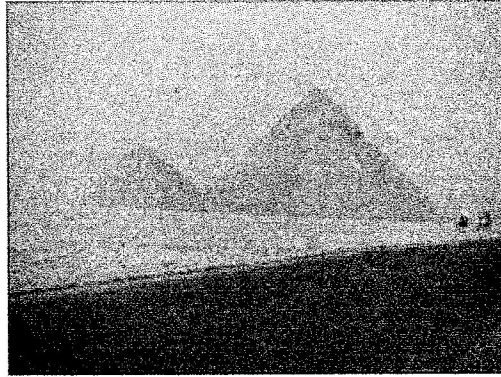
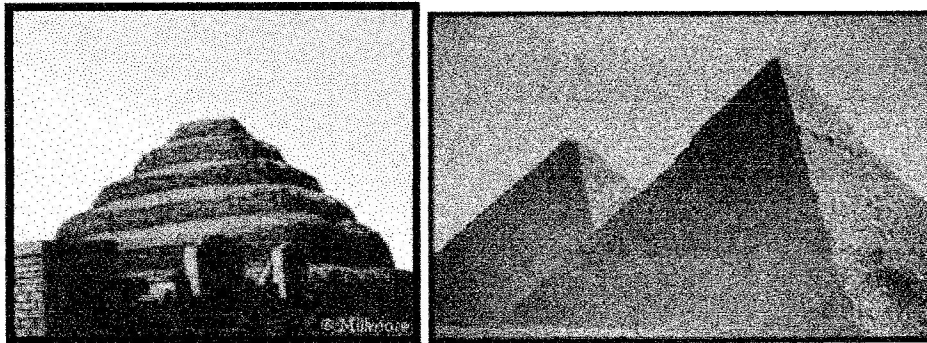


Pyramids



The most famous things that the Ancient Egyptians are known for are their pyramids. They built two kinds of pyramids - step pyramids and "true" pyramids. Look at the pictures below. Can you tell which is a step pyramid and which is a true pyramid? Click on the pictures to check your answers!



Why did the Ancient Egyptians build the pyramids?

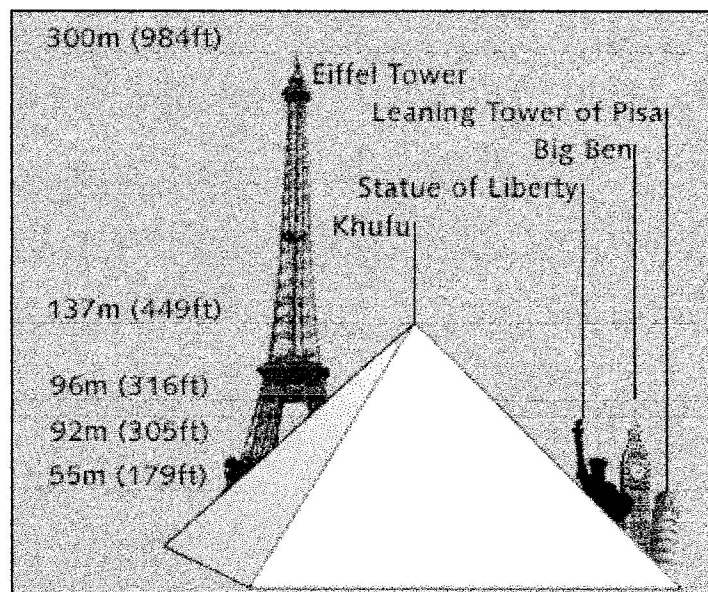
Pyramids were built in Ancient Egypt as tombs, or burial places, for Egyptian pharaohs, or kings. The Ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife, so it was very important to them to protect the bodies of their pharaohs. In order to keep the body of the pharaoh safe, the insides of the pyramids were like mazes with

secret doors and dead-end passages. The pharaoh would be near the bottom or even underground. Other rooms contained things like jewelry and furniture that the pharaoh might want in his next life.

How did they make them so big?

In Ancient Egypt, there were no tools to build with or trucks to move things with. The Egyptians had to use their hands to make big blocks out of different kinds of sand, clay, and stone. After they made the blocks, they pulled them up big ramps onto the pyramid.

The largest pyramid ever built was over 450 feet high!! It is called Khufu, but most people just call it the Great Pyramid. It is taller than the Statue of Liberty!! Take a look...



The pyramids are the last wonder of the ancient world - the only ones that haven't been destroyed by time. We can learn a lot about the Ancient Egyptians from what we find in the pyramids.

What have you learned?

The Sphinx



The actual date when the Sphinx was first built is unknown, although many say it was around 2500 B.C. The Sphinx is 66 feet tall and more than 240 feet long! It faces east, and is the first to see the sunrise every morning. Heavy rains over the years have worn away much of the detail of this great wonder. Scientists can guess at when the last heavy rains in the Sahara Desert were by studying the erosion of the Sphinx. When *did* it last rain heavily? More than 4000 years ago! However, some of the damage to the Sphinx has been done by different armies passing through Egypt over the years. Some armies used the Sphinx as target practice, aiming especially for the nose!

Recently, scientists have discovered that there is a chamber below the Sphinx! Several, in fact. Although only one room of this chamber has been opened so far, with nothing found in it, many more openings are scheduled to happen in the next two years! No one knows what will be found in this chamber, although the most popular theory is that some sort of Hall of Records for the Ancient Egyptian society will be found, after all these thousands of years!



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