

ANCIENT EGYPT TIMELINE

Chronological Summary of Major Historical Eras

3100 - 2686 BCE

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by Menes/Narmer. Establishment of Memphis as the capital.

2686 - 2181 BCE

OLD KINGDOM The "Age of the Pyramids." Construction of the Great Pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx.

2181 - 2055 BCE

FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD A period of political chaos and decentralized rule following the collapse of the Old Kingdom.

2055 - 1650 BCE

MIDDLE KINGDOM A golden age of literature and art. Re-unification under Mentuhotep II.

1650 - 1550 BCE

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD Invasion of the Hyksos; introduction of the horse and chariot to Egyptian warfare.

1550 - 1069 BCE

NEW KINGDOM The Egyptian Empire. Reign of famous Pharaohs: Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, and Ramses II.

1069 - 664 BCE

THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD Fractured rule by Libyan and Nubian dynasties. Fractured central authority.

664 - 332 BCE

LATE PERIOD The final era of native Egyptian rule, punctuated by Persian conquests.

332 - 30 BCE

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD Conquest by Alexander the Great. Rule by the Greek Ptolemy dynasty ending with Cleopatra VII.