



World History Studies Weekly



Build Me a Pyramid

Have you ever wondered what might lie beneath the desert sands of Egypt? Over time the sands have been slowly giving up some of the secrets. Thanks to archaeologists like Jean-Francois Champollion, the world has learned more about the ancient culture of the Egyptians. Champollion deciphered, or figured out the meaning of, the hieroglyphs used by ancient Egyptians. Archaeologists are still making discoveries today, but many mysteries remain unsolved.

This week we will learn about some of the famous rulers of ancient Egypt and some famous structures they built. We'll also learn about some of those hardworking people who helped bring knowledge of the ancient Egyptians to our modern world. We call them archaeologists, but in many ways they are really detectives. Keep reading to see what they've learned about the mysteries of ancient Egypt.

The Great Sphinx

The Great Sphinx is the oldest existing monument in Egypt. It has the head of a man and the body of a lion and has been around for more than 4,500 years. As centuries passed, wind-blown sands nearly covered it. In 1905, the sand was cleared away to show its huge form. Can you imagine how surprised people were to see how big it really was? From the front of its paws to the tip of its tail, the monument measures about 240 feet long. And at 66 feet tall, there's no wonder it's called the Great Sphinx.

Between its front paws is a partial inscription. It tells the story of a young prince who fell asleep by the giant sphinx.

In his dream, the sphinx told him that if he cleared away the sand from its body, he would become a powerful ruler of Egypt. The rest of the story is missing.

Of course, time has taken a toll on the giant monument. Archaeologists believe the sphinx was once brightly painted. Some traces of paint can still be seen near one of its ears. Its nose and beard were shot off many years ago by Turks taking target practice. Erosion from the constant blowing of desert sand and pollution, especially from automobiles, is causing the stone to crumble. Today, the sphinx is getting a facelift. Efforts are underway to preserve the Great Sphinx so future generations can see it guarding the pyramids of Giza.

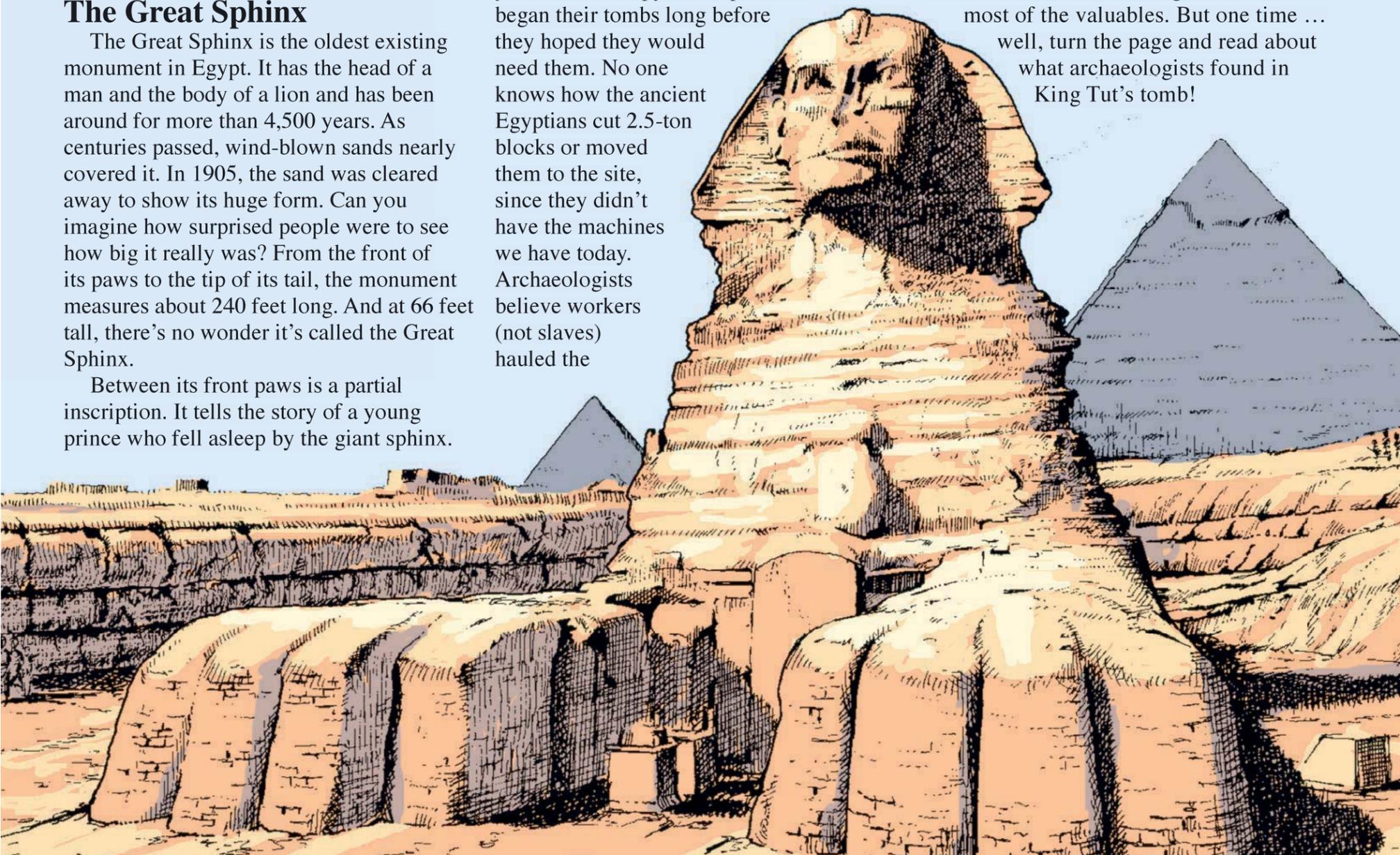
Pyramids

Last week you learned that pyramids were tombs that held the mummy and possessions of the pharaohs. Since it took years to build a pyramid, pharaohs began their tombs long before they hoped they would need them. No one knows how the ancient Egyptians cut 2.5-ton blocks or moved them to the site, since they didn't have the machines we have today. Archaeologists believe workers (not slaves) hauled the

stone up dirt ramps on wooden sleds with runners. Pushing and dragging, they set the blocks into position. The stones are so tightly positioned, you can't even place a knife blade between them. When completed, the entire pyramid was covered with white limestone. Over the years, people removed some limestone, but you can still see some of the remaining limestone at its top. Inside the pyramids were passageways and chambers for the mummy and its belongings. There was also a shaft for the spirit, called the Ka, to come and go.

The Great Pyramid of Giza was built about 2540 B.C. by Pharaoh Khufu (also called Cheops). It is the only remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, and it stands about 500 feet tall. It covers about the same area as nine football fields.

What about all the treasures of the tombs and pyramids—the gold, the jewels, the art? Unfortunately, tomb robbers got there before the archaeologists and took most of the valuables. But one time ... well, turn the page and read about what archaeologists found in King Tut's tomb!





Pharaohs of Egypt

King Tutankhamen

King Tutankhamen (below right), known to the world as King Tut, ruled ancient Egypt from 1361 to 1352 B.C. (His name is also spelled Tutankhamun.) He became pharaoh of Egypt at the age of 9. Little is known about him since his death at age 18 meant he ruled for less than a decade. For many years, some archaeologists

believed Tut's early death was not a natural event, but murder. An X-ray of his skull done in 1968 showed that it was fractured. Others believed he may have been poisoned. The most recent evidence indicates that he died from malaria.

After Tut died, another pharaoh tried to destroy any record of his years as a ruler, a common practice at the time. As a result, the existence of King Tut was pretty much forgotten until 1922.

That's when archaeologist Howard Carter discovered his tomb buried in the Valley of the Kings near the city of Thebes. The tomb was hidden by rock and rubble from the discovery of another nearby tomb, the tomb of Ramses VI. Of the 27

tombs in the Valley of the Kings, King Tut's was the only one to still contain his mummy and the beautiful treasures placed there for him.

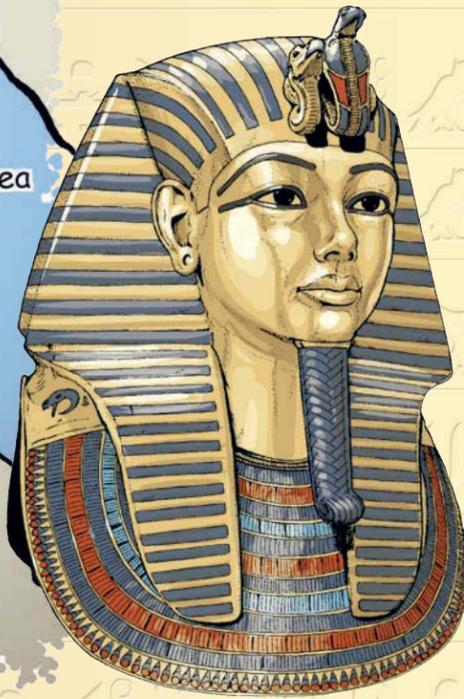
Tut's mummified body was found inside a large container called a sarcophagus. Inside was a wooden coffin covered in gold foil. When the lid was opened, another gold-covered coffin was found. Inside that coffin was a third coffin made of solid gold and weighing more than 200 pounds. Inside, King Tut was found under a solid gold death mask wrapped in yards and yards of brittle bandages. About 143 pieces of jewelry were found on his mummy and each of his toes were individually wrapped in gold.

Hatshepsut First Female Pharaoh, 1503 B.C.

When Hatshepsut's husband died, her stepson, Thutmose III, was too young to be pharaoh. It was common for the mother of a future pharaoh to take on the duties of ruler during his boyhood years and hold the title of regent. But Hatshepsut did something unheard of by ancient Egyptians. She announced she would be the pharaoh.

Hatshepsut ruled for about 22 years. As pharaoh, she wore men's clothing and a false beard. She even became known as His Majesty. Her rule was marked by trade with other nations, especially the Land of Punt (in the area now known as Somalia/Ethiopia). While her reign was mostly a time of peace, she also led successful military expeditions.

Hatshepsut was also known for the



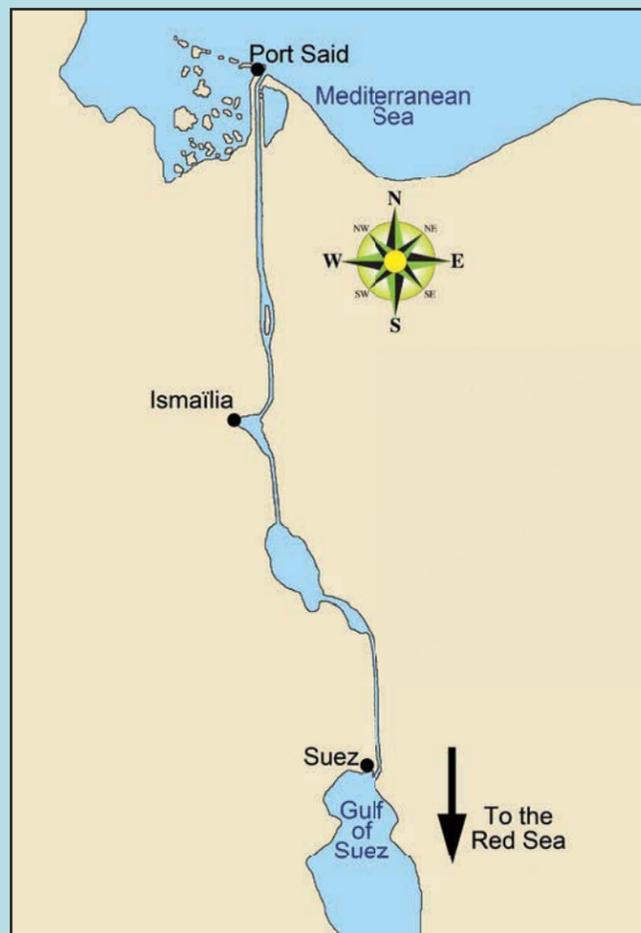
Suez Canal

World Regions

In the 19th century, sailing from Great Britain to India meant sailing all the way around Africa. By connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, the Suez Canal cut about 6,000 miles off that journey. This man-made waterway was begun in 1859 by French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps and opened in 1869. The canal stretches for almost 120 miles from the city of Port Said on the north to the city of Suez on the south. It is the world's longest canal without locks. (Locks are like gates that raise or lower a boat, so it can pass through a canal.)

The ownership and control of the Suez Canal has caused a lot of conflict between countries. The canal was often closed because of fighting and wars. Sunken vehicles, unexploded grenades and other war debris had to be removed from the canal more than once.

Today, the canal is controlled by Egypt. Thousands of ships pass through the canal each year, taking about 11-16 hours to complete the journey. The slow speed is to prevent damage to the canal banks. Dredging machines work constantly to keep out blowing desert sands, so ships can move freely through the canal. Did you know you can see the Suez Canal from outer space?



many monuments built during her reign. Among the most famous are two obelisks at the entrance to the Temple of Karnak. Obelisks are four-sided pillars topped with a pyramid-shaped block. (The Washington Monument is an obelisk.) These obelisks were the tallest in the world at that time.

When Thutmose III became pharaoh after Hatshepsut's death (about 1482 B.C.), he ordered all of the inscriptions that honored his stepmother to be removed from the monuments she had built. Perhaps he was angry about having to wait so long to become pharaoh. He smashed her statues and even tried to stone over her obelisks. Hatshepsut's mummy has never been found.

Ramses the Great

Ramses II (also spelled Rameses or Ramesses) had a long rule of almost 67 years, from 1279-1213 B.C. During his rule, Egypt regained much of the territory lost under previous rulers. He reconquered what is present day Turkey, and the lands of Egypt extended south into the area called Nubia.

He also loved building things and naming them after himself. Ramses II had more structures and statues built than any other pharaoh. One of the most famous was the monument at Abu Simbel. The many stone inscriptions tell what a wonderful pharaoh Ramses

was. He required the workers to carve deeply into the stone so future pharaohs would have difficulty removing his name and inscriptions.

Although Ramses' tomb was robbed of its treasures, his mummy was found at Deir al-Bahari in 1881. Today, you can find the pharaoh, one of the best preserved mummies ever found, at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

Archaeologist Kent Weeks

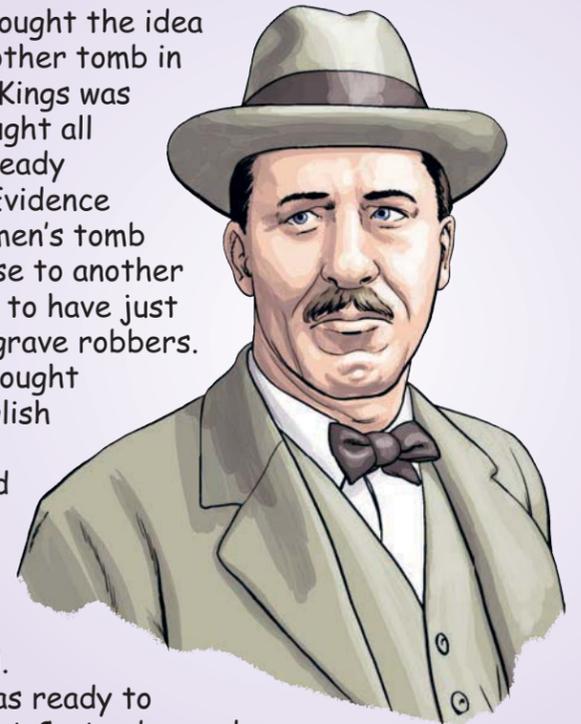
For decades, many archaeologists had gone into an Egyptian tomb called KV5 and given up after seeing all the debris and rubble. American archaeologist Kent Weeks decided to investigate the area and made one of the most amazing discoveries to date. In 1995, he came upon a passageway leading to (at last count) more than 150 rooms. It is believed that the tomb may be the resting place for many of Ramses the Great's children. (Written records claim he had about 100.) Although it is called the Tomb of the Sons of Ramses II, his daughters may be buried here too.

Archaeologists continue to examine the huge tomb. The only way to explore much of the tomb is to crawl through tons of flood debris. Every piece of debris must be screened for artifacts. Archaeologists estimate it will take 90 years to excavate all the rooms and passageways.

Biography

Howard Carter

Most people thought the idea of discovering another tomb in the Valley of the Kings was foolish. They thought all the tombs had already been unearthed. Evidence of King Tutankhamen's tomb was found too close to another tomb and thought to have just been dropped by grave robbers. Howard Carter thought otherwise. An English archaeologist, Carter was funded in his search for King Tut by Lord Carnarvon. After five years, nothing was found.



Lord Carnarvon was ready to end the search, but Carter begged for one more try. In 1922, a water boy hit something with his heel as he tried to make a place to set jars of water for the thirsty workers. It was a step! A step in the desert sands? Workers began digging and unearthed an entire stairway ending with a sealed door. At the entrance to the tomb was the name of Tutankhamen.

Carter was trained as an artist and, even at a young age, was fascinated by Egyptian history. He went to Egypt at the age of 17 working as a tracer. Back then, tracers copied ancient drawings and writings for people to do further study. He loved his work in the old tombs and actually slept with the bats in the tombs at night. Carter decided he wanted to be an archaeologist. When King Tut's tomb was found, Carter took photographs of everything and tagged the items before anything could be touched or moved. It took him and his team seven weeks just to clear out the first room, the antechamber. The tomb of King Tut became famous, for, as of today, it is the only tomb found that still contained its wonderful treasures and mummy. Carter, who died in 1939, also found the remains of Queen Hatshepsut's tomb in Deir al-Bahari.

This Week's Question

Was King Tut's tomb cursed?

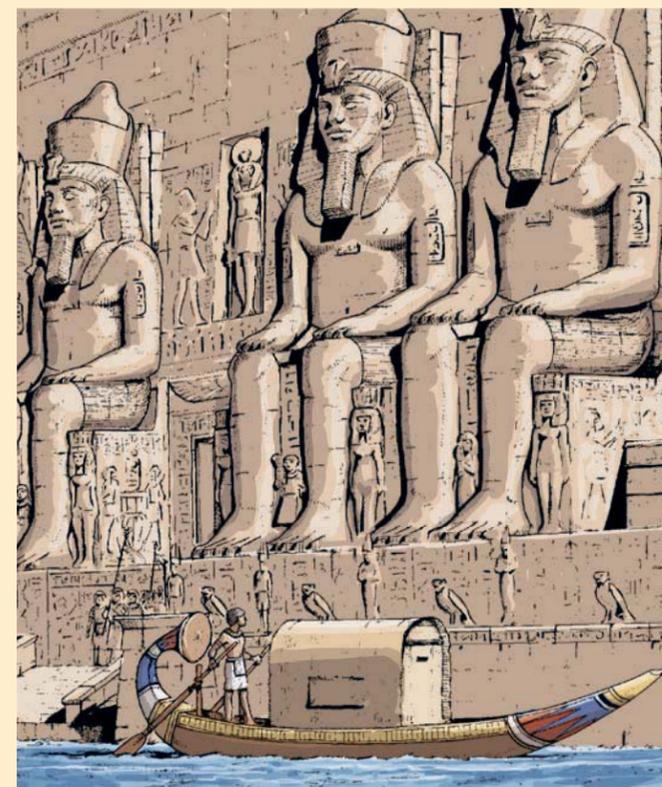
Some people believe it was. Here's one version of the curse: "Death comes on wings to he who enters the tomb of a pharaoh." The story of the curse began with the death of Lord Carnarvon. He was the person who paid for the expedition to look for King Tut's tomb. Soon after they found and opened the tomb, he was bitten by a mosquito and died. A number of other people who went into the tomb died too. But Howard Carter, who actually unwrapped Tut's mummy, lived for many years afterwards. As a matter of fact, all 10 people who were there when the mummy was unwrapped were still alive 10 years later. Can you think of a scientific answer that would explain why some, but not all, of the people who entered the tomb became ill and died?

Trades & Technology

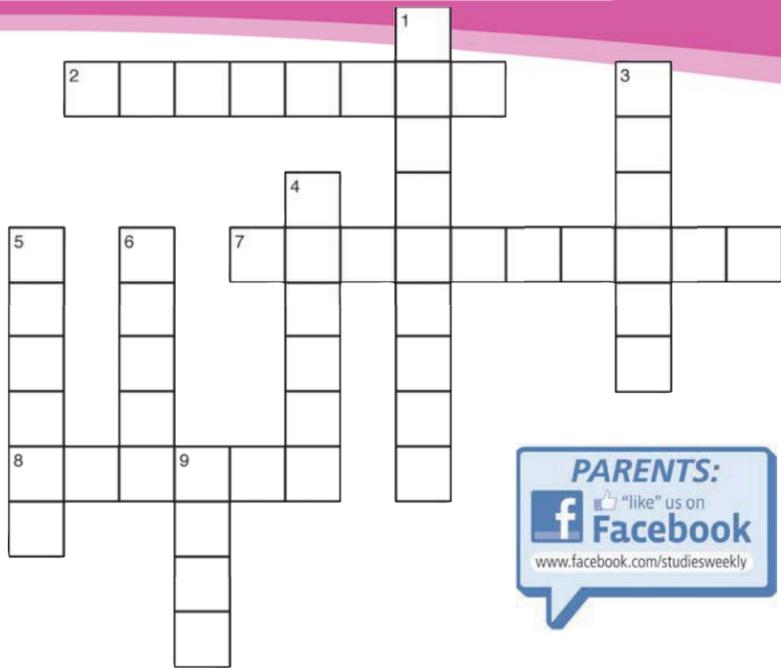
Abu Simbel and the Aswan High Dam

A need for more water and energy led to the building of the Aswan High Dam and the creation of Lake Nasser in the 1960s. One problem with building the dam was that two temples called Abu Simbel stood along the Nile. They were built by order of Ramses the Great more than 3,000 years earlier. Temple Ramses II honored the pharaoh himself, and Temple Nefertari honored his queen. Creating the lake would submerge (cover with water) these ancient structures from Egypt's past.

A massive moving job began in 1964. The two temples would be cut, and the pieces would be numbered and put back together above the new water level. This was no small task. Each of the seated Abu Simbel statues is as tall as a five-story building. It took four years to cut the 30-ton stones, move them and reassemble the structures. The builders did such a great job that the seams in the stones can't be seen from the outside. Technology saved the day—and the temples.



Name _____



Across

- 2. the northern end of the Suez Canal
- 7. first female pharaoh of ancient Egypt
- 8. lake created by building the Aswan High Dam

Down

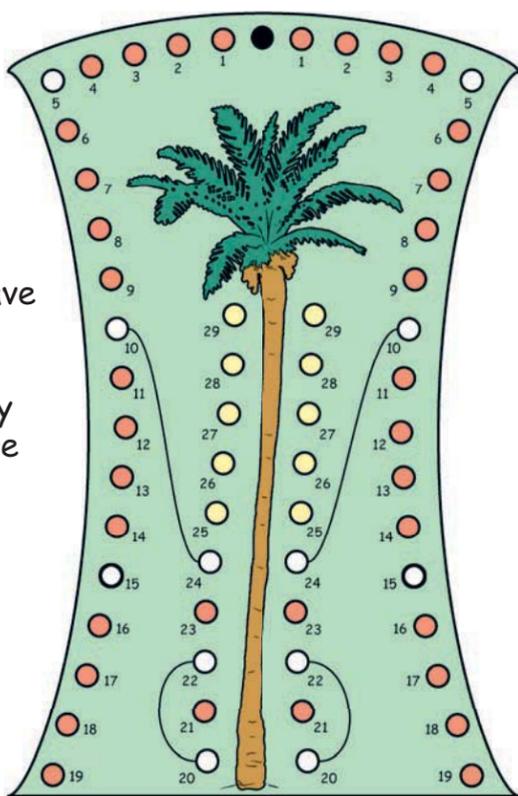
- 1. this once covered the pyramids
- 3. pharaoh with about 100 children
- 4. found King Tut's Tomb
- 5. statue with the body of a lion and the head of a man
- 6. found the Tomb of the Sons of Ramses II
- 9. the southern end of the Suez Canal



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

Hounds and Jackals

Dating back to about 1800 B.C., Hounds and Jackals is a board game that has been found in several Egyptian tombs. It is sometimes called *The Game of 58 Holes*. Although no directions have been found, it appears to be similar to Chutes and Ladders®, a game you may have played when you were younger. Archaeologists think players rolled a die to move five pieces from the holes at the very top of the board to the holes near the top of the palm tree. Players moved pegs shaped like the heads of hounds or jackals along the holes in the board. The first person to get all five of their pieces to the top of the tree was the winner.



Try playing Hounds and Jackals. With a partner, make 10 markers, five hound heads and five jackal heads. Choose who will use which markers and place them at the top of the board. Take turns rolling a die and moving one piece at a time. If you roll a 1 or 6, take an extra turn. Move only on your side of the board. If you get to a space with a connecting line, you must slide your piece to the other end of the line. That's good if you get to slide from #10 to #24, but not so good if you have to slide from #24 to #10. One last rule: No one really knows how this game was played, so feel free to make up your own rules. Just be sure to agree on them before you begin to play.



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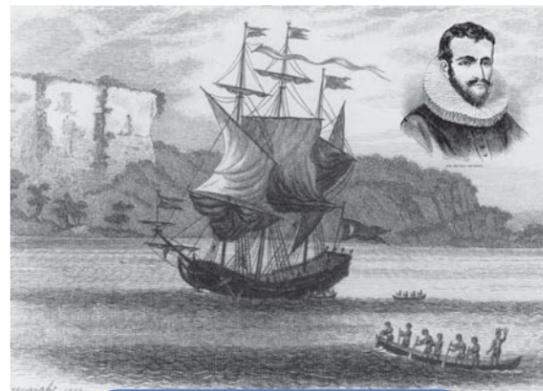
Use any color to circle or highlight three sentences in which the author used punctuation to separate parenthetical or nonrestrictive information. (CC ELA L.6.2)



Clarity of Expression:

Henry Hudson

Henry Hudson was an English sea captain and explorer who started off as a failure. He sailed on two voyages for England to find a northeast water route to the rich spice trade in Asia. But both times the icy northern seas blocked his way. He had to return home defeated.



Henry Hudson and his ship the "Half Moon."

Sounds like the end of his career, right? It wasn't. Hudson next convinced the Dutch East India Company to hire him for exactly the same expedition. In 1609 Hudson and his crew sailed west across the Atlantic. He reached the New World, landing on the island we know today as Manhattan. He sailed inland up a wide river and explored the surrounding valley.

It wasn't a passage to Asia. But Hudson's explorations allowed the Dutch to claim the land and build a fur trading post there in 1614, before the Pilgrims arrived. A Dutch settlement called New Netherland soon followed.

Unfortunately, Hudson's last voyage ended in mutiny. He refused his crew's demands to return home, so the sailors took over the ship, setting Hudson adrift in a small boat. His fate is unknown, but his legacy is Hudson Bay, Hudson River, Hudson Valley and the Dutch settlement that became New York City.

Henry Hudson must have had excellent clarity of expression. He had to be able to explain clearly to the Dutch that his experience and determination made him the best man for the job, even though he was an Englishman and not a Dutchman.

Think about a time that you wanted to convince your parents or teachers to let you try something new. Did you beg and plead? Or did you give them a clear explanation of your reasons? Which way do you think works better?