

ANCIENT EGYPT TIMELINE

Chronological History of the Dynasties

c. 3100 - 2686 BCE

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD

Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt. Foundation of Memphis.
Dynasties I - II

c. 2686 - 2181 BCE

OLD KINGDOM

The "Age of the Pyramids." Construction of the Great Pyramid at Giza.
Dynasties III - VI

c. 2181 - 2055 BCE

FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Political chaos and decentralized rule following the collapse of the Old Kingdom.
Dynasties VII - XI (Thebes)

c. 2055 - 1650 BCE

MIDDLE KINGDOM

A golden age of literature and art. Re-unification under Mentuhotep II.
Dynasties XI - XIII

c. 1650 - 1550 BCE

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

The Hyksos (foreign rulers) control Northern Egypt.
Dynasties XIV - XVII

c. 1550 - 1069 BCE

NEW KINGDOM

Peak of Egyptian power. Era of Ramses II, Akhenaten, and Tutankhamun.
Dynasties XVIII - XX

c. 1069 - 664 BCE

THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Fractured rule; influence of Libyan and Nubian (Kushite) Pharaohs.
Dynasties XXI - XXV

c. 664 - 332 BCE

LATE PERIOD

Periods of Persian conquest interrupted by brief native Egyptian rule.
Dynasties XXVI - XXXI

332 - 30 BCE

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

Conquest by Alexander the Great. Ending with the death of Cleopatra VII.
Macedonian / Ptolemaic Line