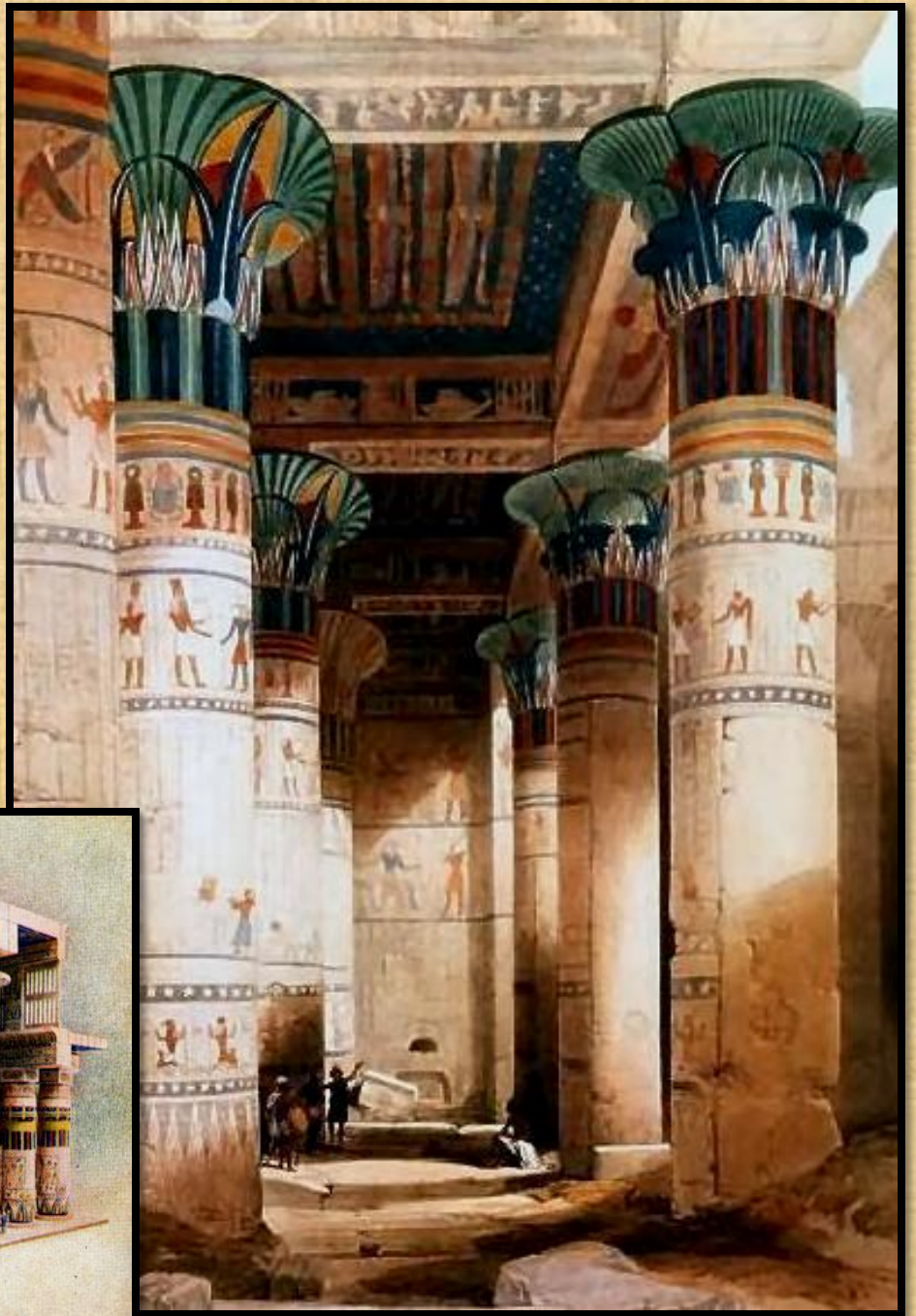
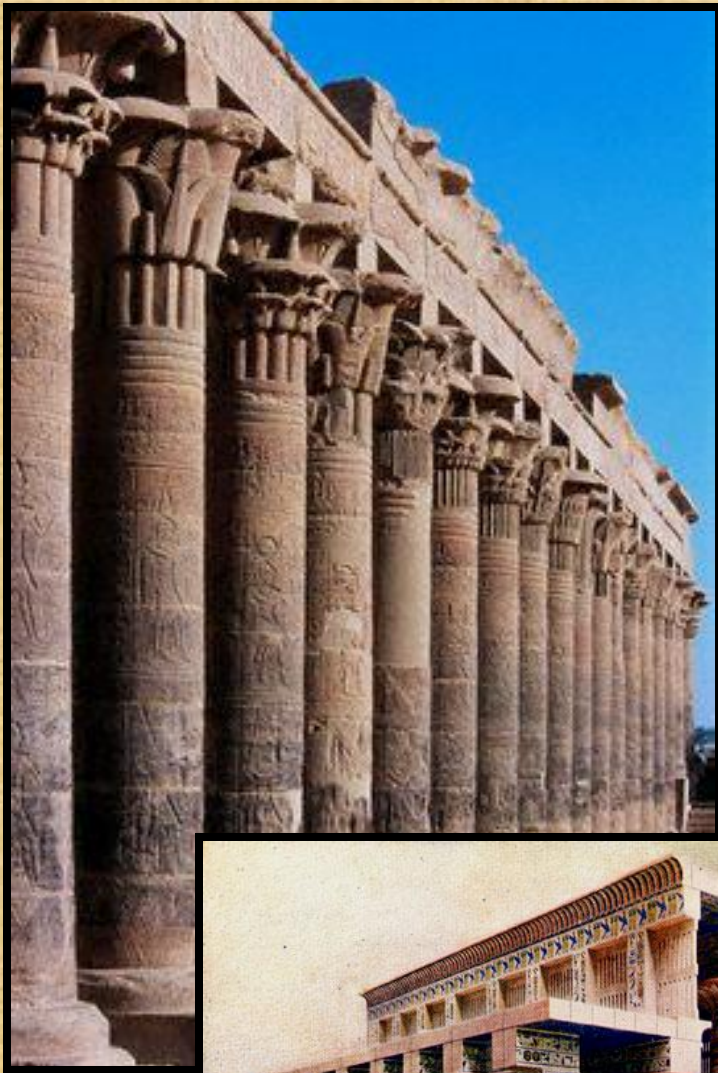


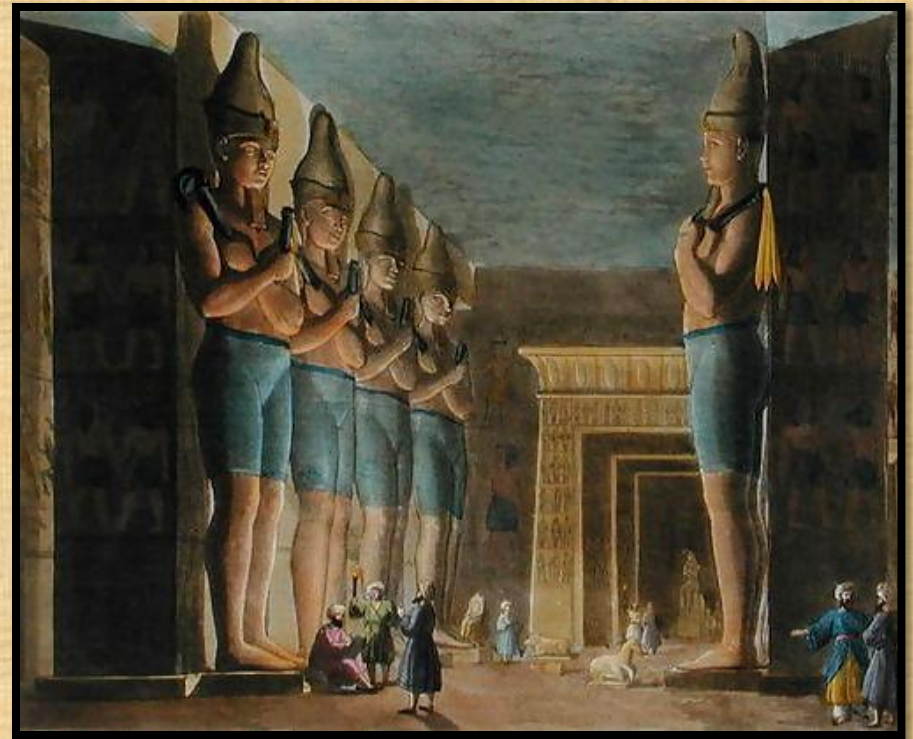
# The basic temple design was:

- post and lintel construction
- columns surrounded the exterior
- windowless inner chambers









**Columns and walls of temples were covered with paintings, relief carvings & hieroglyphs that showed the life of the pharaohs and gods.**

**Columns were shaped like human figures.**

**Column capitals were shaped and painted like lotus flowers.**

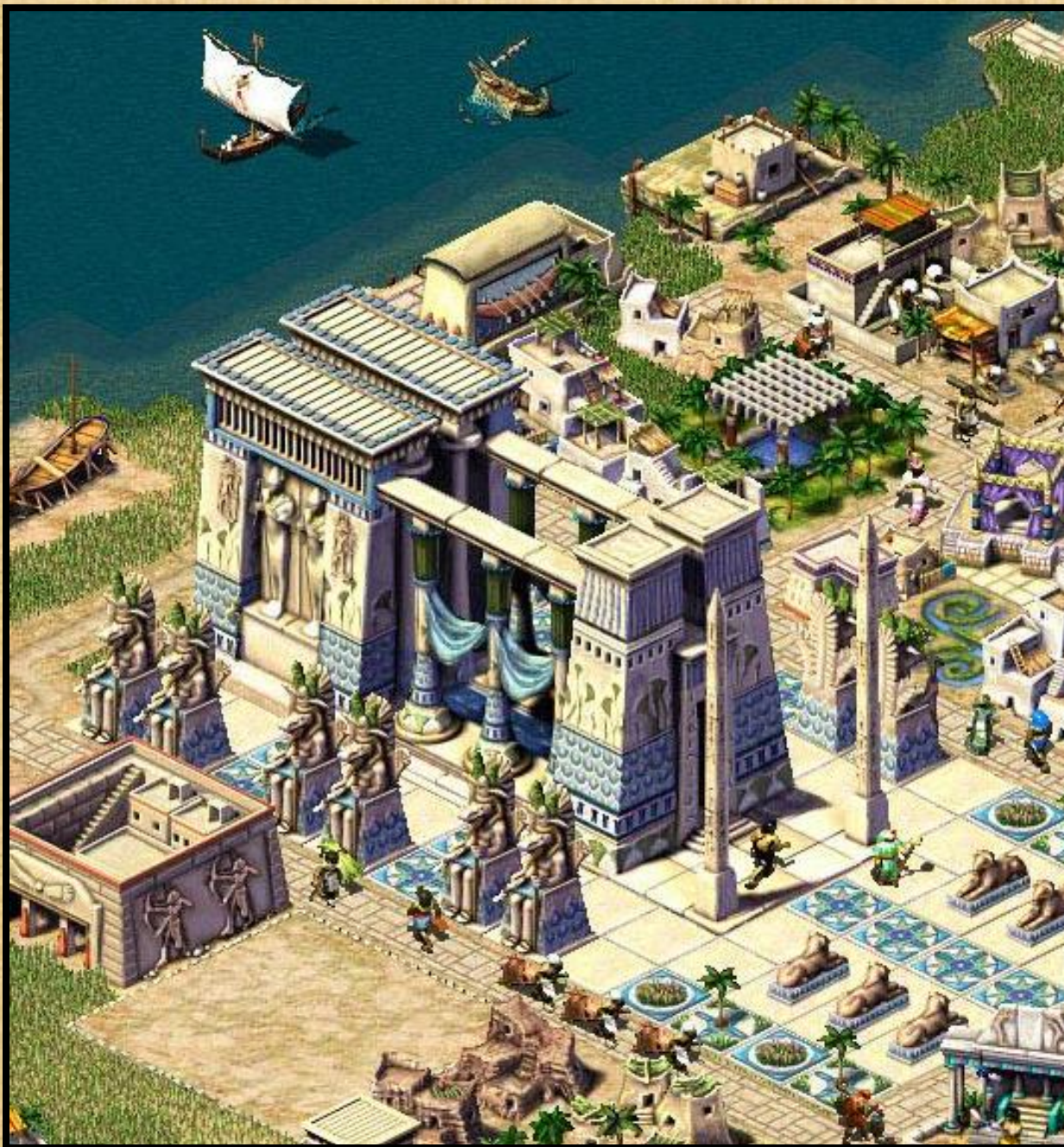
# The OBELISK



An obelisk is a tall, narrow, four-sided, tapering monument which ends in a pyramid -like shape at the top.

They were inscribed with HIEROGLYPHICS.





- Obelisks usually stood in pairs at the entrances of temples.

- Obelisks were believed to act as magical protection to the tombs and temples.

# Egyptian Sculpture



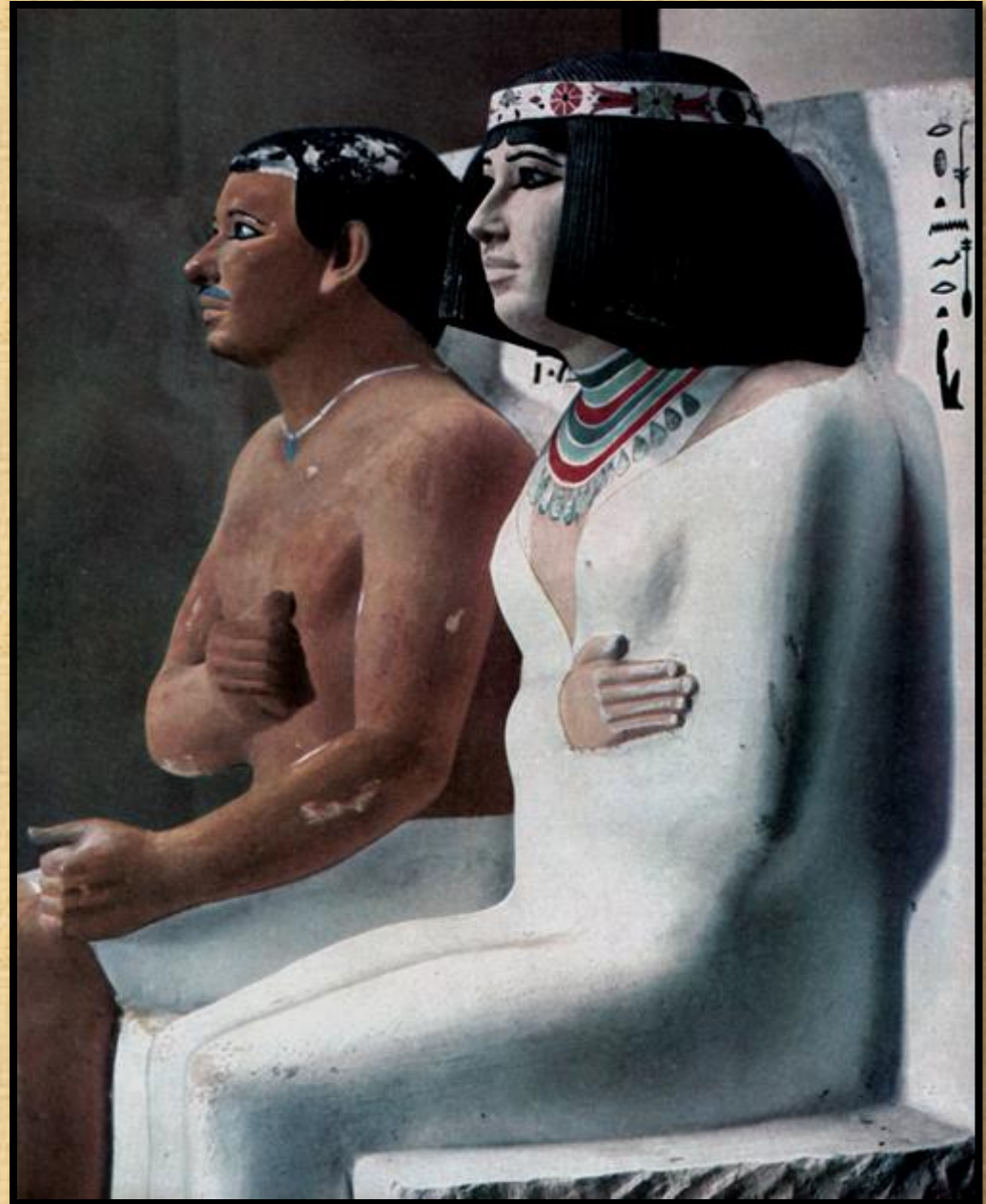
## The Great Sphinx

- The head of a Pharaoh and the body of a lion.
- Symbolizes power and might controlled by the intelligence of the pharaoh.
- The guardian of the pyramids.

# Tomb Statues

Were placed in tombs to represent the deceased.

If a mummy was ever stolen or vandalized, the statues would act as a replacement through which the Ka could enter.





# SCULPTURE STYLE FEATURES

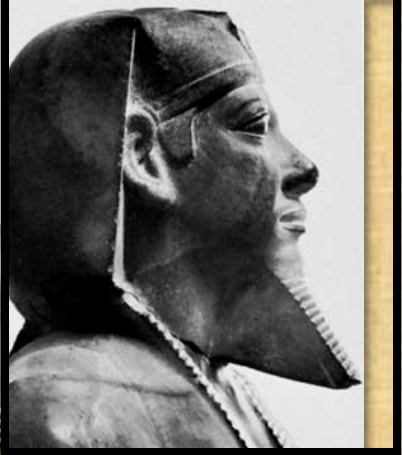
- Most Egyptian sculpture was painted.
- Men were painted darker, women lighter.
- The common garment for men was a knee-length, wraparound kilt.
- The women wore a tight, body revealing sheath dress.
- Expressionless and idealized.
- Stone between arms and legs was not carved away.
- Clenched fists.
- Little or no movement.
- One foot stepping forward into eternity.

# Menkaure and His Wife

- Menkaure is portrayed in a traditional stiff pose—rigid, frontal, clenched fists and left foot placed forward—stepping into eternity.
- The queen's arm is wrapped around his waist to signify her support of his position.
- Both figures possess youthful bodies with ideal proportions & perfectly composed, calm faces.
- It was important to show the pharaoh, not precisely as he actually looked in real life, but as an ideal representation without flaws since he was like a god.
- Even statues made during the pharaoh's old age displayed no wrinkles, bad teeth or stooped posture.
- IDEALIZED ART







**COMPARE THE WAY  
THESE PHARAOHS  
ARE DEPICTED.**

**Egyptian art styles  
remained unchanged  
for 3,000 years.**

**The one exception was  
during the reign of the  
Pharaoh Akhenaton.**



# Akhenaton: A Rebel Pharaoh



The Pharaoh AKHENATON with his family worshipping the sun disk, ATEN

## WHAT HE DID:

- Started a new monotheistic (the worship of one god) religion that worshipped only the god ATEN instead of the 100's of Egyptian gods traditionally recognized.
- Changed his name from AMENHOTEP IV to AKHENATON.
- Relocated the capital from the city of Thebes to Tel el-Amarna where palaces and buildings worshipping the one god, "Aten" were built.
- Changed the way art was to look.

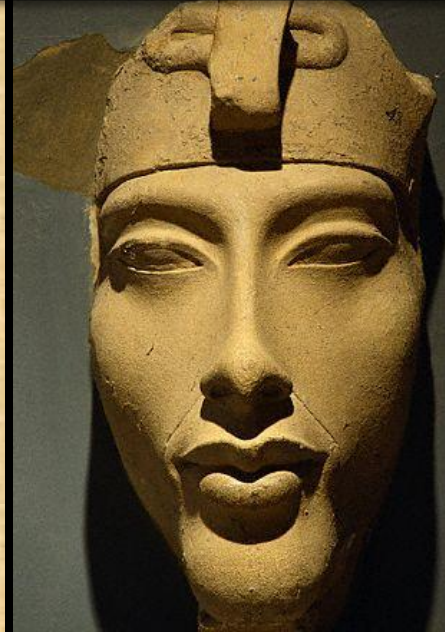
# Akhenaton's Art Style

Akhenaton rejected the accepted rules of art.

Instead of the solemn, stiff, and idealized art, Akhenaton preferred more lifelike representation.

People were portrayed in natural scenes, often showing more expression.

Many of his portraits depict him as homely with an elongated head & jaw line, thick lips and a pot belly.



After Akhenaton's reign, the old formal styles of art came back.

# Akhenaton's Wife: Queen Nefertiti

A sculpture of the head, neck and shoulders is called a portrait bust.

This portrait bust shows the beauty of Nefertiti.

