

Art of Ancient Egypt

LEARNING Objectives

Following the conclusion of the chapter, the student will be able to:

- trace the development of Predynastic Egypt.
- examine the development of Dynastic Egypt.
- analyze the use of Egyptian symbols.
- understand the use of twisted perspective.
- recognize the Egyptian canon of proportions for the human form.
- describe the use of funerary architecture.
- discuss the development of the mastaba to the pyramid.
- evaluate the Old Kingdom as a time of social and political stability.
- recognize the pyramids at Giza.
- evaluate the construction methods of the pyramids.
- discuss Egyptian sculpture as solid and blocklike.
- recognize decorative elements in an Egyptian tomb.
- examine the Middle Kingdom as a time with a powerful, unified government.
- recognize Middle Kingdom sculpture.
- describe methods of Egyptian town planning during the Middle Kingdom.
- discuss the New Kingdom as a time of restoration.
- analyze New Kingdom planning of temples.
- recognize the architectural remains at Karnak.
- recognize the Valley of the Kings and nearby areas as the royal necropolis.
- discuss the rule of Akhenaten as a time when the political, spiritual, and cultural life of Egypt was transformed.
- evaluate the Amarna style as a personification of *maat*.
- recognize the reign's of Tutankhamun and Rameses II as a return to traditional religious beliefs.
- recall the writing styles and contents of the *Rosetta Stone*.
- describe the general contents of a *Book of the Dead*.
- discuss the Late Egyptian period as a time in control by foreigners.

Key Terms

1. Tutankhamun
2. Herodotus
3. dynasty
4. nemes headdress
5. *ankh*
6. scarab beetle
7. hieroglyphic writing
8. palette
9. memory image
10. groundlines
11. canon of proportions
12. *ka*
13. canopic jars
14. mastaba
15. sarcophagus
16. necropolis
17. Djoser
18. Saqqara
19. stepped pyramid
20. pyramid
21. Giza
22. Khafre
23. Ra
24. Menkaure
25. Senusret II
26. cartouche
27. faience
28. pharaoh
29. Karnak
30. pylon
31. peristyle court
32. hypostyle hall
33. core glass
34. clerestory
35. *maat*
36. Akhenaten

37. Nefertiti
38. sunken relief
39. Tiy
40. Rameses II

41. *Books of the Dead*
42. papyrus
43. encaustic
44. Memphis

Key images

1. **Funerary Mask of Tutankhamun**, Eighteenth Dynasty, c. c. 1332-1322 BCE , Gold inlaid with glass and semiprecious stones; height 21 ¼” (54.5 cm), Egyptian Museum, Cairo (fig. 3-1)
2. **The Narmer Palette from Hierakonpolis**, Early Dynastic period, c. 2950-2775 BCE, Green Schist; height 25” (64 cm), Egyptian Museum, Cairo (fig. 3-2)
3. **The Step Pyramid, and Sham Buildings, Funerary Complex of Djoser, Saqqara**, Limestone; height of pyramid 204’ (62 m) (fig. 3-5)
4. **Great Pyramids of Giza**, Fourth Dynasty, c. 2575-2450 BCE, Granite and limestone; height of Pyramid of Khufu 450’ (137 m) (fig. 3-6)
5. **Khafre**, Giza, Valley of Khafre, Fourth Dynasty, ruled c. 2520-2494 BCE, Anorthosite gneiss; height 5’ 6 ⅛” (1.68 m), Egyptian Museum, Cairo (fig. 3-9)
6. **Menkaure and a Queen**, Fourth Dynasty, ruled 2490-2472 BCE, Graywacke with traces of red and black paint; height 54 ½” (142.3 cm), Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (fig. 3-11)
7. **Pepy II and his Mother, Queen Meryeankhnes**, Sixth Dynasty, c. 2323-2152 BCE, ruled 2246-2152 BCE, Egyptian alabaster; height 15 ¼” x 9 13/16” (39.2 x 24.9 cm), The Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York (fig. 3-12)
8. **Seated Scribe**, Fifth Dynasty, c. 2450-2325 BCE, Painted limestone with inlaid eyes of rock crystal, calcite, and magnesite mounted in copper; height 21” (53 cm), Musée du Louvre, Paris (fig. 3-13)
9. **Hippopotamus from the Tomb of Senbi**, Meir, Twelfth Dynasty, c. 1938-1755 BCE, Faience; length 7 7/8” (20 cm), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (fig. 3-18)
10. **Flower and Bud Columns, Hypostyle Hall, Great Temple of Amun at Karnak**, Nineteenth Dynasty, Sety I and Rameses II (fig. 3-25)
11. **Akhenaten and his Family**, Eighteenth Dynasty, c. 1353-1336 BCE, Painted limestone relief; 12 ¼” x 15 ¼” (31.1 x 38.7 cm), Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Ägyptisches Museum (fig. 3-30)
12. **Nefertiti**, Eighteenth Dynasty, c. 1353-1336 BCE, Painted limestone; height 20” (51 cm), Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Ägyptisches Museum (fig. 3-32)
13. **Inner Coffin of Tutankhamun’s Sarcophagus**, Eighteenth Dynasty, c. 1332-1322 BCE, Gold inlaid with glass and semiprecious stones; height 6’ 7/8” (1.85 m), Egyptian Museum, Cairo (fig. 3-33)
14. **Temple of Rameses II at Abu Simbel**, Nineteenth Dynasty, 1279-1213 BCE (page 76)
15. **Rosetta Stone**, 196 BCE, The British Museum, London (page 78)
16. **Judgement of Hunefer before Osiris**, Nineteenth Dynasty, c. 1285 BCE, Painted papyrus; height 15 5/8” (39.8 cm), The British Museum, London (fig. 3-35)
17. **Mummy Wrapping of a Young Boy from Hawara**, Roman period, c. 100-120 CE, Linen wrappings with gilded stucco buttons and inserted portrait in encaustic on wood; height of mummy 53 3/8” (133 cm), The British Museum, London (fig. 3-36)

Discussion topics

1. How did Egypt develop from a Paleolithic culture to a dynastic civilization?
2. What were the Egyptian artistic conventions and the accepted canons of proportion?
3. How does Mesopotamian sculpture differ from Egyptian sculpture?
4. How do Middle Kingdom royal portraits show an awareness of the human condition?
5. How might a Middle Kingdom town have been planned?
6. What building projects initiated by Rameses II rivaled those of the Old Kingdom?
7. What might the *Books of the Dead* have contained?