

#### 4-6 **Culture**

Tic Tac Toe and Other Three in a Row Games from Ancient Egypt - Claudia Zaslavsky  
Civilization Projects: Ancient Egypt - Susan Purdy and Cass R. Sandak (projects and crafts) B  
Make History: Ancient Egypt - Nancy Fister (projects and crafts) G  
Make it Work! Ancient Egypt - Andrew Haslam (projects and crafts) G

#### 7-9 **Overview of the era**

Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs - Time-Life Books (Lost Civilization series)  
Penguin Atlas of Ancient History - Colin McEvedy (evolutionary origins: Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome)  
Pharaohs of Egypt - Jacquetta H. Hawkes (Horizon Caravel series)  
A Short History of Ancient Egypt - T.G.H. James (beautifully illustrated overview, old chronology) VP

##### **Specific events**

Into the Mummy's Tomb - Nicholas Reeves (Time Quest book: Howard Carter and King Tut) G  
Riddle of the Rosetta Stone - James Cross Giblin (how hieroglyphics were deciphered) G  
The River Nile - Bruce Brander (National Geographic Society special publications)  
Tales Mummies Tell - Patricia Lauber (archaeology: Egyptian mummies and mummies of other cultures)

##### **Historical fiction**

Lost Queen of Egypt - Lucile Morrison (wife of Tutankhamen, complex, fascinating story) A  
Mara, Daughter of the Nile - Eloise Jarvis McGraw (exciting tale; picture of times and culture) G  
Motel of the Mysteries - David Macaulay (satire of how much of archaeology is a guessing game) G

##### **Literature**

Tales of Ancient Egypt - Roger Lancelyn Green (mythology by a master story-teller) G

##### **Culture**

Ancient Egypt: Discovering Its Splendors - Butzer and Abercrombie, National Geographic Society  
Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - Peter Clayton (greatest achievements of the Near East, Egypt, & Greece)

#### 10-12 **Overview of the era**

Atlas of Ancient Egypt - John Baines (Facts on File series)  
Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times - Donald B. Redford  
History of Ancient Egypt - Dr. Samuel Birch  
History of Egypt - Sir William Flinders Petrie (renowned British scholar, careful and accurate)  
History of Egypt From the Earliest Times to the Persian Conquest - James Breasted  
Penguin Atlas of Ancient History - Colin McEvedy (evolutionary origins: Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome)

##### **Specific events**

Pharaohs and Kings: a Biblical Quest - David Rohl (revised dating of Egypt) G

##### **Historical fiction**

Moses - Sholem Asch (novelized life of Moses) A  
The King's Treasure House - Wilhelm Walloth (Israelites; set in reign of Rameses II, recommended) HN  
Uarda - Georg Ebers, translator (set during the reign of Pharaoh Rameses II, recommended) HN  
The Pharaoh and the Priest - A. Glovatski, translator (11th century BC, power struggle, state and priesthood) HN  
An Egyptian Princess - Georg Ebers, translator (story of Amasis and Cambyses, 6th century BC, recommended) HN

##### **Culture**

Everyday Life in Ancient Egypt - John Eubank Manchip (Everyman Library series)

## **Timeline of Ancient Egypt**

Many dates before 600 BC are approximate and in dispute. This chronology is based on a revised Egyptian "New Chronology" and agrees with biblical chronology and the historic, geologic, and archaeological record.

2250 BC	The Tower of Babel dispersion, the people scattered, and the nations founded Mizraim (the son of Ham, a collective name) and his descendants settle Egypt Pharaoh Menes (Narmer) unifies Upper and Lower Egypt Menes founds the first dynasty of the Old Kingdom and the city of Memphis Old Kingdom: the 1st through 6th dynasties Pharaoh Djoser builds the step pyramid in the 3rd dynasty Pharaoh Cheops (Khufu) builds the Great Pyramid; greatest pharaoh of the 4th dynasty
1900 BC	Abram and Sarai sojourn in Egypt

1800 BC	First Intermediate Period (weak central government and civil war): the 7th-11th dynasties Middle Kingdom: the 11th through 13th dynasties Amenemhet I unites Egypt under Theban rulers and founds the 12th dynasty
1700 BC	Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt
1670 BC	Joseph becomes Vizier of Egypt; famine in Egypt; Israelites move to Egypt
1600-1200 BC	Egypt is the World Power
1530 BC	Moses born in Egypt; hidden by his mother; found and raised by a princess of Egypt
1450 BC	The ten plagues of Moses end the 13th dynasty and weaken Egypt Exodus of Israel from Egypt under Moses; God gives the Ten Commandments Second Intermediate Period: 14th through 17th dynasties
1350 BC	Hyksos invasion of the Nile delta; Shepherd King dynasties (15th through 16th dynasties) 17th dynasty: Theban (native) princes drive out the Hyksos invaders New Kingdom: the 18th through 20th dynasties
1200 BC	Ahmosé founds the 18th dynasty and the New Kingdom Thutmose III extends the Egyptian empire to Nubia and the Near East Hatshepsut, the queen pharaoh, reigns Ankhenaten (Amonhotep IV) worships one god and founds Akhetaten (El-Amarna) Tutankhamon, the son of Ankhenaten, reigns
900 BC	Rameses II (Pharaoh Shishak of the Bible) battles the Hittites at Kadesh Third Intermediate Period: 21st - 24th dynasties; kings rule the delta; priests rule Upper Egypt
700 BC	Shoshenq I is the strongest pharaoh of the period Late Period: 25th - 30th dynasties; under foreign dominion: Nubia, then Assyria, then Persia
650 BC	Assyria under Assurbanipal conquers Egypt Psammetichus I drives out the last Assyrian rulers
612 BC	Babylon overthrows Assyrian rule and destroys Nineveh with the help of Media and Egypt
569 BC	Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invades Egypt; his empire extends from the Tigris to the Nile
539 BC	Cyrus of the Medes and Persians conquers Asia Minor (Lydia), Babylon, and part of Egypt



## *Difficulties in Egyptian Chronology*

"The greatest obstacle to the establishment of a regular Egyptian chronology is the circumstance that the Egyptians themselves never had any chronology at all," reports Mr. M. Mariette, the former Director of the Service of Conservation of the Antiquities of Egypt, the British Museum. The Egyptians did not enter into computations of time; they were without the chronological idea, save in a few instances. Chronology is, upon the monuments, almost non-existent. The Egyptians had no era from which to date events. They did not distinguish between the years of a sole reign and those of joint reigns of father and son. They never gave the duration of a dynasty. They did not designate contemporary dynasties. Hence the uncertainty of dates in Egyptian history. George Rawlinson writes, "This is the unanimous confession of the Egyptologists."

Various Egyptologists date the beginning of the reign of Pharaoh Menes, unifier of Upper and Lower Egypt, from 5004 BC to 2250 BC. Manetho, the Egyptian historian who wrote in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus (283 - 247 BC), divided Egyptian history into three periods: the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, to which he assigned respectively eleven, six, and fourteen dynasties—thirty-one in all. To each dynasty he assigned its list of kings with regnal years. The Egyptologists but one—M. Mariette—agree that these dynasties were, to a greater or less extent, contemporary, that is, the reigns were concurrent with one another; and the differences in the dates listed, for example, for the ascension of Pharaoh Menes, show the diversity of views as to the extent to which contemporary dynasties are admitted.

"Official lists of the pharaohs, from Menes to Rameses II, are found inscribed in the walls of temples at Abydos and Karnak, in the tombs of Gourneh and Sakara, in the Turin papyrus, which contains a list of all the kings before the 20th dynasty, and in unnumbered, isolated, contemporary inscriptions," (Dr. Samuel Birch, *History of Ancient Egypt*).

Thebes, the seat of royal power in the Old and Middle Kingdoms, probably covered a circular plain, about ten miles in diameter, bordered on either side by limestone mountains, and intersected by the Nile. The monumental or sacred part of the city was quadrangular in form, measuring about two by four miles. In the northeast corner of this quadrangle was Karnak; southeast, Luxor; northwest, Kurneh; and southwest, Medinet-Abou; all noted sites of world-renowned temples. These places were connected by intersecting avenues of sphinxes, colossal statues, obelisks, etc.