

THE SECRET LIVES OF PHARAOHS



by Carol Kim

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

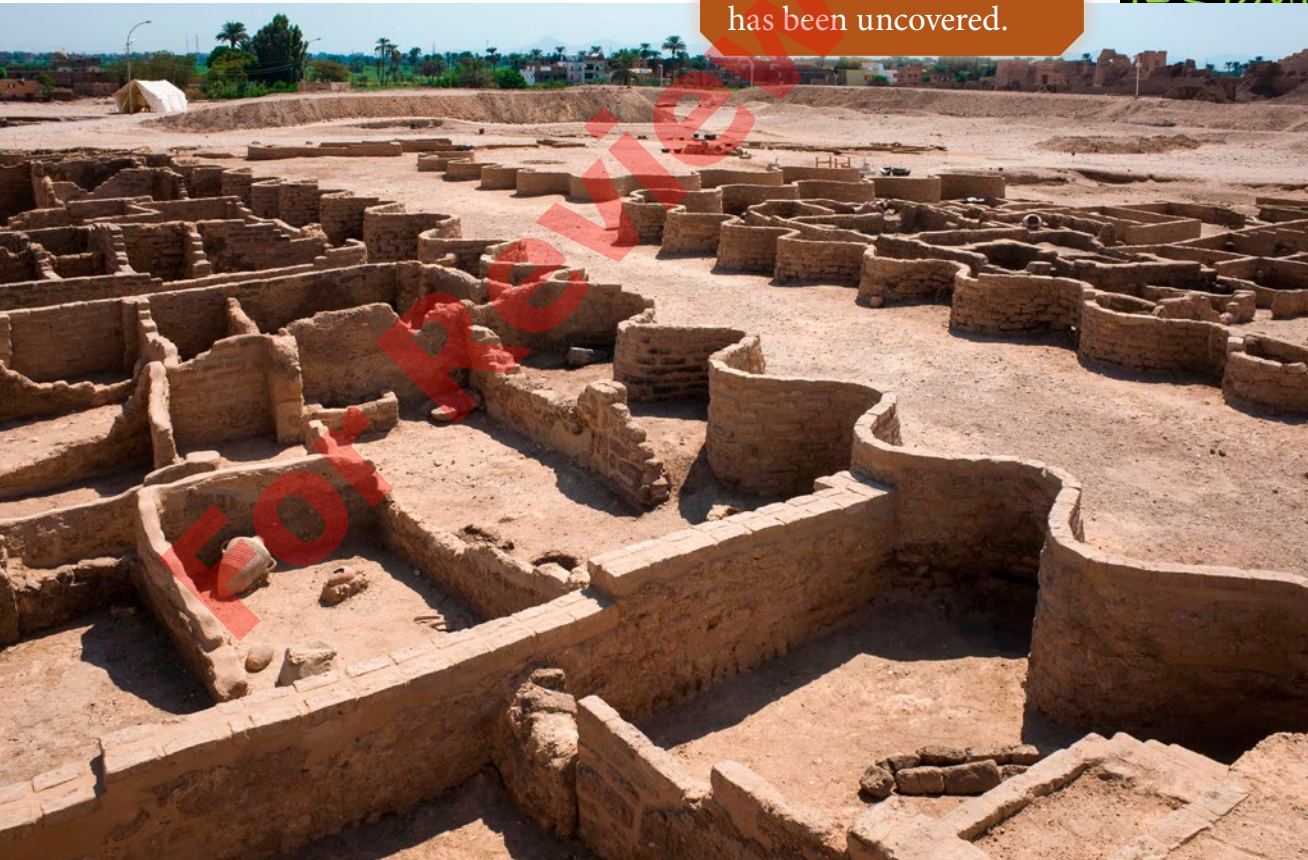
FINDING THE LOST CITY

Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass never stopped thinking about his next project. Every dig could give him the exciting chance to learn more about ancient Egypt and its leaders.

In September 2020, Hawass began a new search. His team hoped to find a worship site used by an ancient king named Tutankhamen. Only a few weeks into the dig, the crew began to uncover mud bricks. The bricks branched off in all directions. Soon, they realized they were unearthing a whole city.

The 3,000-year-old “Lost Golden City of Luxor” had been built under the rule of Amenhotep III. Hawass’s team had been looking for a Tutankhamen **monument**. Instead, they found something built by his grandfather. It was the largest ancient Egyptian city ever discovered. The things buried inside provided fresh lessons about how Egypt was ruled.

Only a small portion of the Lost Golden City has been uncovered.



LEADERS IN LIFE AND DEATH

Few civilizations lasted as long as ancient Egypt. It thrived for more than 3,000 years. Powerful leaders were called pharaohs. They shaped and controlled how the nation was run. Many succeeded in making Egypt wealthy and strong. Living in this thriving society allowed Egyptians to make advances in mathematics. They also valued language and the arts.

The Abu Simbel Temples were built by Ramses II, a New Kingdom pharaoh.

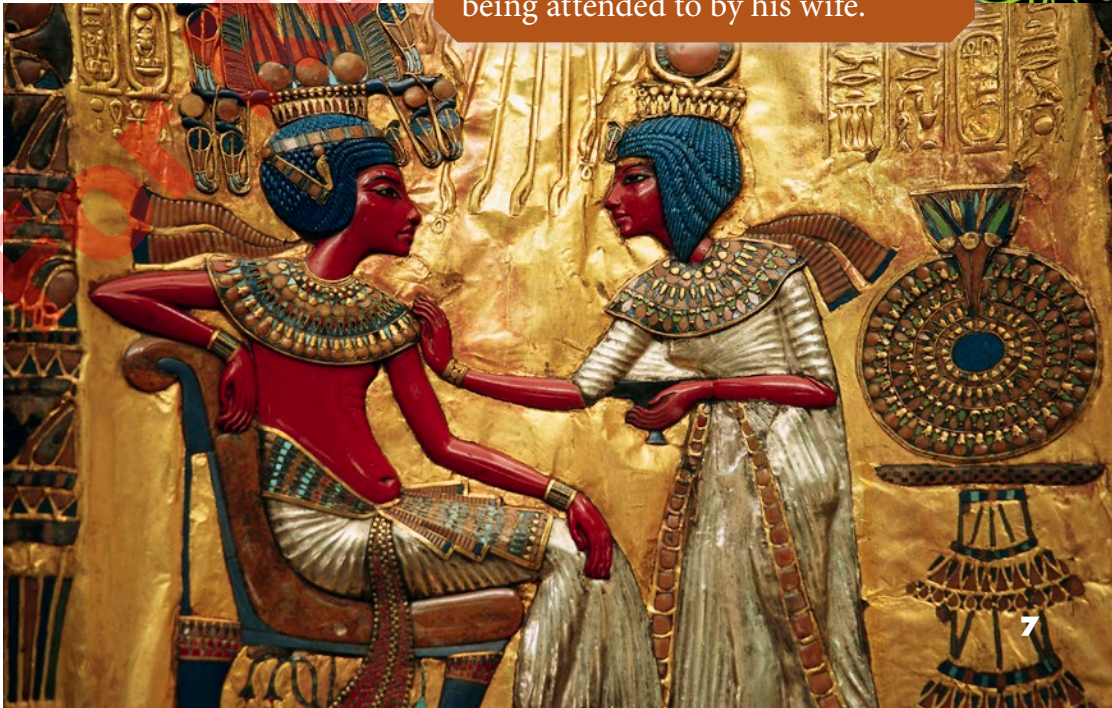


Around 30 different **dynasties** ruled from the beginning to the end of ancient Egypt. Each dynasty had different beliefs and priorities that shaped history. Scholars divide ancient Egypt's history into three periods. They are known as the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms.

FACT

The lives of pharaohs were recorded with **hieroglyphs** that cover the walls of temples and tombs. Written documents about the daily lives of ancient Egyptians were recorded on **papyrus**.

Tutankhamen's throne is decorated with art showing the young king being attended to by his wife.



Ancient Egyptians believed in the **afterlife**. Their bodies died. Their spiritual bodies would live on in a place very similar to the living world. Spells written on coffins and papyrus would help them arrive safely.

FACT

Early Egyptian rulers were called kings. The word pharaoh was not commonly used until the New Kingdom.

New Kingdom pharaohs were buried with the **Book of the Dead**. This ancient text included spells and formulas to protect the ruler in the afterlife.



When pharaohs died, they were buried in special tombs, such as pyramids or underground chambers. These tombs held the pharaoh's mummified body and many of their belongings. It took many years to build a pyramid. Some took 20 years or longer.

They were also expensive projects. Pharaohs needed to start while they were still alive. Much of what is known about their lives comes from studying these structures and the objects found inside.

The first pyramid was the Pyramid of Djoser. At least 117 others were built after that.



DISCOVERY TIMELINE

C. 3100 BCE: Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt

C. 2780 BCE: King Djoser builds the first step pyramid.

C. 2686–2160 BCE: Old Kingdom

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

C. 2034–1650 BCE: Middle Kingdom

C. 1550–1069 BCE: New Kingdom

C. 1478–1458 BCE: Rule of Hatshepsut as pharaoh

30 BCE: Death of Cleopatra;
Egypt becomes a
Roman province.

