

Essential Question

What did the pharaohs of ancient Egypt accomplish, and how did they do it?

Objectives

- identify the accomplishments of four key pharaohs from ancient Egypt: Khufu, Senusret I, Hatshepsut, and Ramses the Great.
- analyze ancient Egyptian art and architecture to better understand the accomplishments of the pharaohs.
- hypothesize some ways in which Egyptian pharaohs achieved their most impressive accomplishments and the effects of those accomplishments on ancient Egypt.

Introduction:

- There are three significant periods in ancient Egyptian history and four pharaohs who ruled during that time.
- Many pharaohs had great monuments built to celebrate their lives and their accomplishments.
- Egyptian tombs were filled with mummies, statues, furniture, weapons, and chariots.

Section 1. Ancient Egypt and Its Rulers

The three significant periods in ancient Egypt are:

- The Old Kingdom (2700-2200 B.C.E.) aka Age of the Pyramids.
 - During this time the great pyramids were built and there was a strong central government.
- The Middle Kingdom (2000-1800 B.C.E.) aka Period of Reunification.
 - During this period, Egyptians enjoyed many great achievements in literature, art, and architecture.
- The New Kingdom (1600-1100 B.C.E.) aka Egypt's Golden Age
 - This era was a time of peace and stability, the height of Egypt's power.

Pharaohs were believed to be gods.

Monuments were built to glorify the power and success of the pharaohs.

Section 2. Pharaoh Khufu: The Pyramid Builder

Ruled from 2551-2528 B.C.E. during the Old Kingdom

Accomplishments:

- He is the architect of the famous pyramids of Giza.
 - These were great monuments of stunning architecture.
 - Created the unique engineering of these structures.
 - No one truly understands how a structure of this feat was built during that time.

- He established the pharaoh as the central authority.
 - He declared himself a god.

Theories

There are several theories about how the pyramids were built:

Section 3. Pharaoh Senusret I: Patron of the Arts

Ruled from 1971-1926 B.C.E. during the Middle Kingdom

Accomplishments:

- He was responsible for religious architecture. (temples, shrines, and religious monuments)
 - First and greatest architectural achievement was the White Chapel
 - It was made from alabaster and was thought to have been originally covered in gold.
- Controlled many mines filled with precious metals (gold, copper) and gems (purple amethyst.
 - Artisans under his rule created many beautiful, highly detailed pieces of jewelry decorated with precious stones.
- Great Egyptian literature was written under his reign.
 - “The Story of Sinuhe” was one of the most famous pieces of literature.

Section 4. Pharaoh Hatshepsut: Promoter of Egyptian Trade

Ruled from 1473-1458 B.C.E. during the New Kingdom

Accomplishments:

- She was one of the first Egyptian pharaohs whose greatest accomplishment was her rises to power.
 - She filled her government with loyal advisors and demanded the same respect shown to other male rulers.
 - She even dressed in men’s clothing, wore a fake beard, and spread stories that her father was a god.
- She encouraged trade with other countries.
 - Her greatest trade expedition was with the African Kingdom of Punt.
- Built a stunning monument in Dayr al-Bahri to celebrate her reign.

Section 5. Ramses II: Military Leader and Master Builder

Ruled from 1290-1224 B.C.E. during the New Kingdom

Accomplishments:

- He was one of the most famous pharaohs.
 - He ruled for over 60 years, almost longer than any other pharaoh.
 - He had over 100 wives and children
 - He erected hundreds of statues of himself throughout Egypt.
- He was known for his military leadership and was a great soldier and a peace maker.
 - He created the first peace treaty between Egyptians and the Hittites
- Built the temple complex of Abu Simbel and a smaller temple to honor his favorite wife, Nefertiti.
 - The temple in Abu Simbel has four giant statues of Ramses at the front entrance.