Ancient Egypt

(Languages: Egyptian written in hieroglyphics and Hieratic script)
**Early Dynastic Period** 3100–2686 BCE

- 1st & 2nd Dynasty
- **Narmer aka Menes** unites Upper & Lower Egypt
- Hieroglyphic script developed

Pharaoh Djet was the first to wear the combined crown of Upper and Lower Egypt, the “Pschent” (pronounced Pskent).
Timeline of Egyptian History

**Old Kingdom** 2686–2181 BCE

- 3rd – 6th Dynasty
- First “Step Pyramid” (mastaba) built at Saqqara for Pharaoh **Djoser** (aka Zoser)

![Left: King Djoser (Zoser), Right: Step pyramid at Saqqara](image1)

- Giza Pyramids (Khufu’s pyramid – largest for Pharaoh **Khufu** aka **Cheops**, Khafra’s pyramid, Menkaura’s pyramid – smallest)

![Giza necropolis from the ground and the air. Giza is in Lower Egypt, mn the outskirts of present-day Cairo (the modern capital of Egypt.)](image2)

- The Great Sphinx built (body of a lion, head of a human)
Timeline of Egyptian History

1st Intermediate Period 2181–2055 BCE
• 7th – 11th Dynasty
• Period of instability with various kings
• Upper & Lower Egypt have different rulers

Middle Kingdom 2055–1650 BCE
• 12th – 14th Dynasty
• Temple of Karnak commences construction
• Egyptians control Nubia

2nd Intermediate Period 1650–1550 BCE
• 15th – 17th Dynasty
• The Hyksos come from the Levant to occupy and rule Lower Egypt
• Hyksos bring new technology such as the chariot to Egypt

New Kingdom 1550–1069 BCE (Late Egyptian language)
• 18th – 20th Dynasty
• Pharaoh Ahmose overthrows the Hyksos, drives them out of Egypt, and reunites Upper & Lower Egypt
• Pharaoh Hatshepsut, a female, declares herself pharaoh, increases trade routes, and builds many statues and monuments. Many of these were destroyed after her death by people who didn’t think a woman should be pharaoh.
• Pharaoh Akhenaten changed the Egyptian religion to worship one primary god, Aten, a sun god, instead of Amun and the many gods of the Egyptian pantheon. His wife was the famous Queen Nefertiti. Because many people disagreed with the way he changed the religion and art (especially the priest class) when Akhenaten died, many of his monuments were destroyed and his name was removed from wall reliefs and statues.
• Tutankhamun (“King Tut”), the boy pharaoh, only ruled Egypt 9 years before he died, but before he did he restored Egypt’s old oantheistic religion with Amun at its head. In 1922, English archaeologist Howard Carter found King Tut’s tomb in he Valley of the Kings. This was an important discovery because this was the first time a tomb was found that had not already been emptied by robbers.
• Pharaoh Ramesses II, a great military leader, had many statues and monuments to himself erected all over Egypt
Timeline of Egyptian History

3rd Intermediate Period 1069–664 BCE
• 21st – 25th Dynasty
• Upper & Lower Egypt split
• Nubian King Piy conquers Egypt and begins the 25th Dynasty

Classical Antiquity
(Languages: Demotic Egyptian written in Demotic script. Greek or Coptic script; Koine Greek written in Greek; Coptic Egyptian)

Late Period 664–332 BCE
• 26th to 30th (final) Dynasty
• Assyrians from Mesopotamia conquered Egypt
• Persians (Achaemenids) cruelly conquer Egypt, disrespect the culture 525–332 BCE

Ptolemaic Egypt 332–30 BCE
• Alexander the Great (Greek, from Macedon) conquers Egypt, respects the culture – 332 BCE
• Ptolemy I, a Greek, becomes pharaoh, starts the Ptolemaic Dynasty which respects native Egyptian culture and whose pharaohs copy it.
• The Rosetta Stone, a large stele, is carved in Hieroglyphics, Demotic, and Classical Greek. In 1799 it was found by one of Napoleon’s French soldiers. In 1822 it was translated by the French linguist Jean-François Champollion. This was the first time modern Europeans were able to read hieroglyphic script.
• The city of Alexandria is a great multi-cultural center of learning and commerce. The great library of Alexandria was built. It was later destroyed by Romans, Christians and Muslims.
• Battle of Actium: In 31 BCE the Romans went to war against the Egyptians. The Roman officer Mark Antony and the Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII fought together against Rome. Their love affair is a famous story and William Shakespeare wrote a play about it called, “Antony and Cleopatra”. They lost the battle and Egypt became part of the Roman empire. Cleopatra died a year later.

Roman & Byzantine Egypt 30 BCE–641 CE/AD
• Last use of hieroglyphics & demotic script at the end
• 33AD – Christianity brought to Egypt
• Coptic script developed
• By 200 AD Alexandria was a center of Egyptian Christianity
Middle Ages

(Languages: Arabic, Coptic Egyptian written in Coptic script)

Arab Egypt 641–969 AD/CE

• 642 AD Egypt conquered by Arabs and converted to Islam
• 969 – City of Cairo founded - Fatimid Egypt 969–1171
• Ayyubid Egypt 1171–1250
• Mamluk Egypt 1250–1517: Egypt ruled by former slaves who built Cairo into a major city and the center of the Islamic empire.

Early Modern

(Language: Egyptian Arabic)

• Ottoman Egypt 1517–1867 – Egypt occupied by Mongols
• French occupation 1798–1801 (Napoleon Bonaparte, Rosetta Stone found)
• Egypt under Muhammad Ali 1805–1882 - Independent Egypt (Suez Canal built)
• Khedivate of Egypt 1867–1914

Modern Egypt

(Language: Egyptian Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic)

• British occupation 1882–1953 (Egyptologists start formal excavations in Egypt)
• Sultanate of Egypt 1914–1922
• Kingdom of Egypt 1922–1953
• Republic 1953–present (Aswan Dam built in 1960)
• Arab Spring revolutions – 2011 - 2012