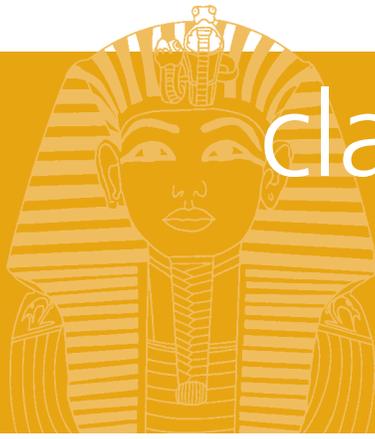




EMORY

MICHAEL C.  
CARLOS  
MUSEUM

carlos.emory.edu



# classroom TUTORIALS

## The History of Pharaonic Egypt



**T**hough Tutankhamun may be the most well known king from ancient Egypt, he was just one of hundreds of pharaohs that ruled the land over its 3,000 year history. *Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs* places the boy king within the great arc of Egyptian history and features magnificent images of many of its kings.

The ancient Egyptians were very aware of their long history (when Tutankhamun was born, the Great Pyramid was already more than 1,000 years old!) They actually kept “king lists” that recorded the names and reign dates of the rulers, though much of the information has been lost over the centuries. Modern Egyptologists are constantly adding to and revising the picture of Egyptian history.

A series of consecutive kings, usually related family members, formed a dynasty. More than 30 dynasties were established over the span of Egyptian history. Modern scholars have grouped these dynasties into different periods that reflect points of fundamental change in Egyptian society. These periods are known as the Pre-Dynastic Period, the Old Kingdom, the First Intermediate Period, the Middle Kingdom, the Second Intermediate Period, the New Kingdom, the Third Intermediate Period, and the Late Period.

The Pre-Dynastic Period refers to the era before Egypt was unified into a single state under one king, which happened around 3000 BC. The first two dynasties are known as the Archaic Period or sometimes the Protodynastic Period.

The Old Kingdom, from the 3rd to the 6th Dynasty, is also known as the “Pyramid Age.” The Great Pyramid and Sphinx at Giza were built during this period. The famous colossal image of the Sphinx features the head of King Khafre on the body of a reclining lion. A magnificent statue of the king in the exhibition depicts Khafre as strong and youthful, seated on a throne inscribed with his royal names. On his head, he wears a royal *nemes* headdress with the uraeus (cobra) at his brow. His facial features are idealized, and he wears the short, royal beard.

Egyptian artistic conventions became standardized in the Old Kingdom. Compare the statue of Khafre to that of Menkaure, another Old Kingdom pharaoh represented in the exhibition. The calcite statue of Menkaure was found in the temple that is attached to his pyramid, the smallest of the three at Giza. He is shown in the exact same posture and dress as Khafre. Only his facial features are different.

TOP  
Khafre

LEFT  
Menkaure

## The History of Pharaonic Egypt



Amenemhat III



Sobekhotep VI

The Old Kingdom came to an end around 2250 BC, and was followed by the First Intermediate Period, a time of decentralized government. Around 2050 BC, the pharaoh Nebhepetre Mentuhotep II reunited Egypt, ushering in a time of renewed prosperity and artistic achievement known as the Middle Kingdom.

In the gray granite depiction of Amenemhat III in the exhibition, it is clear that Egyptian ideas of the ideal king changed from the Old Kingdom, though many aspects remained the same. Physical fitness was apparently still an ideal, as evidenced by the taut and slim torso of Amenemhat III. The king strides forth in a stance that originated in the Old Kingdom. He wears traditional kingly regalia—a short kilt and a *nemes* headdress with a uraeus (cobra) at the brow.

However, the rulers of the later Middle Kingdom are not shown with the youthful expressions seen on the statues Khafre and Menkaure. Heavy upper eyelids, bags under the eyes, furrows and frowns have replaced the idealized appearance of Old Kingdom pharaohs. This may correspond with a change in perception of kings. Middle Kingdom rulers look careworn, as if the responsibility of ruling the country was difficult and stressful.

The 13th Dynasty was made up of many kings, most ruling for only a few years. Sobekhotep VI ruled for only two years, though a statue in the exhibition shows him wearing the white crown of Upper Egypt and a *heb sed* cloak, which is associated with a festival where the king was ritually rejuvenated after many years of rule. Sobekhotep's body is also positioned with his arms crossed, holding a crook and flail. This arm position and royal symbols were associated with the mummiform Osiris, the god of the Underworld.

## classroom TUTORIALS **The History of Pharaonic Egypt**



The Middle Kingdom was followed by another breakdown of centralized government known as the Second Intermediate Period. During this time Egypt was invaded by the Hyksos kings (Dynasties 14–16) in the Delta and the Kerma Nubians to the South. The Egyptian kings at Thebes (Dynasty 17), were eventually able to defeat both their enemies and re-unite the land. That victory marked the beginning of the New Kingdom (Dynasties 18–20), an age of wealth, expansion, and empire as Egypt sought to safeguard its frontiers by expanding its borders. It was also a period of strong and sometimes atypical pharaohs.

The kneeling red granite statue at left from the exhibition depicts Hatshepsut, one of the most interesting royal personalities of the New Kingdom (ca. 1550–1070 BC.) This representation is a fairly standard depiction of a male king, depicted with a bare torso and a false beard. Interestingly, Hatshepsut was a woman! She had herself depicted as a man because the imagery of kingship in Egypt had traditionally been masculine. In order to associate herself with the tradition of kingship, Hatshepsut wanted to present herself as the previous kings of Egypt had presented themselves. In this image, she kneels and offers a *mw* jar (a vessel that held wine) and a *djed* pillar (the symbol for stability) to the gods.

Amenhotep III was also represented in a number of unusual ways during his long rule. In this depiction, made late in his reign, he looks like a young boy, with very large elongated eyes, a chubby face, and full lips. This may have been to show him physically rejuvenated as a result of his jubilee (*heb sed*) festival. This statue is extremely unusual in that it is made from unfired clay. Most statues of pharaohs were carved from stone, which would last for thousands of years. It has been suggested that it may have been created for use in temple rituals. The head of Amenhotep III does not appear to be a fragment of a complete statue. It seems to have been made as just a head, something quite unusual in Egyptian art. Also unusual is the fact that the traditional “blue” crown (*kheperesh*) that Amenhotep III wears is painted red!



TOP  
Hatshepsut  
LEFT  
Amenhotep III

TOP  
AkhenatenBELOW  
Ramesses II

This colossal statue in the exhibition depicts the pharaoh Akhenaten. Born Amenthotep IV, he changed his name to Akhenaten as part of his radical overthrow of the entire religious system of Egypt. Instead of worshipping the traditional pantheon of Egyptian gods and goddesses, Akhenaten instituted the worship of one god, the Aten. To reflect the change in religion, Akhenaten also changed the way that the royal family was depicted. Look closely at the statue. How is it different from the images we have seen so far? Notice the narrow, almond shaped eyes, the long face, and pronounced cheekbones. This radical religious and artistic change lasted only one generation. The traditional religion was reinstated during the reign of Akhenaten's son, Tutankhamun.

In the scope of Egyptian history, Tutankhamun was a minor king who only ruled for ten years. Because of his association with Akhenaten, he was even left off of the king lists written by the Egyptians to preserve their own history.

The young King Tutankhamun died at 19, leaving no royal children to succeed him. One of his advisors, an official named Ay assumed the throne, but ruled for only four years. His reign was followed by that of another official, the general Horemheb. Horemheb took a lot of credit for Tutankhamun's return to the traditional religion. He also tried to change history by claiming that he was the son of Amenhotep III in an attempt to erase the memory of Akhenaten entirely!

Horemheb appointed his general Paramesu to the throne. Once pharaoh, Paramesu took the name Ramesses I, establishing the 19th or Ramesside Dynasty. Its most important ruler was Ramesses II or "Ramesses the Great" as he is known. In this statue from the exhibition, Ramesses II is shown wearing an elaborate pleated garment, braided wig with a fillet, and a broad collar. These are not attributes that a modern viewer would associate with a warrior king though Ramesses II fought many battles to secure and expand Egypt's borders.





Shabaqa

After the New Kingdom, Egypt underwent another era of political division known as the Third Intermediate Period (Dynasties 21–25). After 300 years of political chaos, Egypt was invaded by the Assyrians, but then liberated by a group of Nubian kings (25th Dynasty) who came from the region south of Egypt now known as the Sudan. Under the command of the Nubian pharaoh Piankhy, many traditional Egyptian cultural and artistic practices were re-introduced. In the statue of the Nubian pharaoh Shabaqa in the exhibition, the king is represented in a typically Egyptian fashion, though some traits are distinctly Nubian such as double uraeus on the king's brow, representing his rule over both Egypt and Nubia.

This renaissance of Egyptian art and religion under Nubian pharaohs was short lived, however, and the Assyrians returned to Egypt and forced the kings of the 25th Dynasty to return south. But the the Assyrians soon lost control of Egypt to a group of princes from the town of Sais in the Delta who established the 26th Dynasty. This begins what is called the Late Period or Late Dynastic Period, which sees a long struggle between Egyptian rulers and the successors of the Assyrians, the Persian Empire. The Persians were defeated by the Greeks, led by Alexander the Great.

The next era in Egypt's history is known as the Greco-Roman Period, which begins with Alexander's conquest and ends with the defeat of the Ptolemaic queen Cleopatra VII, when Egypt becomes incorporated into the Roman Empire.

## Chronology of Egyptian History

This chronology follows that found in William J. Murnane, "The History of Ancient Egypt," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, edited by Jack M. Sasson et al. (New York, 1995), 712–14.

### PREDYNASTIC PERIOD (UPPER EGYPT)

Badarian 4800–4200 BC  
Naqada I (Amratian) 4200–3700 BC  
Naqada II (Gerzean) 3700–3250 BC  
Naqada III (Late Gerzean–Dynasty 0)  
3250–3100 BC

### ARCHAIC PERIOD

Dynasty 1 3100–2907 BC  
Dynasty 2 2907–2755 BC  
Dynasty 3 2755–2625 BC  
Djoser (Netjerikhet) 2687–2667 BC

### OLD KINGDOM

2625–2130 BC  
Dynasty 4 2625–2500 BC  
Sneferu 2625–2585 BC  
Khufu (Cheops) 2585–2560 BC  
Khafre (Chephren) 2555–2532 BC  
Menkaure (Mycerinus) 2532–2510 BC  
Dynasty 5 2500–2350 BC  
Unas 2371–2350 BC  
Dynasty 6 2350–2170 BC  
Pepy I 2338–2298 BC  
Pepy II 2288–2224/2194 BC  
Dynasties 7/8 2170–2130 BC

### FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD 2130–1980 BC

Dynasties 9/10 (Herakleopolitan)  
2130–1980 BC  
Dynasty 11 (Theban) 2081–1938 BC

### MIDDLE KINGDOM 1980–1630 BC

Dynasty 12 2008–1957 BC  
Nebhepetre Montuhotep II  
2008–1957 BC  
Sankhkare Montuhotep III  
1957–1945 BC  
Nebtawyre Montuhotep IV  
1945–1938 BC  
Dynasty 12 1938–1759 BC  
Amenemhet I 1938–1909 BC  
Sesostris I 1919–1875 BC  
Amenemhet II 1876–1842 BC  
Sesostris II 1844–1837 BC  
Sesostris III 1836–1818 BC  
Amenemhet III 1818–1772 BC  
Dynasty 13 1759–after 1630 BC  
Dynasty 14 (contemporaneous with later Dynasty 13)

## SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

*1630-1539/23 BC*Dynasty 15 (Hyksos) *1630-1523 BC*Dynasty 16 (contemporaneous with  
D. 15) *1630-1523 BC*Dynasty 17 (Theban) *1630-1539 BC*  
Seqenenre Tao *?-1543? BC*Kamose *1543?-1539 BC*

## NEW KINGDOM

*1539-1075 BC*Dynasty 18 *1539-1292 BC*Hatshepsut *1478/72-1458 BC*Thutmose III *1479-1425 BC*Amenhotep II *1426-1400 BC*Thutmose IV *1400-1390 BC*Amenhotep III *1390-1353 BC*

Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten)

*1353-1336 BC*Tutankhamen *1332-1322 BC*Dynasty 19 (Ramesside) *1292-1190 BC*Ramesses I *1292-1290 BC*Seti I *1290-1279 BC*Ramesses II *1279-1213 BC*Dynasty 20 (Ramesside) *1190-1075 BC*

## THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

*1075-656 BC*Dynasty 21 (Tanite) *1075-945 BC*Dynasty 22 (Bubastite) *945-712 BC*Shoshenq I *945-924 BC*Osorkon II *874-835/30 BC*Dynasty 23 *838-712 BC*Dynasty 24 (Saite) *727-712 BC*Tefnakht *727-719 BC*Dynasty 25 (in Egypt) *760-656 BC*Kashta *760-747 BC*Piye *747-716 BC*Shabaka *716-702 BC*Shebitku *702-690 BC*Taharqa *690-664 BC*Tantamani *664-656 BC*

Dynasty 25 (continuing in Nubia)

*653-ca. 300 BC*Senkamanisken *643-623 BC*Anlamani *623-593 BC*Aspelta *593-568 BC*

## LATE PERIOD

*664-332 BC*Dynasty 26 (Saite) *664-525 BC*Psamtek I *664-610 BC*Psamtek II *595-589 BC*Apries *589-570 BC*Amasis *570-526 BC*

Dynasty 27 (First Persian Period)

*525-404 BC*Cambyses *525-522 BC*Darius I *521-486 BC*Xerxes I *485-465 BC*Dynasty 28 *404-399 BC*Dynasty 29 (Mendes) *399-380 BC*Dynasty 30 (Sebennytos) *381-343 BC*Nectanebo I *381-362 BC*

Nectanebo II (last native king)

*362-343 BC*

Persian Reconquest

*343-332 BC*

## GRAECO-ROMAN PERIOD

*332 BC-AD 642*Macedonian Dynasty *332-305 BC*Alexander *332-323 BC*Philip III Arrhidaeus *323-305 BC*Ptolemaic Dynasty *305-30 BC*Ptolemy I Soter *305-282 BC*Cleopatra VII Philopator *51-30 BC*

Roman, later Byzantine, Empire

*30 BC-AD 642*Augustus *30 BC-AD 14 BC*Tiberius *AD 14-37*Claudius *AD 41-54*Domitian *AD 81-96*Trajan *AD 98-117*Decius *AD 249-251*

## COPTIC PERIOD

*Late 2nd century AD-AD 642*

## ARAB CONQUEST

*AD 642*