

ANCIENT EGYPT TIMELINE

Chronological Record of the Pharaonic Civilizations

3100 - 2686 BCE

Early Dynastic Period

Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by King Menes (Narmer). Establishment of Memphis as the capital.

Key Event: Development of Hieroglyphic writing.

2686 - 2181 BCE

The Old Kingdom

The "Age of the Pyramids." Construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Great Sphinx.

Key Figures: Djoser, Khufu, Khafre.

2181 - 2055 BCE

First Intermediate Period

A period of political chaos and decentralized rule. Famine and civil unrest between regional governors (Nomarchs).

2055 - 1650 BCE

The Middle Kingdom

Reunification under Mentuhotep II. Golden age of literature and art. Expansion of trade and military into Nubia.

1650 - 1550 BCE

Second Intermediate Period

Invasion of the Hyksos (foreign rulers) from Western Asia. Introduction of the horse and chariot to Egypt.

1550 - 1069 BCE

The New Kingdom

The Egyptian Empire reaches its peak. Construction of the Valley of the Kings and Karnak Temple.

Key Figures: Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, Ramses II.

1069 - 664 BCE

Third Intermediate Period

Political fracturing and rule by Libyan and Nubian (Kushite) pharaohs.

664 - 332 BCE

The Late Period

The final era of native Egyptian rule, interspersed with periods of Persian conquest.

332 - 30 BCE

Ptolemaic Period

Conquest by Alexander the Great. Rule by the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty ending with Cleopatra VII.

Key Event: Foundation of the Library of Alexandria.