



SEARCHING FOR *Cleopatra's* **TOMB**

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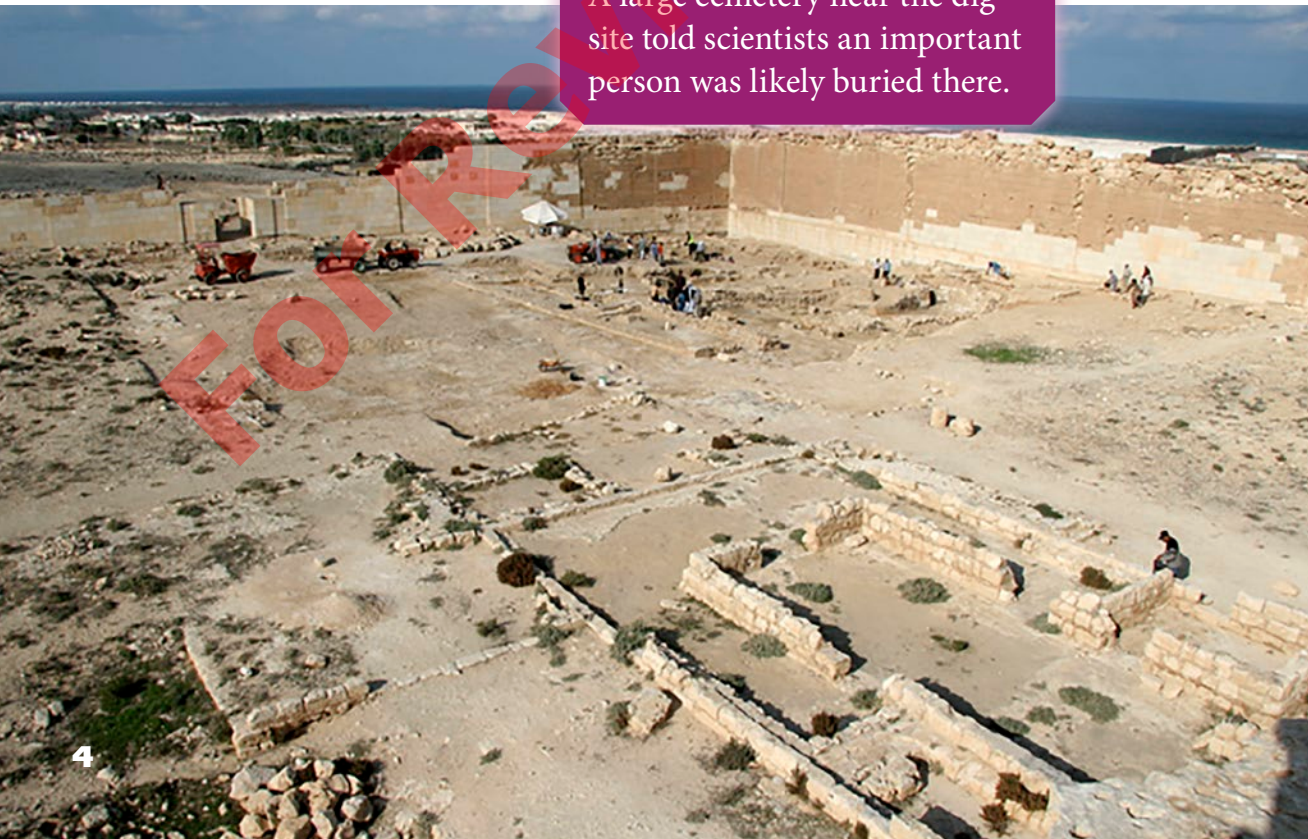
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Words in **bold** are in the glossary.

A DEEP DIG

A hole yawns open from the sunbaked sand near Alexandria, Egypt. The hole is 43 feet (13.1 meters) deep. It leads to the entrance to an underground tunnel. A team of brave **archaeologists** inch down a rickety ladder. One wrong step could mean death.

A large cemetery near the dig site told scientists an important person was likely buried there.



The tunnel at the bottom was discovered in 2022. It is thousands of feet long. It leads to the Mediterranean Sea. Right now, though, it is filled with foul-smelling water. Dead rats float past the scientists' feet. But they barely notice. They could be seconds away from one of the greatest historical discoveries of all time.

They may be about to find the tomb of Cleopatra and Marc Antony.



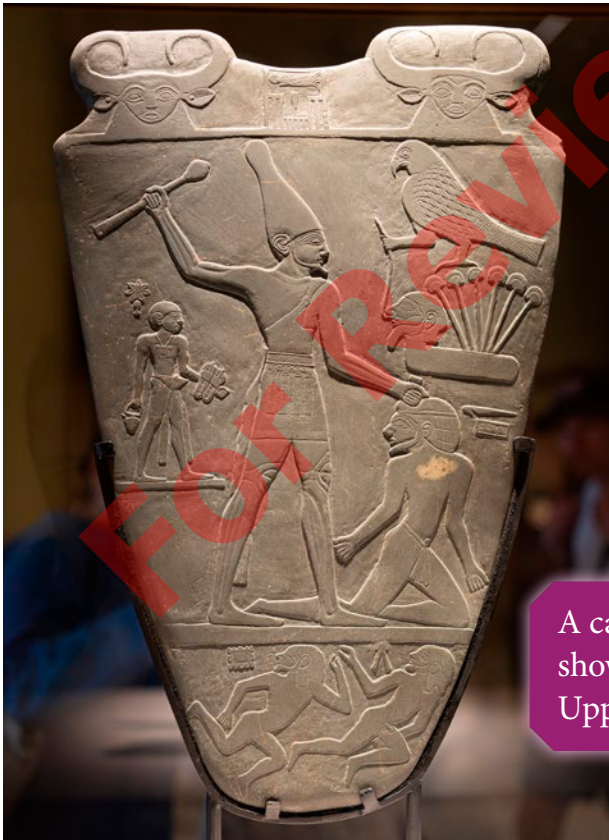
A coin with Cleopatra's likeness

ANCIENT EGYPT AT A GLANCE

The period we know as ancient Egypt began around 3100 BCE. That was around 5,000 years ago.

During this time, Egypt became unified as a country.

The country was led by a king called Narmer, also known as Menes.



A carved stone tablet shows Narmer uniting Upper and Lower Egypt.

Menes made his capitol near the Nile River. The surrounding Nile River Valley was extremely **fertile**. It was perfect for farming. The rich land meant that Egyptians were able to produce more crops than other countries. Food security meant the population of Egypt could focus its attention on other areas. Egypt soon became known for its powerful military. Its engineers planned huge buildings out of stone. Scholars studied math and literature.

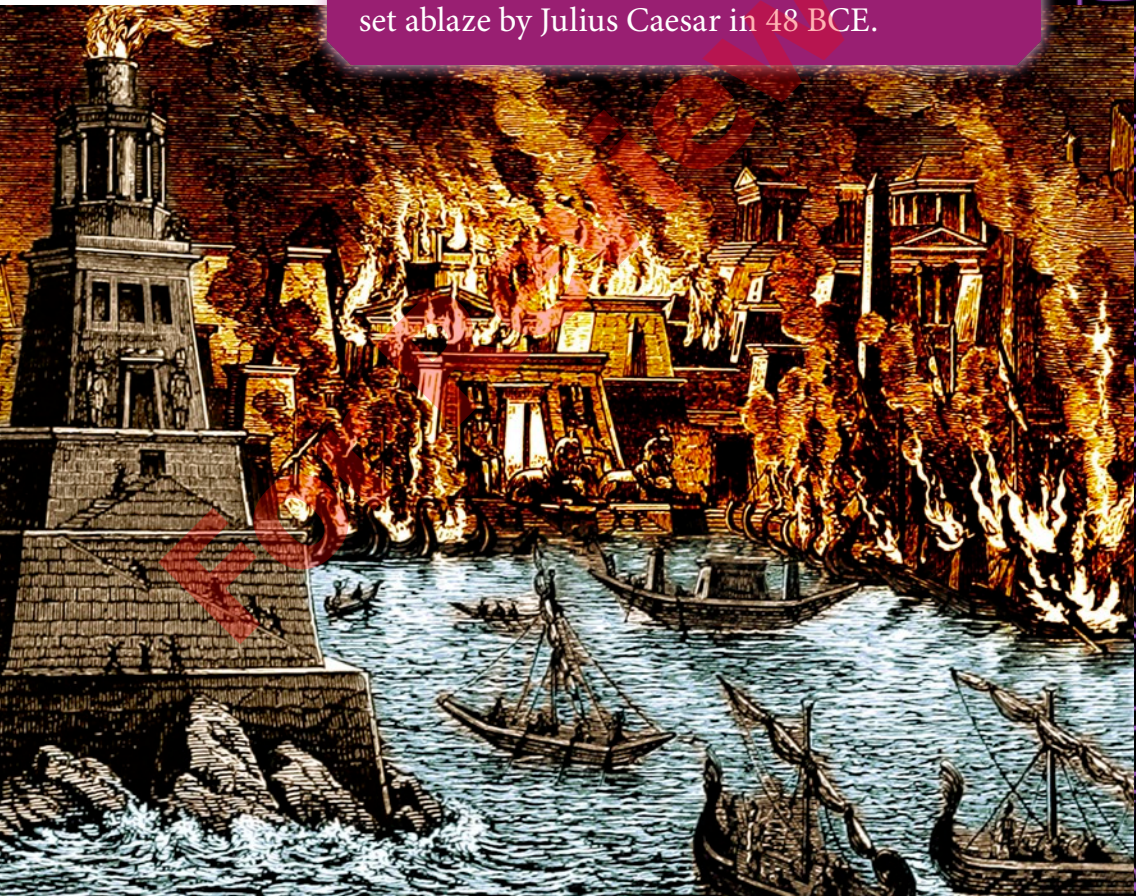
Farmers have grown crops next to the Nile River for centuries.



The Fall of an Empire

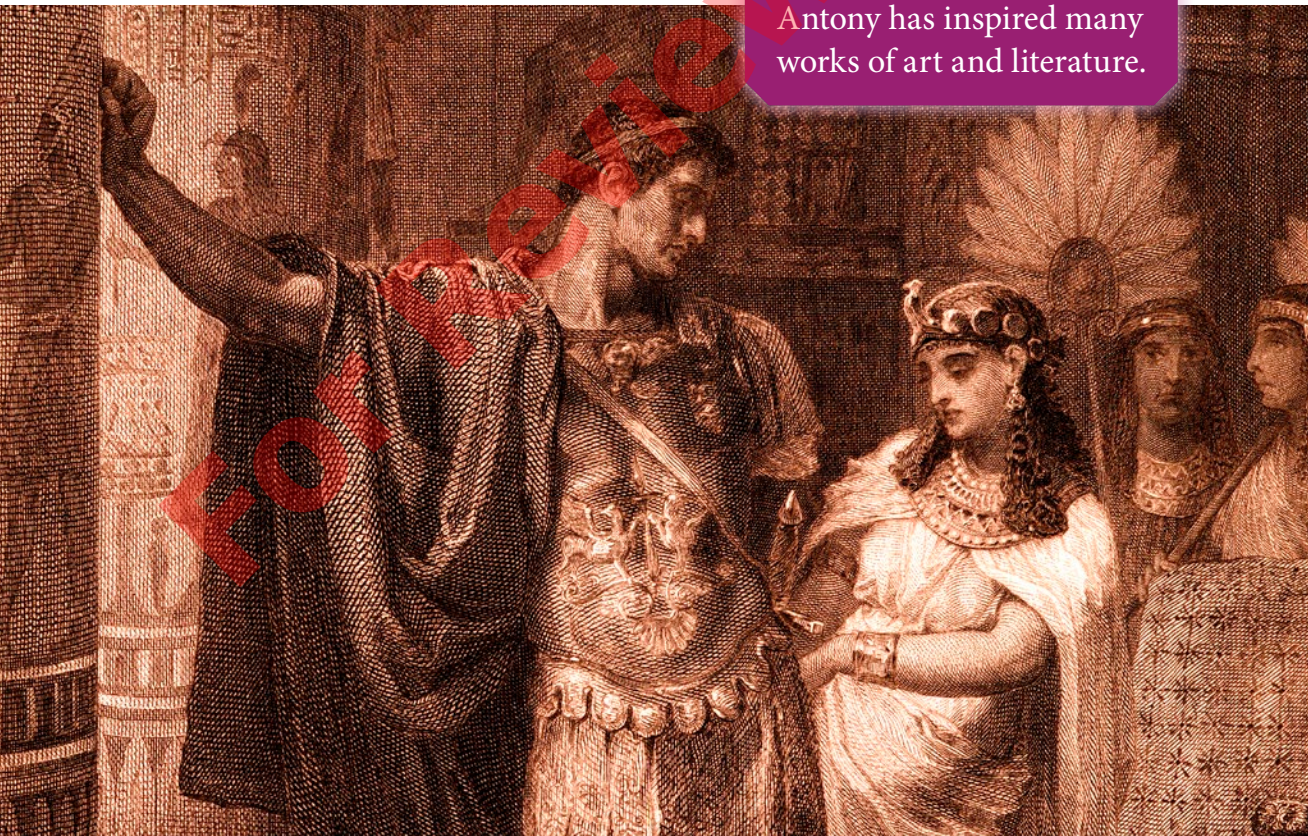
During its 3,000 years, Egyptians warred with other civilizations. The Romans **conquered** Egypt in 30 BCE. Around 395 CE, even the great Roman Empire fell. This brought about the end of ancient Egypt. The nation's native religion and language were lost to the sands of time.

One of the great losses of the ancient world was the Library of Alexandria. It was accidentally set ablaze by Julius Caesar in 48 BCE.



What is known about ancient Egypt was learned through **artifacts**. Pieces of history, from small bits of pottery to huge pyramids, reveal much about life during this period. However, finding these clues can be difficult. Historians have been looking for the tombs of two of the most famous leaders, Cleopatra and Marc Antony, for a long time. Modern science has given historians many new tools. Each will help them on their path to solve the mystery of the royals' resting place.

The story of Cleopatra and Antony has inspired many works of art and literature.



THE QUEEN'S TIMELINE

332 BCE: Macedonia conquers Egypt.

51 BCE: Cleopatra's regency begins.

48 BCE: Julius Caesar arrives in Alexandria.

41 BCE TO 30 BCE: Cleopatra and Antony flee Egypt and live in Greece and Rome.

30 BCE: Death of Cleopatra and Antony; Rome conquers Egypt.

395 CE: Fall of the Roman Empire

