



INSIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID

by Carol Kim

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Words in **bold** are in the glossary.

UNEXPECTED CONNECTION

In March 2013, Pierre Tallet was working near the Red Sea in Egypt. The Egyptologist took a moment to look at his phone. He noticed several missed calls. Could there have been an accident?

Tallet had been working at Wadi al-Jarf, the world's oldest known harbor. The Great Pyramid of Giza was around 150 miles (241 kilometers) away. It was the last thing on Tallet's mind.

All that was about to change.

Tallet's team had found some **papyrus**. Dating back 4,600 years, the Red Sea Scrolls were the oldest papers in the world.

Even more incredible, the documents contained a firsthand account from a man named Merer. He was there when the Great Pyramid of Giza was built. His words could reveal new secrets of the pyramids. The world would have a new understanding of how these huge structures had been built.



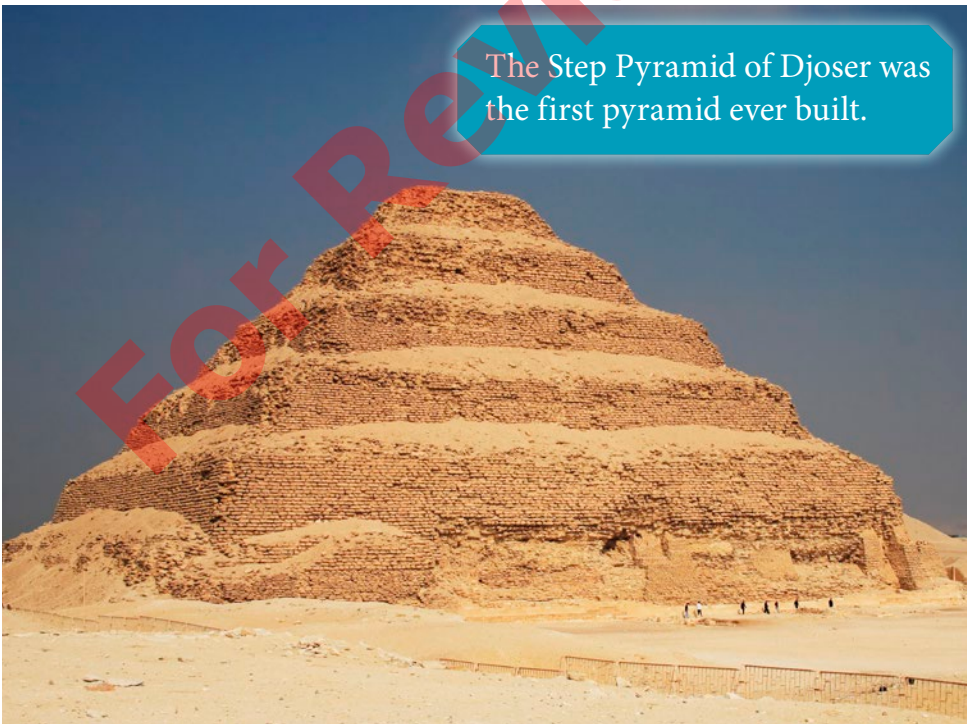
Pierre Tallet at an excavation site in 2015



AN ANCIENT AND TIMELESS CIVILIZATION

Ancient Egypt existed thousands of years ago in the northeastern part of Africa. Its people brought mummies, pyramids, and **pharaohs** into the world. This period lasted more than 3,000 years.

The Step Pyramid of Djoser was the first pyramid ever built.

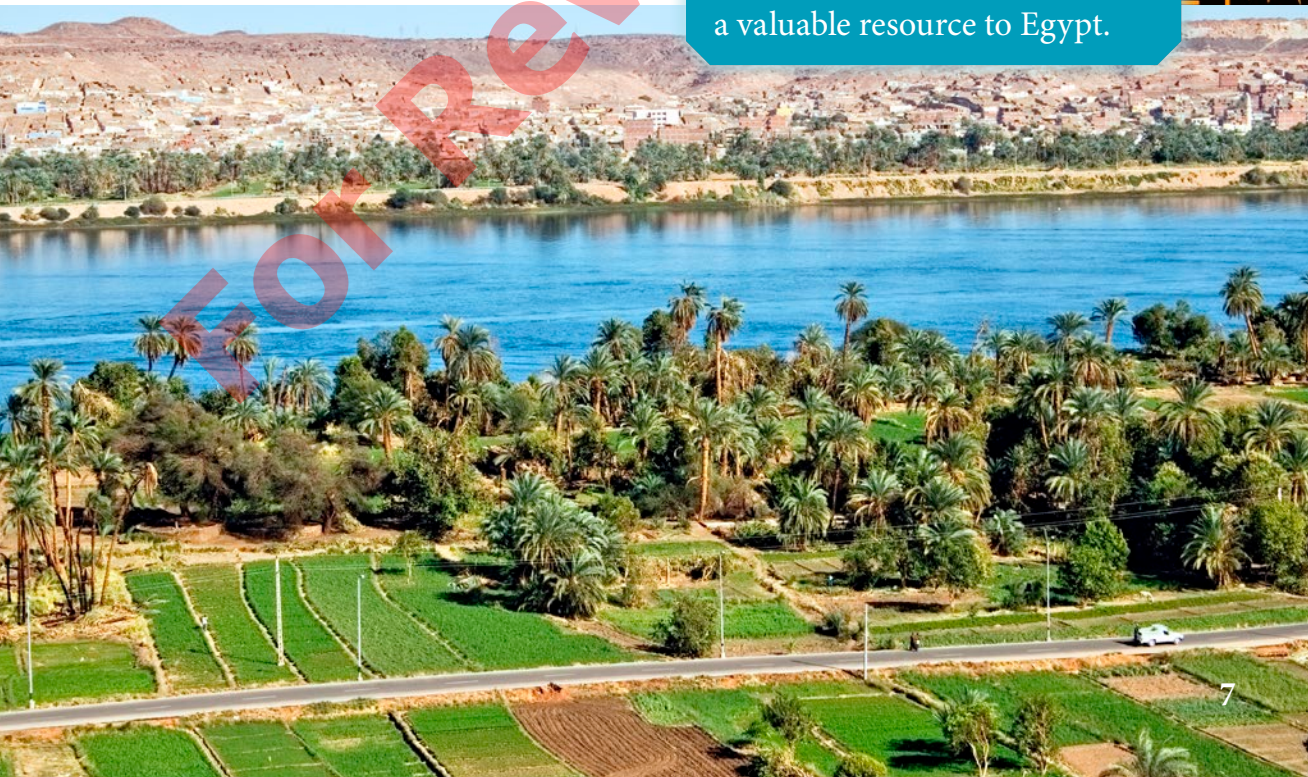


The Gift of the Nile River

Most of the land in Egypt is a hot and dry desert. But the Nile River runs through its center. This life-giving river made it possible for ancient Egypt to thrive.

The Nile River flows from the south to the north. Every year, it would flood the land around it. The floods left behind a rich, black soil perfect for growing crops. People also used the river for travel and shipping materials. Because of the Nile, ancient Egypt grew to become one of the most amazing civilizations of its time.

The Nile River continues to be a valuable resource to Egypt.



A Lasting Impact

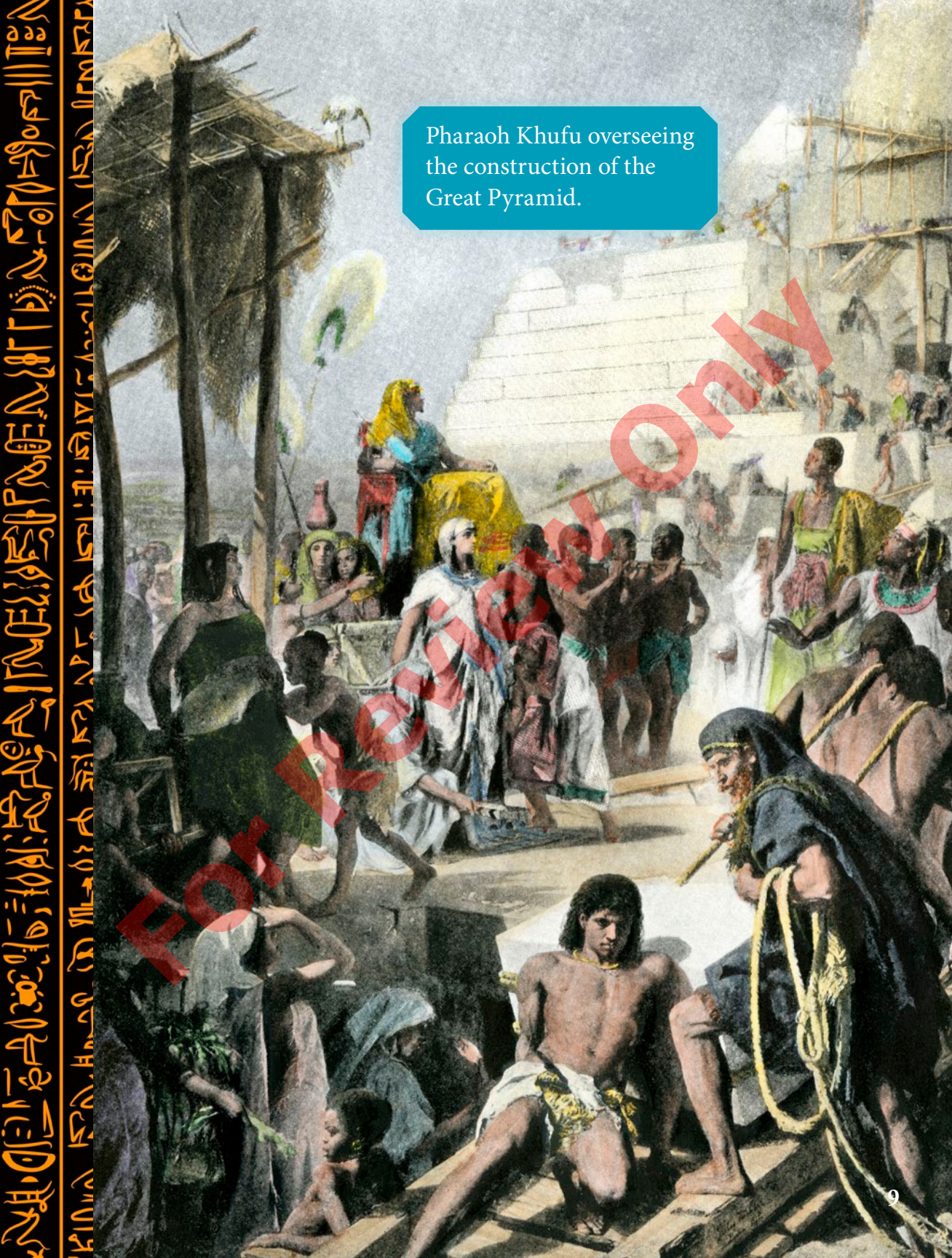
The ancient Egyptians changed the world. They made major contributions to the studies of mathematics, science, and engineering. Their language and art were rich and detailed. Some of their greatest and most famous works combined all of these elements. The pyramids were built during the period known as the Old Kingdom.

Each pyramid was made to be the last resting place of the pharaohs. These mysterious and fascinating structures have existed for 4,600 years. But there is still much to learn about and from them today. One thing we do know: The grandest is the Great Pyramid of Giza, built for the pharaoh Khufu.

FACT

The Great Pyramid is proof of Pharaoh Khufu's power and influence. Yet the only known **artifact** found relating to him is a very small, three-inch (7.6-centimeter) ivory statue.

Pharaoh Khufu overseeing
the construction of the
Great Pyramid.



Pharaoh Khufu overseeing the construction of the Great Pyramid.

DISCOVERY TIMELINE

C. 2780 BCE: King Djoser's architect Imhotep builds first step pyramid at Saqqara.

C. 2630-2560 BCE: First true pyramid built for King Sneferu.

C. 2560 BCE: The Great Pyramid is built by King Khufu.

C. 2520 BCE: King Khafre builds second pyramid of Giza.

C. 2490 BCE: King Menkaure builds third pyramid of Giza.

2013: The Red Sea Scrolls are discovered.

2023: Scientists discover a hidden chamber inside the Great Pyramid.

