

ANCIENT EGYPT TIMELINE

3100 - 2686 BC

Early Dynastic Period

Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by King Menes. Foundation of Memphis.

Key Milestone: Development of Hieroglyphic writing.

2686 - 2181 BC

Old Kingdom

The "Age of the Pyramids." Centralized government and absolute power of the Pharaohs.

Key Milestone: Construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

2181 - 2055 BC

First Intermediate Period

Political chaos, civil unrest, and decentralized rule following the collapse of the Old Kingdom.

2055 - 1650 BC

Middle Kingdom

Reunification and cultural flowering. Expansion of trade and irrigation projects.

Key Milestone: Literature and jewelry arts reach their peak.

1650 - 1550 BC

Second Intermediate Period

Invasion and rule by the Hyksos (foreign kings) in the north.

1550 - 1069 BC

New Kingdom

The "Imperial Age." Egypt reaches its maximum territorial extent.

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

1069 - 664 BC

Third Intermediate Period

Fractured rule under Libyan and Nubian (Kushite) dynasties.

664 - 332 BC

Late Period

Brief periods of independence alternating with Persian conquest.

332 - 30 BC

Ptolemaic Period

Conquest by Alexander the Great. Rule by the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty.

End Point: Death of Cleopatra VII; Egypt becomes a Roman province.