

ANCIENT EGYPT CHRONOLOGY

Old Kingdom to New Kingdom

2686 - 2181 BCE

The Old Kingdom

The "Age of the Pyramids." Establishment of central government and monumental architecture during the 3rd to 6th Dynasties.

Key Landmarks: Great Pyramid of Giza, Saqqara Step Pyramid.

2181 - 2055 BCE

First Intermediate Period

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

2055 - 1650 BCE

The Middle Kingdom

The "Golden Age of Literature." Reunification under Mentuhotep II and the rise of Osiris worship.

Key Landmarks: Karnak Temple Complex (Origins), Beni Hasan.

1650 - 1550 BCE

Second Intermediate Period

Invasion of the Hyksos in the north while Egyptian rulers remained in Thebes.

1550 - 1069 BCE

The New Kingdom

The "Egyptian Empire." Period of greatest territorial expansion and famous pharaohs.

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