

Classical African Civilizations: Nile Valley Civilizations

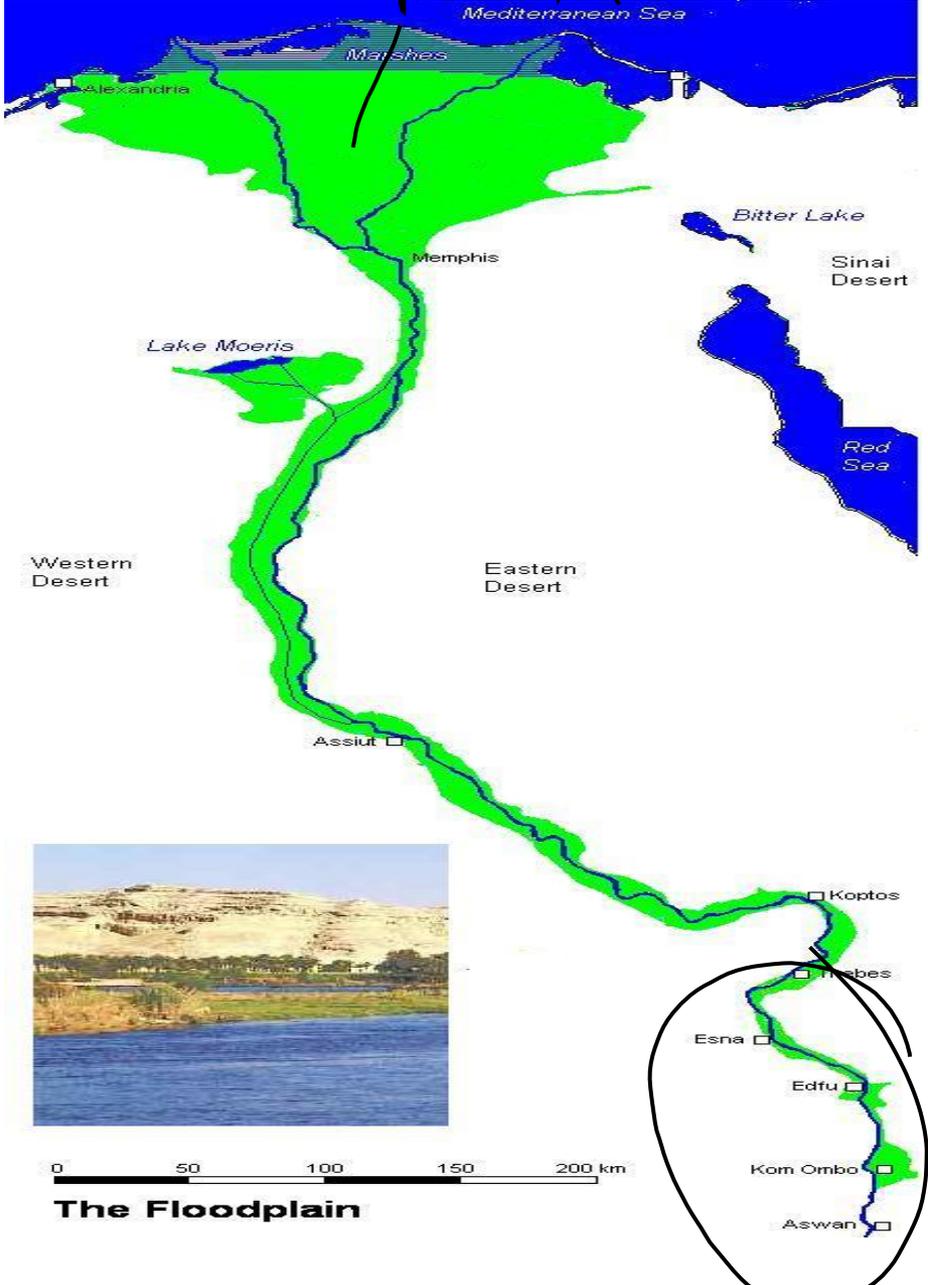
In a global African sense, and especially for Africans in the Diaspora, often disconnected from constant and continuous contact with continental values, customs and traditions, Kemet represents the majestic foundation from which spring many classical African concepts. Kemet is in relationship to the African continent as Greece is to Europe and China is to Asia. Africa has its Kemet and Nubia.

-Molefi Asante

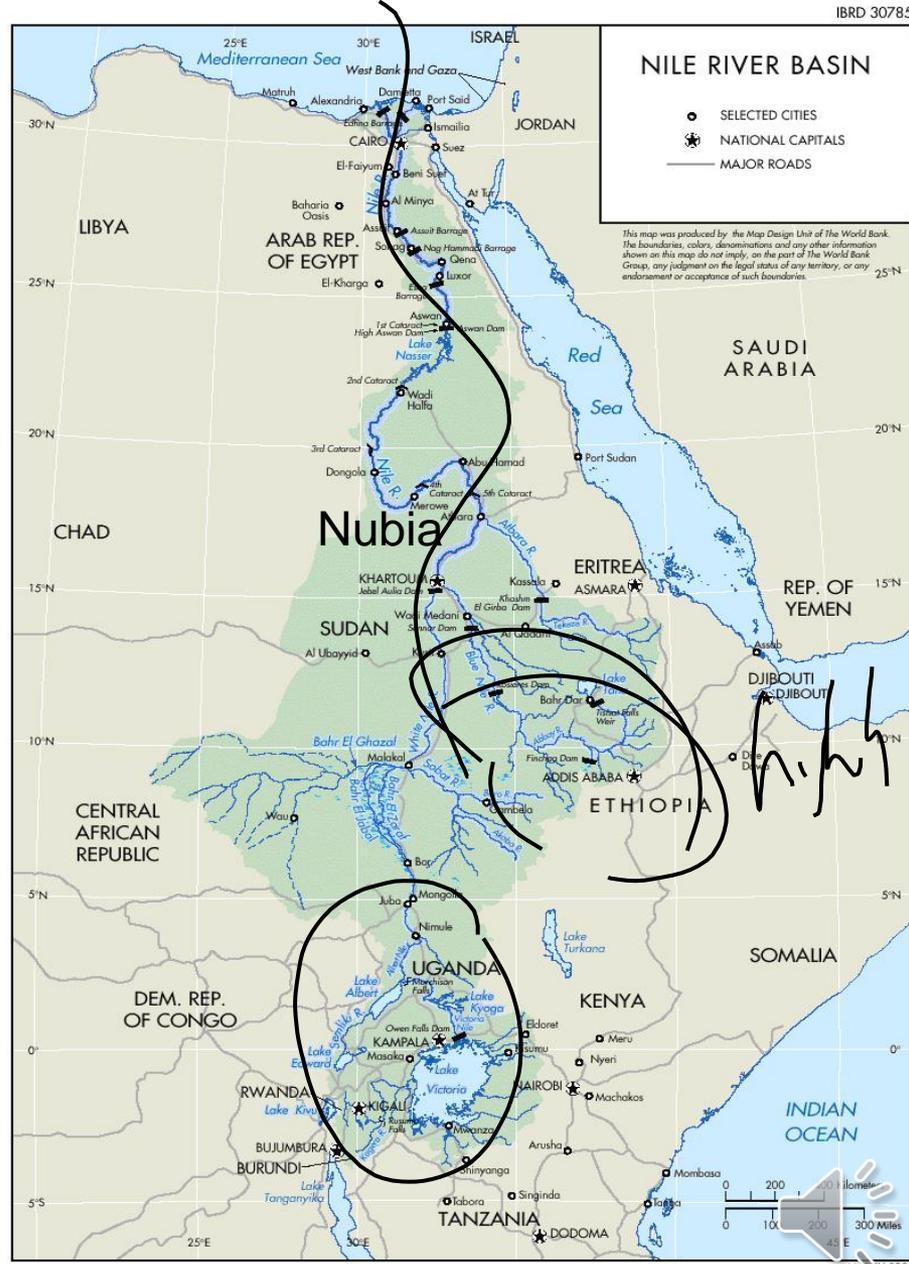


Nile River

Delta



The Floodplain



IBRD 30785

NILE RIVER BASIN

- SELECTED CITIES
- ★ NATIONAL CAPITALS
- MAJOR ROADS

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Nubia

SAUDI ARABIA

night



Who Am I?

These are the words of Ra:
“I am KhepeRa in the morning, Ra at noon, and
Tmu (Ra Atum) in the evening.”
- *The Story of Ra & Oset (Isis)*



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MNDW = words
NTR = divine

Ancient Kemet/ Tawi/ Ta Meri

The Black Land/Two Lands/ Beloved Lands

* Nile Valley Civilizations

* Kemet term for Black land

12,000

* 5,000 B.C.E to 332 B.C.E

* Aigyptos = Egypt

* Thirty Dynasties (Families)

* 4,000 mile Nile waterway

* Twenty-two sepat in Upper

* Twenty-sepat in Lower

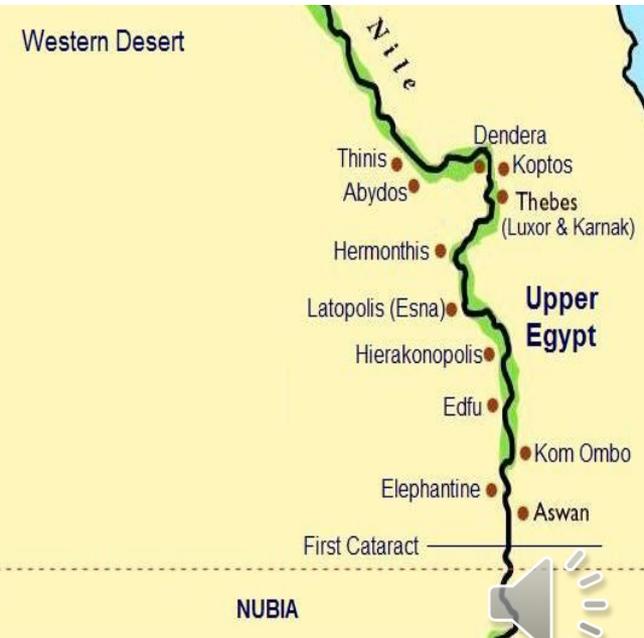
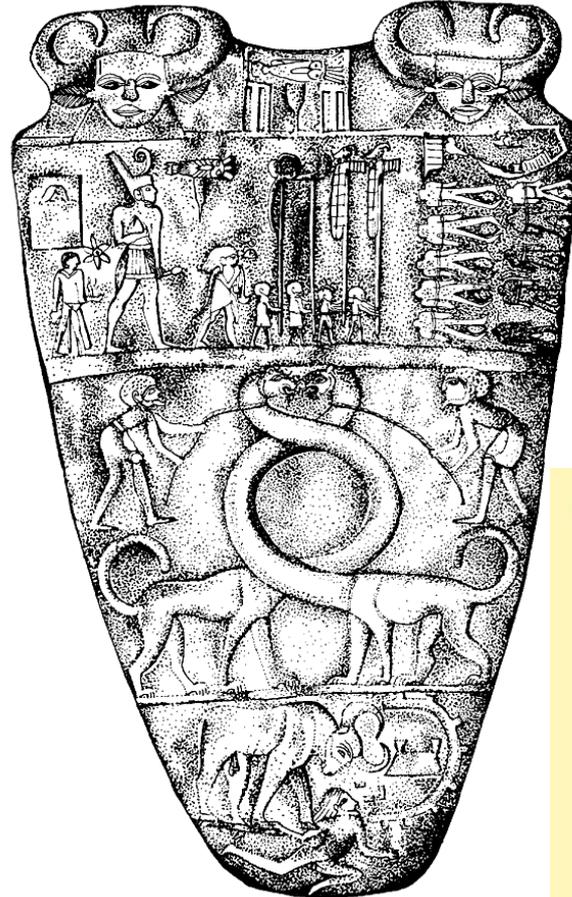
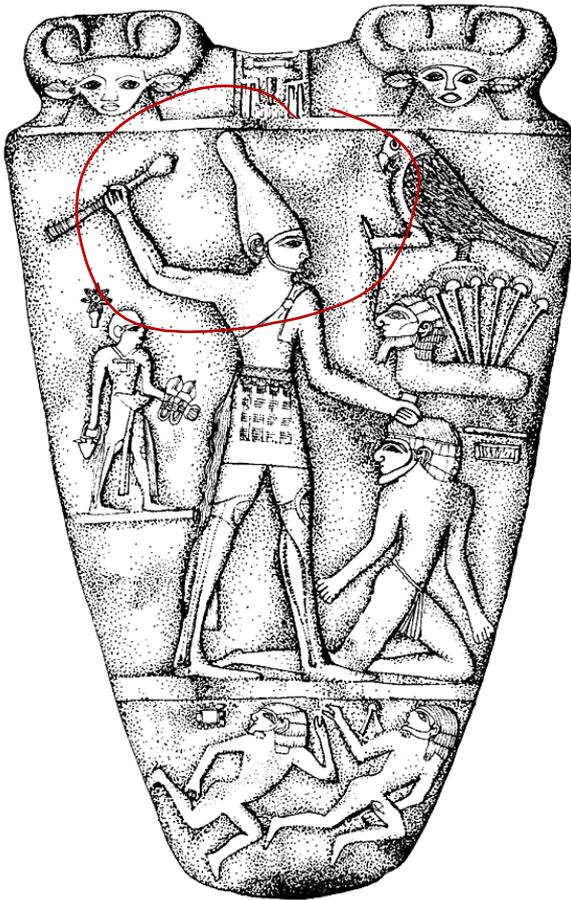


Menes
Narmer

Earliest Golden Age (3150 B.C.E- 2700 B.C.E)

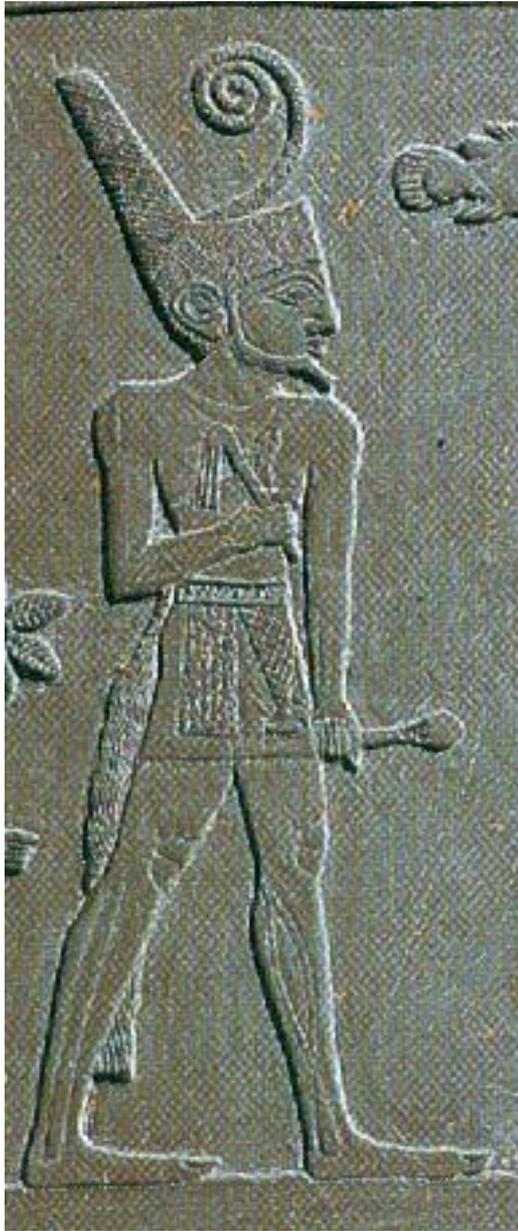
Narmer Palette

An Enduring African Worldview



- Found in 1890s at temple of Horus in Nekhen (Hierakonopolis)
- Location of Nekhen home of Mena
- Symbolizes unification of Upper and Lower Egypt circa 3200 B.C.E.
- Established first Dynasty in This (Thinite area)





Sepats

- Forty two Sepats
 - City states that become unified during the course of Thirty Dynasties
 - Nomarch (political head governs each area and related to a particular neteru)

Lower

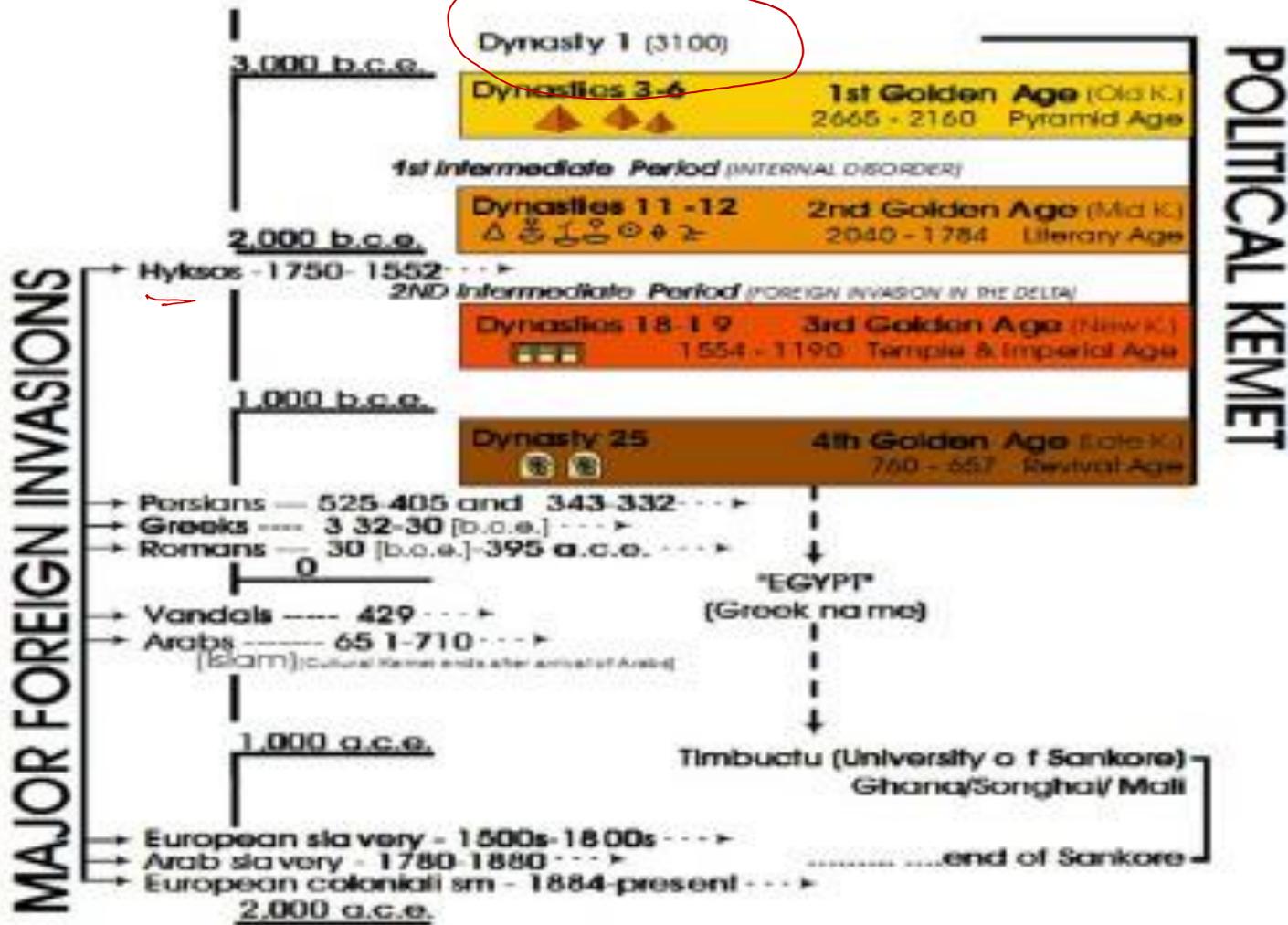
Upper



KEMETIC CHRONOLOGY: A SUMMARY

Related to Other Important African Events
 Also G. Hillard et al 1988

(This was adapted from the original chart created by Dr. Hillard)



Imhotep (ca. 2600 B.C.E)

Architect of first pyramid

- *Sakkara Step Pyramid
- *First to create with all Stone

Physician

- *Djoser's Healer
- *National Healer

Philosopher



Step Pyramid at Sakkara



Old Kingdom 4th Dynasty

Nswt Khufu (c. 2575–c. 2465 BCE) ✂

*Second Nswt of 4th Dynasty

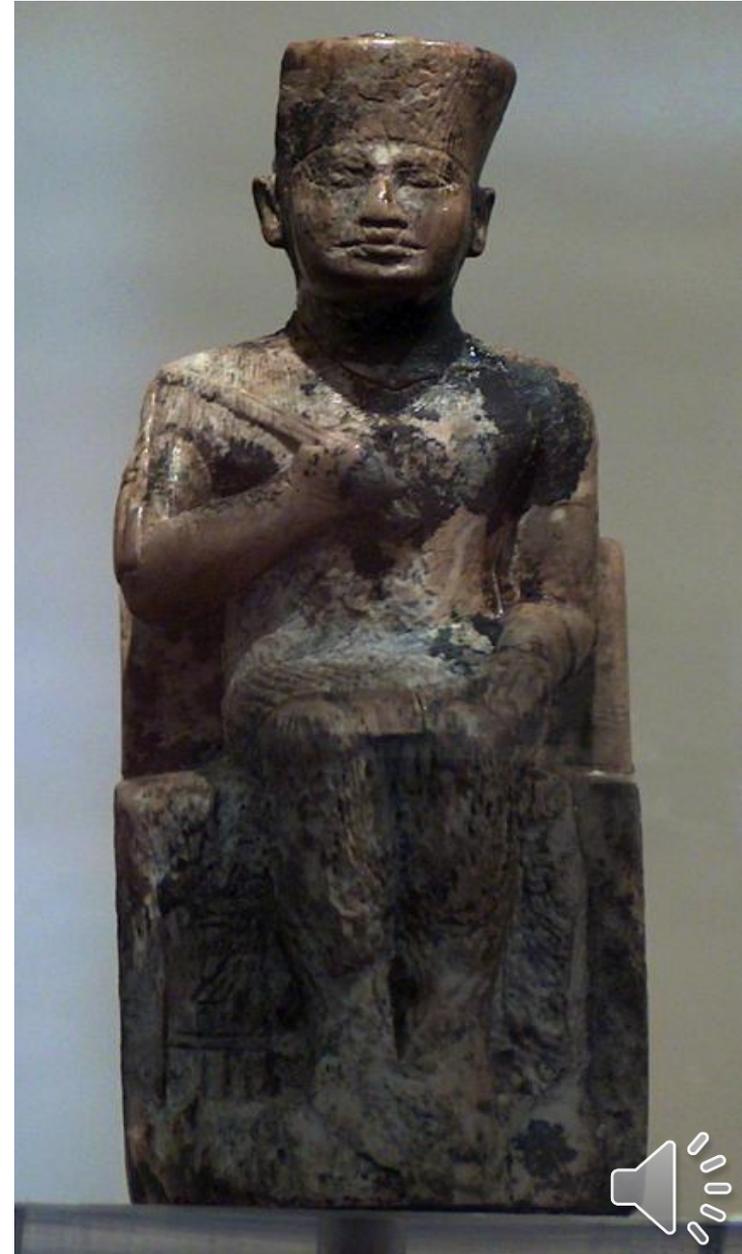
*Commissioned Great Pyramid at
Giza

Dimensions of Pyramid

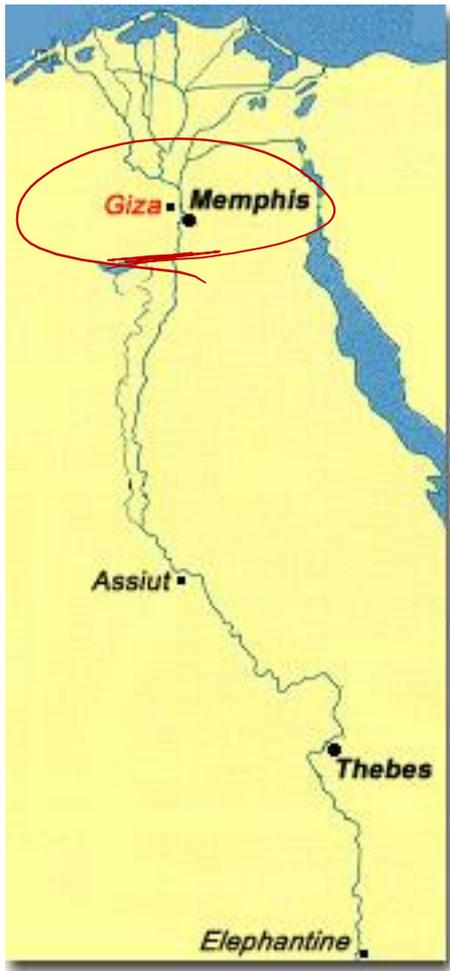
*481 feet (146 m)

*2 ½ tons a peice

*height of a modern, 30-story office
building

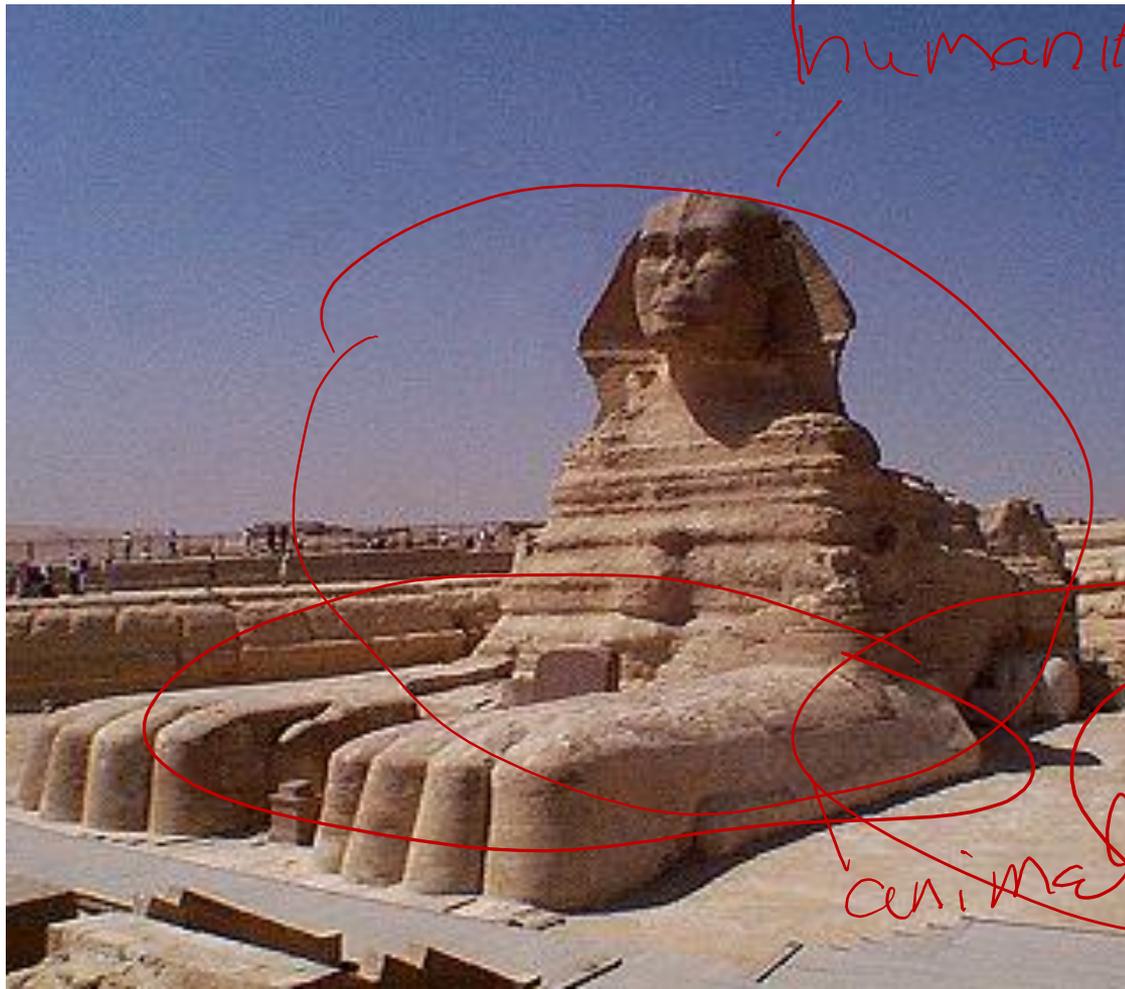


Great Pyramid



Old Kingdom 4th Dynasty

- Nswt Khafra (c. 2575–c. 2465 BCE)
 - Fourth Nswt and second son of Khufu
 - Commissions Smaller pyramid at Giza
 - Sphinx



ego
lower nature
animal



ontology
(nature)

Cosmology

Cosmos = cosmogony
(narrative)

the study to understand of the origin & structure of existence

• Definition of cosmology

energy

entry

– First, [cosmology] provides an ordered and unified (synthetical) **view of who and what is God**, [human beings] and the forces that administrate and sustain the world.

of existence

personalized energy source of existence

unpacking of the universe in the human experience

– Second, cosmology (like all blueprints and maps) provides a **framework** that guides thinking and action through the vast array of seemingly unrelated life situations to the successful identification and attainment of the **goal of living**. It achieves this by showing **how all events in a person's life** are integrally **related to his/her destiny**. Through it is revealed the spiritual value of each and every event in a person's life. (Amen, 1990: 47)

Zodiac similarities



The Four Major Cosmologies: Expressions of an African Worldview

• Anu (On, Heliopolis)

– Predynastic and Old Kingdom

- Atem/Atum (formlessness of being) and Heru symbolisms of creation of consciousness

≠ written = oral

Ra = city of the sun

perceiving reality

• Khum (Hermopolis)

– Middle Kingdom (2050--)

- Hehu (uncreated eternal energy) and Kekui (resting, uncreated)
- Compliments in existence

*binary
compliment*

• Thebes

– New Kingdom (1580)

- Amen- Ra (formless-life force), Ptah (all) Hu Sia (utterance creating existence)
 - Ptah is attribute of supreme existence

Maatana Kerenka

• Men Nefer (Memphis/from Napata)

familiar

- 25th Dynasty (712-698)
- Hu Sia (utterance creating existence) Ptah(al) is supreme existence, created Atum/Atem



Origin of existence among

the Anun 12,000 BCE

Two Realms of Beings oral tradition

1. Subjective Realm = full of potential
= nothing

African
Jungles

b. = energy/matter (Mu)
(Ra) →

Neter = consciousness + Will = Oneness of Beings (existence)

Nor Ra

2. Objective Realm = material

= energy
- spirit
- World = things
- human ~~experience~~ → object



