

# UNIT Three:

## Civilization!

### Ancient Mesopotamia & Egypt



- How did Agriculture lead to Civilizations?
- Why were rivers important to Agriculture and Early Civilizations?
- What was the culture of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt like?
- How did Egypt and Mesopotamia use written language? What was their writing like?
- What did Egypt and Mesopotamia have in common?

**Section one - Early Agriculture**

**Section two - Mesopotamia**

**Section three - Ancient Egypt- Old Kingdom**

**Section four - Ancient Egypt - New Kingdom**

**Prove it!**

## Section one

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture changed the world. It wasn't until our ancestors learned to grow food and raise animals that civilizations were able to develop. All of the cool modern technologies and comforts that we enjoy today (roads, medicine, TV, cellphones, reading) would not have been possible if our ancestors went on chasing animals for the rest of their lives. In this section you will learn how the discovery of agriculture allowed people stay in one place and begin to build civilizations.



### Take Me Back pg 18-21

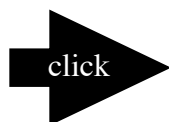
#### Questions:

pg 18-19 How did crops change as they were farmed? How did animals change as they were bred?

pg 18-19 How did pots and tools make life easier for farmers?

pg 18-19 What were houses like in the fertile crescent?

pg 20-21 Write a paragraph describing what some of the cool things built Neolithic Age? *Feel free to use google to help find more info.*



**answer online**

## Section Two

### **Mesopotamia**

The fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is where civilization begins. As you read the following selection make sure you understand why people settled near these rivers and how their civilizations developed.



### Take Me Back pg 24-27

#### Questions:

pg 24-25 What is a “civilization”?

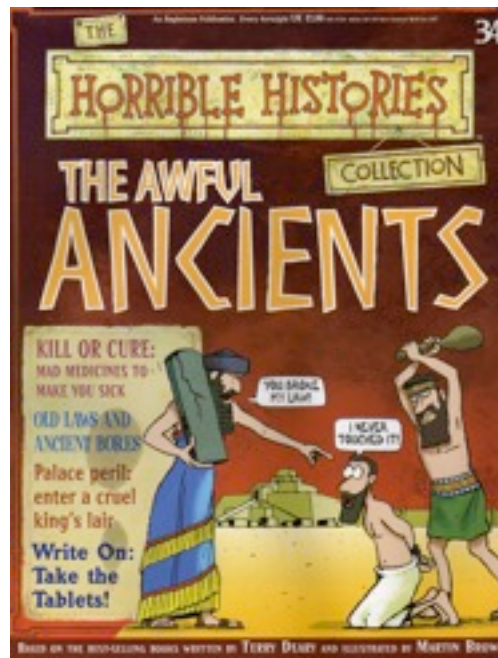
pg 24-25 What technologies were invented in Mesopotamia?

pg 26-27 What is cuneiform? How did it improve the lives of people?

pg 26-27 What are some other early forms of writing? Where did they originate?



**answer online**



## Horrible History: Awful Ancients **ALL**

### Questions:

Why did people settle between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers?

How did rivers and canals help Mesopotamia grow into a civilization?

What were some of their accomplishments once they became a civilization?

What were some of the things Mesopotamian rulers did when they took power?

What were some of the Mesopotamians strange beliefs?

How did people write with Cuneiform?

What was school like in Sumeria?

What was war like in Mesopotamia?



[answer online](#)



THE

# HORRIBLE HISTORIES

COLLECTION

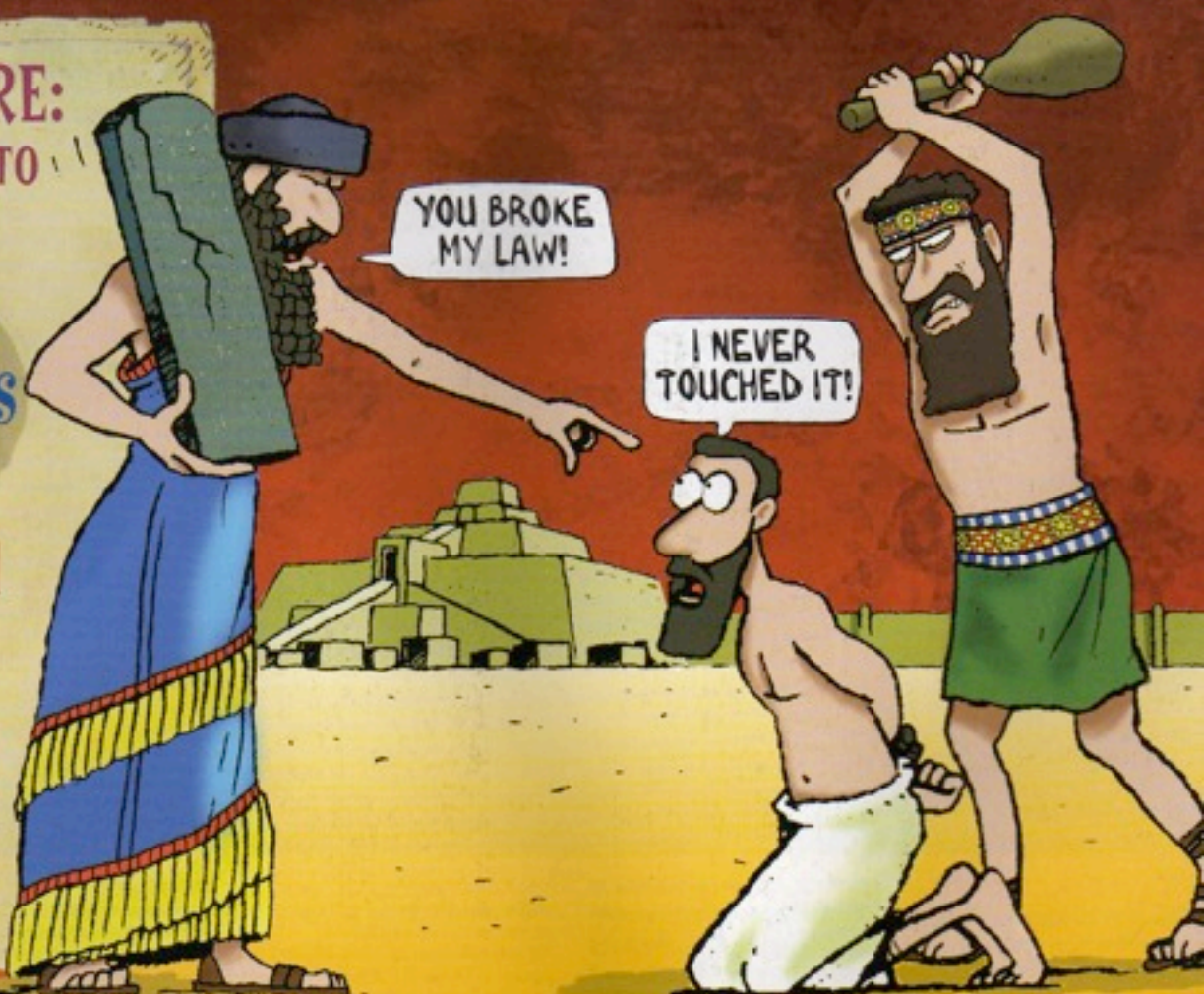
## THE AWFUL ANCIENTS

**KILL OR CURE:**  
MAD MEDICINES TO  
MAKE YOU SICK

**OLD LAWS AND  
ANCIENT BORES**

**Palace peril:**  
enter a cruel  
king's lair

**Write On:**  
**Take the**  
**Tablets!**



BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING BOOKS WRITTEN BY TERRY DEARY AND ILLUSTRATED BY MARTIN BROWN



# CONTENTS

## Terrible Times

### Muddy Marvels 4-6

How a place between two rivers gave the world the wheel, words – and wars.

## Who's Who?

### Cruel Kings 7-9

Meet the ancient rulers – from a fearsome giant to a gory gardener.

## Life and Strife

### Sumer Scene 10-11

Take a trip down a bustling ancient street – but watch out for the lions!

### Batty Beliefs 12-13

Find out what spooked the ancients.

### Nutty Notions and Potions 14-15

Mad medicine, Mesopotamian style.

### Write Like an Ancient 16-17

'Mark'-ing about with clay the ancient way, and some Sumer school facts.

## Beastly Battles

### Lachish 18-19

Dare to stare at a savage siege.

### Wars and Walls 20-21

A deadly defeat – and gruesome graffiti.

## Awesome Activities

### Puzzles 22-23

Mend a message, pick your punishment and discover some kings.

IFC code for website  
access: HH4VB456

OUCH

## YOUR COLLECTION

The Horrible Histories Collection is published fortnightly at the regular price of £1.99 (€3.50).

Visit our website at  
[www.horrible-histories.co.uk](http://www.horrible-histories.co.uk)  
(UK & ROI readers only)

## DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

To make sure you receive every issue, take out a subscription and get The Horrible Histories Collection delivered direct to your door or place a regular order with your magazine retailer.

## UK Subscriptions

When you subscribe you will also receive exclusive free gifts. To subscribe today, call our credit card hotline on 08707 277 377 or you can complete and send us the subscription form which you will find inside issues 1, 2, 3 and 6 or order from our website at [www.horrible-histories.co.uk](http://www.horrible-histories.co.uk)

## UK Enquiries

Customer Services Call 08707 277 377  
E-mail: [enquiries@eaglemoss.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eaglemoss.co.uk)  
Write to: The Horrible Histories Collection, Eaglemoss Publications Ltd, 5 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2HR



Please retain publisher's details for future reference.

## Circulation Manager

Gary Neale 020 7590 8339

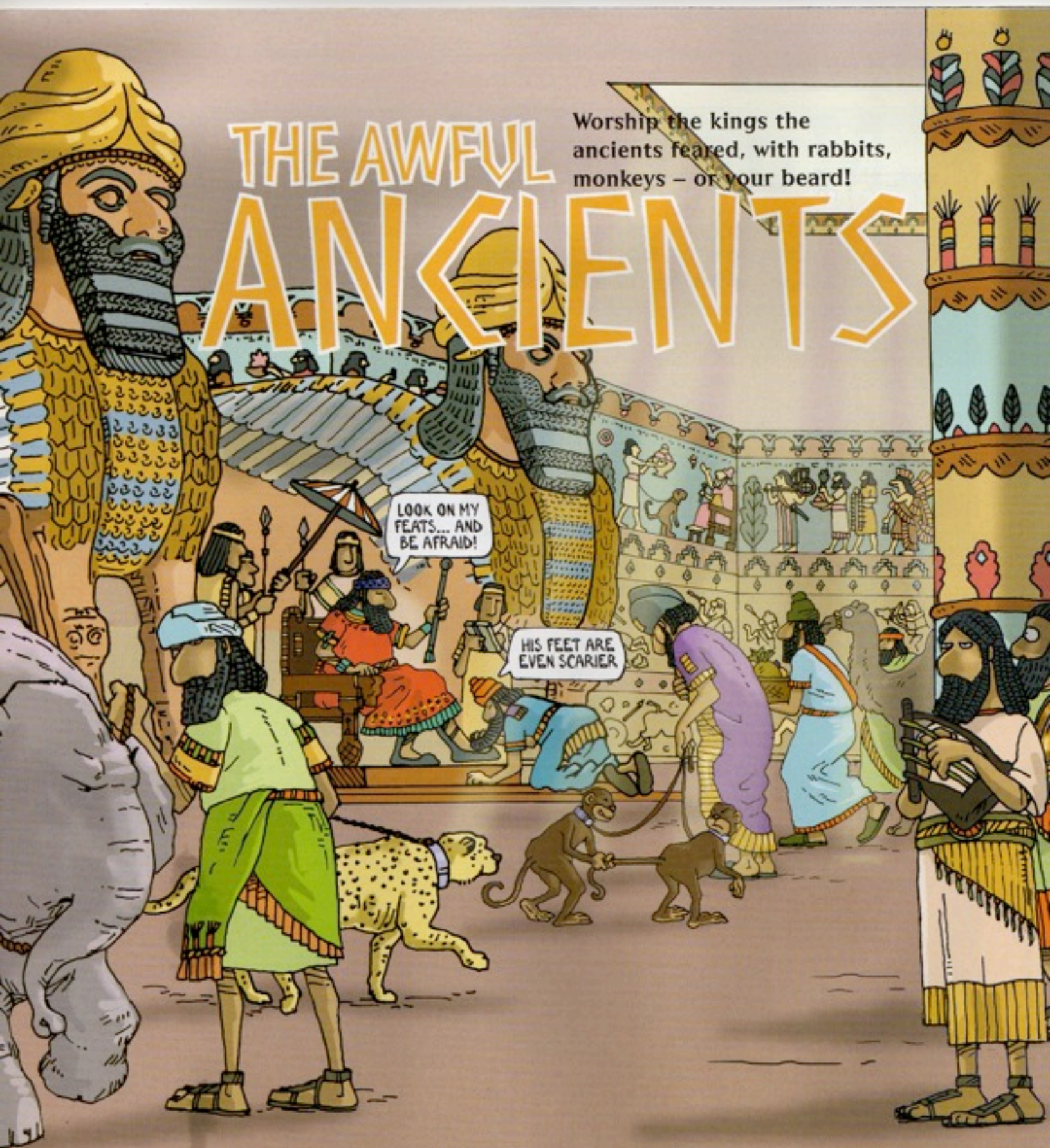
## UK Back Issues

To order any back issues, call 08707 277 377

## Distributor

Comag Magazine Marketing





# THE AWFUL ANCIENTS

Worship the kings the  
ancients feared, with rabbits,  
monkeys – or your beard!

LOOK ON MY  
FEATS... AND  
BE AFRAID!

HIS FEET ARE  
EVEN SCARIER

Overseas readers visit our  
website at

[www.horrible-histories.com](http://www.horrible-histories.com)

Overseas Subscriptions

Australia Call (03) 9872 4000

E-mail [bissett@bissettmag.com.au](mailto:bissett@bissettmag.com.au)

Write to: The Horrible Histories

New Zealand Call (09) 625 3057

E-mail [mercury@gordongotch.co.nz](mailto:mercury@gordongotch.co.nz)

Write to: The Horrible Histories

Collection, PO Box 24013, Royal Oak,

Auckland

South Africa Call (011) 265 4307

E-mail [service@jackin.co.za](mailto:service@jackin.co.za)

Overseas Back Issues

Please order from your magazine retailer

© Egmont Publications Ltd (2002,

2003). All rights reserved.

Printed in the UK by Headley Bros. Ltd.

Colour origination: loon Reproductions

Some of the material in this partwork has

previously been published in Horrible Histories

The Awesome Ancient Quiz Book © Text copyright ©

Terry Deary 2001. Illustration copyright © Martin

Brown 1993-2001. Horrible Histories books are

published by Scholastic Ltd. Horrible Histories is a

trademark of Scholastic Inc. and is used under

Illustrations:

Patrice Aggs 2-3, 7(t), 8(t), 20(t), 21(t);

Martin Brown 8(c), 13(c), 16(t), 17(t), 22(t);

Rob Carter 12(t); Faz Choudhury 23(t), 23;

Rob Davis 13(t); Christian Fox Front Cover,

8(t); Leo Hartas 10-11; Kevin Hopgood 4-6, 14;

Chantal Kees 7(t), 9(t), 16(t), 17(t);

Roger Langridge 18-19; Gary Northfield 12(t).





# Muddy Marvels



WELCOME TO THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION. IT STARTS IN A LAND CALLED MESOPOTAMIA – AND SOON TURNS INTO A RIGHT MESS! SEE HOW CRUEL KINGS CONQUERED UNTIL THE PEOPLE WENT BONKERS. IT'S A STORY OF MUD, FLOODS, BLOOD – AND BEARDS...

ABOUT 10,000 YEARS AGO, AS THE ICE AGE ENDED, SOME TRIBES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WORKED OUT HOW TO PLANT SEEDS AND GROW CROPS. THEY HAD INVENTED 'FARMING'.

THIS 'FARMING' FAD WILL NEVER CATCH ON

YEAH! EVER SINCE UG STARTED GROWING THINGS HE'S BECOME A REAL SOW-AND-SOW!

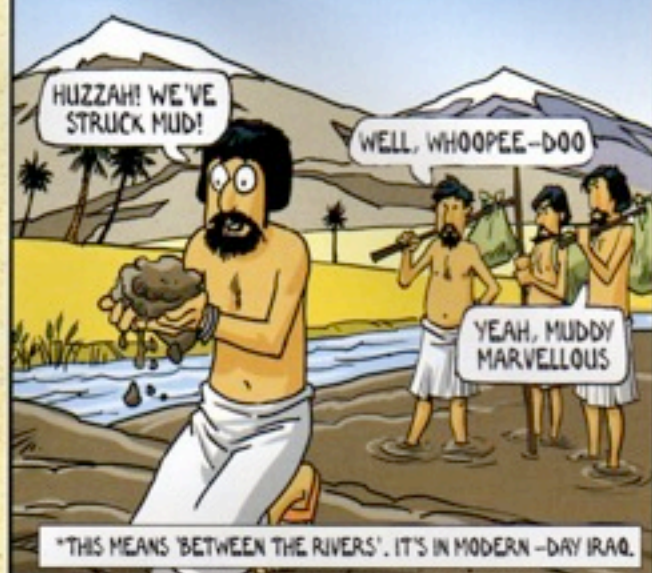


ABOUT 5000BC, PEOPLE SETTLED ON THE LAND BETWEEN THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS – MESOPOTAMIA\*. IT WAS COVERED WITH RICH MUD THAT WAS GREAT FOR GROWING CROPS.

HUZZAH! WE'VE STRUCK MUD!

WELL, WHOOPEE-DOO

YEAH, MUDDY MARVELLOUS



\*THIS MEANS 'BETWEEN THE RIVERS'. IT'S IN MODERN-DAY IRAQ.

THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS WATER. IT HARDLY EVER RAINED...

OH! MY CROPS NEED WATER!



...BUT THE RIVERS OFTEN FLOODED.

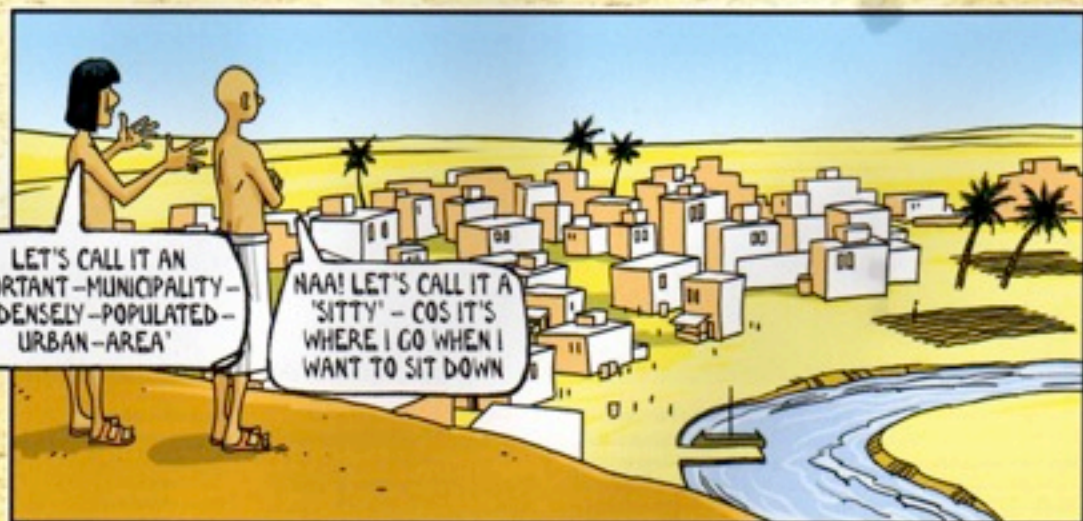
AAAARGH! NOT THAT MUCH!



BUT THE CLEVER FARMERS WORKED OUT A WAY TO GET THE RIVER WATER TO THE FIELDS REGULARLY – BY USING CANALS. THIS HELPED THE FARMERS GROW MORE GRAIN. MORE FOOD MEANT MORE FOLKS – THE MESOPOTAMIANS COULD HAVE MORE KIDS. THE POPULATION GREW AND GREW. VILLAGES BECAME TOWNS, WHICH BECAME THE FIRST CITIES...

LET'S CALL IT AN 'IMPORTANT-MUNICIPALITY-OF-DENSELY-POPULATED-URBAN-AREA'

NAA! LET'S CALL IT A 'SITTY' – COS IT'S WHERE I GO WHEN I WANT TO SIT DOWN





THERE WAS SO MUCH FOOD THAT NOT EVERYONE HAD TO BE A FARMER. THEY COULD HAVE LESS USEFUL JOBS INSTEAD – LIKE BEING KINGS, PRIESTS... OR TEACHERS!



THE CIVILIZED MESOPOTAMIANS CAME UP WITH LOTS OF GREAT INVENTIONS... BRICKS, THE WHEEL, THE SAIL, A NEW METAL CALLED BRONZE, AND EVEN WRITING.



THE CIVILIZATIONS SPENT LOTS OF TIME SCRAPPING OVER WHO OWNED THE BEST LAND.



IN 2334BC, SARGON, RULER OF ONE MESOPOTAMIAN KINGDOM CALLED AKKAD, CONQUERED ALL OF MESOPOTAMIA. HE HAD JUST CREATED THE FIRST EMPIRE.

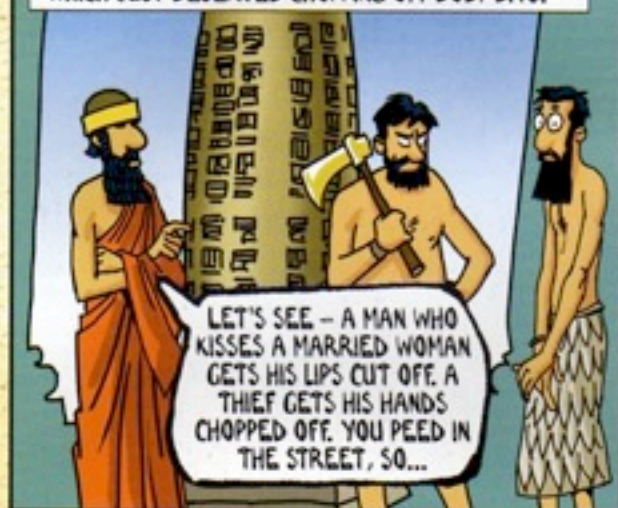


KING UR-NAMMU OF SUMERIA WAS THE NEXT AWFUL EMPIRE BUILDER. HE GOT HIS PEOPLE TO BUILD MASSIVE TEMPLES CALLED 'ZIGGURATS'.





KING HAMMURABI WAS BEASTLY BOSS OF BABYLON, MESO'S TOP CITY. KING HAM HAD A CODE OF LAWS WRITTEN ON A HUGE STONE. THE LAWS SAID WHICH CRIMES MUST BE PUNISHED WITH DEATH – AND WHICH JUST DESERVED CHOPPING OFF BODY BITS.



LET'S SEE – A MAN WHO KISSES A MARRIED WOMAN GETS HIS LIPS CUT OFF. A THIEF GETS HIS HANDS CHOPPED OFF. YOU PEED IN THE STREET, SO...

BABYLON WAS THE TOP CITY FOR ABOUT 200 YEARS... UNTIL THE HITTITES CAME ALONG. THE HITTITES CRUSHED THE BABYLONIANS. THEIR WEAPONS WERE MADE OF A NEW, HARDER METAL – IRON, WHICH SLICED THROUGH BABYLONIAN BRONZE.



THESE HITTITES HIT HARD!

I LOVE THIS CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

THE ASSYRIANS WERE THE NEXT TOP TRIBE OF MESOPOTAMIA. IF ANYONE REBELLED AGAINST THEIR RULE, THE ASSYRIANS ASSAULTED THEM.



I'LL TEACH YOU TO REBEL!

THIS IS GETTING ASSYRIAS!

OF COURSE, BEING SO BEASTLY MADE THE ASSYRIANS UNPOPULAR. IN THE END, THE BABYLONIANS KICKED THEM OUT AND TOOK OVER AGAIN FOR THEMSELVES.



WE'LL TEACH YOU TO BOSS US ABOUT!

THE GREATEST BABYLONIAN KING WAS NEBUCHADNEZZAR. HE BUILT MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS, LIKE THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON. THEY WERE A PRESENT FOR HIS WIFE.



SURPRISE!

NEXT TIME, JUST GET ME FLOWERS

BY NOW, MOST MESOPOTAMIANS WERE SO SICK OF BEING BOSSSED ABOUT THAT THEY DIDN'T REALLY CARE WHO WAS IN CHARGE. EVEN THE BOSSY BABYLONIANS WEREN'T BOTHERED. WHEN THE PERSIANS ATTACKED IN 538BC, THEY SURRENDERED WITHOUT A STRUGGLE.



WHY BOTHER?

SO YOU AREN'T EVEN GOING TO FIGHT?

MESOPOTAMIA BECAME PART OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE. MESOPOTAMIA HAD BEEN TAMED.



# Cruel Kings

Meet the mean and massive monarchs who made Mesopotamia mighty – and messed up!



## GILGAMESH

Gilgamesh was king of the world's first city, in Sumeria, around 2700BC. He is said to have fought off a siege and saved his city, taken expeditions to Arabia and shopping trips to Turkey.

### Tall stories

King Gil must have been quite a character – if you believe the stuff his admirers wrote about him. They said that great Gilgamesh...

- killed lions and bulls

using only his bare hands

- ruled his kingdom for 127 years
- stood six metres high.

Sound like tall tales, don't they? It's hard to say what was true and what was made-up. But one Sumerian story – the *Epic of Gilgamesh* – was definitely Mesopotamian make-believe...

## SARGON

Sargon was good at fighting. He was also good at making up whoppers!

### Date with fate

Sargon was the son of a humble date farmer. Later he became a servant to a not-so-humble king. One day, Sarg took his chance: he killed the king and grabbed the throne for himself. Sargon must have been worried that people wouldn't think he was a rightful king, so he put out a strange story...

OI, I'M NOT A FIBBER!



## Gil's Epic Spills and Thrills



1. GIL WAS A BOSSY BOOTS, SO THE GODS SENT A HAIRY GIANT, ENKIDU, TO BASH THE BOSSINESS OUT OF HIM. BUT GIL AND ENKIDU BECAME BUDDIES AND HAD LOTS OF FUN INSTEAD.



2. THE GORY GODDESS ISHTAR FELL IN LOVE WITH GIL. HE HEARD THAT SHE KILLED HER BOYFRIENDS WHEN SHE GOT BORED WITH THEM, SO HE TOLD HER TO BUZZ OFF.



3. ISH DIDN'T LIKE THAT. SHE SENT A BULL TO KILL GIL - BUT GIL AND ENKIDU JUST RIPPED IT APART. THIS MADE THE GODS ANGRY, SO THEY KILLED ENKIDU IN REVENGE.



4. SCARED, GIL VISITED AN IMMORTAL MAN WHO TOLD GIL WHERE TO FIND A PLANT THAT WOULD MAKE HIM IMMORTAL TOO. GIL FOUND IT - BUT WHILE HE WAS DRINKING, A SNAKE ATE IT!

## Basket case

Sargon said that he was really the son of a royal priestess. Priestesses weren't supposed to have kids, so she had taken her baby down to the river and cast him adrift in a reed basket. One of the king's gardeners had found the floating infant and cared for him. The goddess Ishtar, who knew that Sarg was a priestess's kid, helped him become king. We know what the fibbing king looked like because a statue of his head still exists.



DAMN, I'M GOOD

RAAA!

## HAMMURABI

Hammurabi turned Babylon into a great power. By the end of his reign he had conquered all the rival cities in Mesopotamia. How did Ham do it? Mostly by messing about with water.

### Water way to go

He built a damn to block up the Euphrates river. This stopped the water supply to the city of Larsa. He did the same to the Tigris river to flood the city of Eshnunna. He was soon in charge of both cities. Dam clever! Ham also built hundreds of miles of canals to irrigate land, so that more crops could be grown. Water guy!

### Codes and cops

But Hammurabi is most famous for his law codes, which he had carved on

massive stones and put up across his empire.

Mesopotamia already had laws (and policemen!) but Ham made them even worse. For example, if you poked out someone's eye in a fight, then your eye would be taken out. Same went for teeth. This law caught on, and it even got a mention in the Bible... you've probably heard the saying, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'.

DAMN YOUR DAM, HAM

ALLO  
ALLO, WHAT  
'AVE WE  
'ERE  
THEN?

## ASHURNASIRPAL II

Around 2000BC the Assyrian people were ruled by Hammurabi's Babylonian bunch. By 1000BC they ruled their won empire with cruel and ruthless armies.

Ashurnasirpal ruled Assyria around 880BC. He was ... **a rebel crusher...** Ashurnasirpal faced many revolutions which he crushed... cruelly and ruthlessly, of course.

**...and a dastardly decorator.** To celebrate, Ash built a fabulous palace in the city of Nimrud. He had its walls decorated with carvings that showed his vicious victories, as well as scenes of everyday life. A bit like wallpaper for warriors.

## ASHURBANIPAL

The last great king of Assyria, Ashurbanipal was... **a cruel killer...** Here's what he said he did to some enemies... *"Their bodies had the arms and legs cut off and I fed them to the dogs, pigs, wolves and eagles... What was left I had taken from Babylon and thrown into heaps."*

**...and a clever and cultured king.** He built up one of the greatest libraries of the ancient world at his palace in Nineveh. Amazingly, many of the books in Ash's library have survived. That's because they were written on clay tablets the size of bricks.

Imagine that you wanted to take a book out of Ash's library. You'd need a wheelbarrow to take it home! Cruel and clever? That's the awful ancients all over.

CRRRR

## Did you know?

Hammurabi's laws are numbered 1 to 282, yet there are only 281 laws. Why?

- a) Hammurabi couldn't count
- b) There's no 13 because it was unlucky
- c) The lawmakers wrote one law twice

Answer: b). Just like some people believe today, Mesopotamians thought 13 was an unlucky number.

I WANTED TO  
BORROW AN  
ENCYCLOPEDIA



# ASH'S BEASTLY BASHES



**A**shurbanipal's dad had been a great conqueror, but he left his son an empire that was too big to keep under control. So Ash was kept busy putting down one rebellion after another. How did he do it? By being really cruel, of course. Here are just some of his dirty deeds...

## SALT IN THE WOUND

Ash had one rebel king pickled alive in a barrel of salt.



## GONE TO THE DOGS

After the Babylonians rebelled, Ash had their leaders cut into pieces and fed them to dogs and pigs.



## KENNEL CLUB

An Arab chief who rebelled was taken to Nineveh, put in a collar and forced to live as a watchdog in a kennel by the city gate.

## NABBED BY NAB

But no amount of cruelty could stop the rot. Within a few years of Ash's death, the Babylonians

rebelled again under a noble called Nabopolassar. He managed to destroy the Assyrian empire forever. After he had done it, nice Mr Nab said...

*I slaughtered the land of Assyria. I turned that hostile land into a heap of ruins.*



# NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Neb was the son of Nabopolassar. Nasty Neb crushed and kicked whole peoples (such as the Jews) off their lands if they caused him any trouble. He plundered other people's property to make Babylon into a great city again. Do people remember Neb for his nastiness and nabbing? Oh no. They remember him for two things: his garden and his tower.

## Garden centre

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The story goes that Neb built these tall, tiered gardens to remind his wife of the mountain home she had been brought up in. They were massive. Imagine how long the weeding took!

## Tower of trouble

In the centre of Babylon, Neb built a huge ziggurat – a stepped tower with a temple on top. (This tower

turns up in a Bible story. In the story, the tower was built to reach heaven. This really irritated God, so he made the builders talk in different languages. That way they couldn't understand each other so the tower wouldn't get built.)

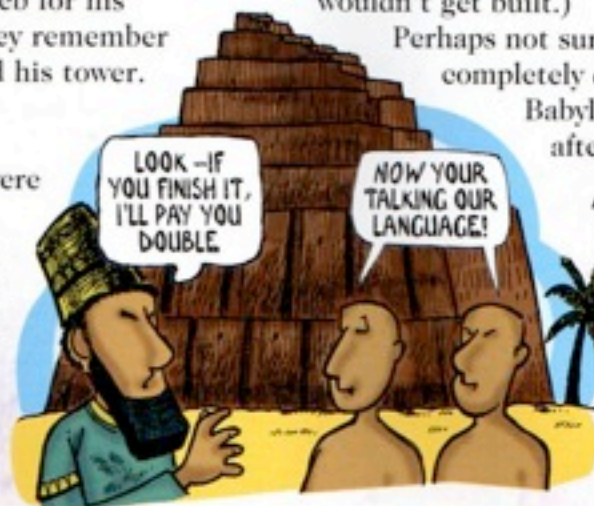
Perhaps not surprisingly, Neb ended up completely doolally. And the new Babylonian empire didn't last long after he died.

## 'Nezzar' again...

To make sure that no one would forget him, Neb had all the bricks used in his building projects stamped with his name. What a big head! But he wasn't the last one to try that trick.

Another mad

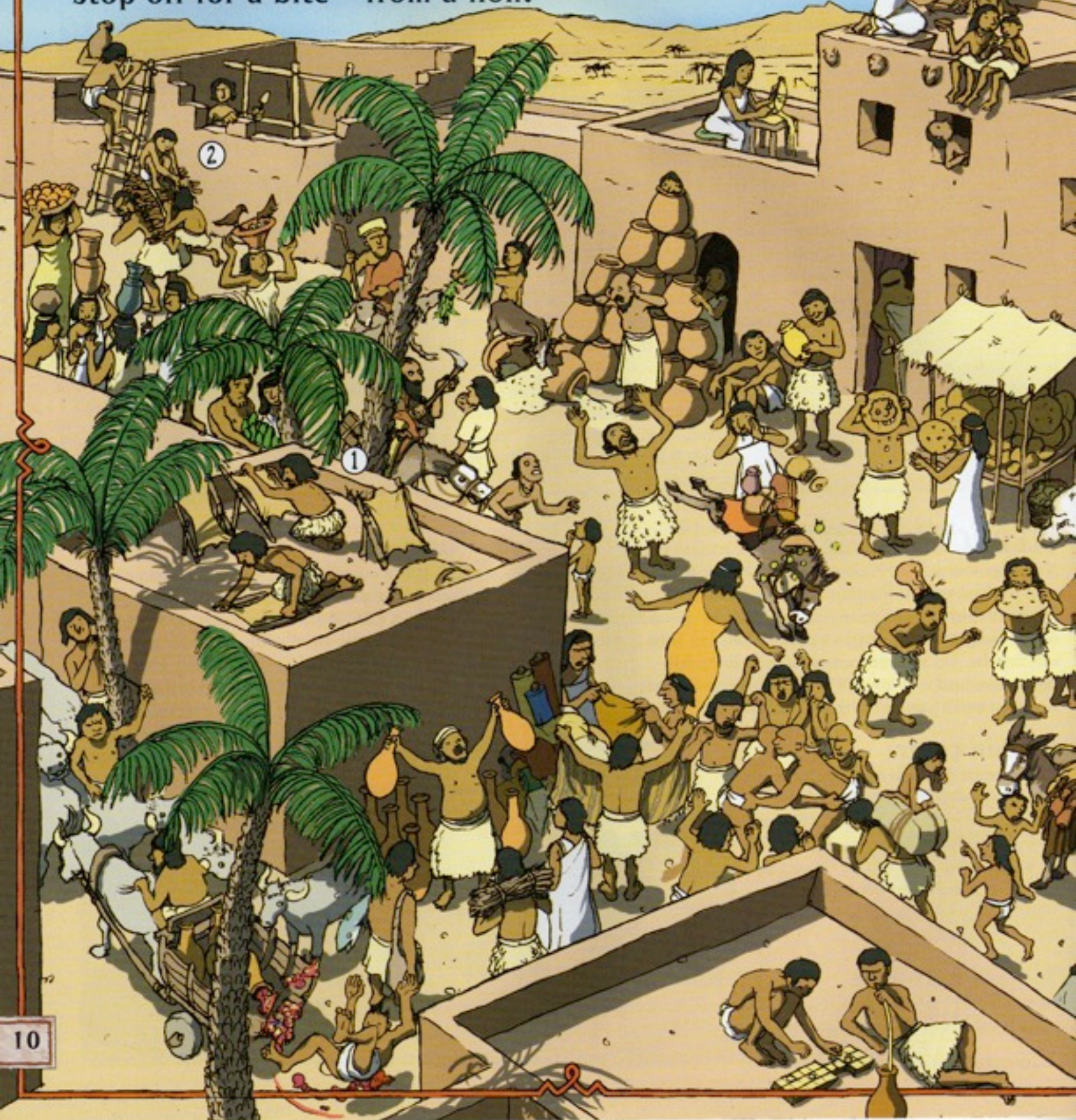
Mesopotamian tyrant copied his idea 2500 years later...





# Summer Scene

**Take a walk down a Mesopotamian high street.  
Stop off for a bite – from a lion!**



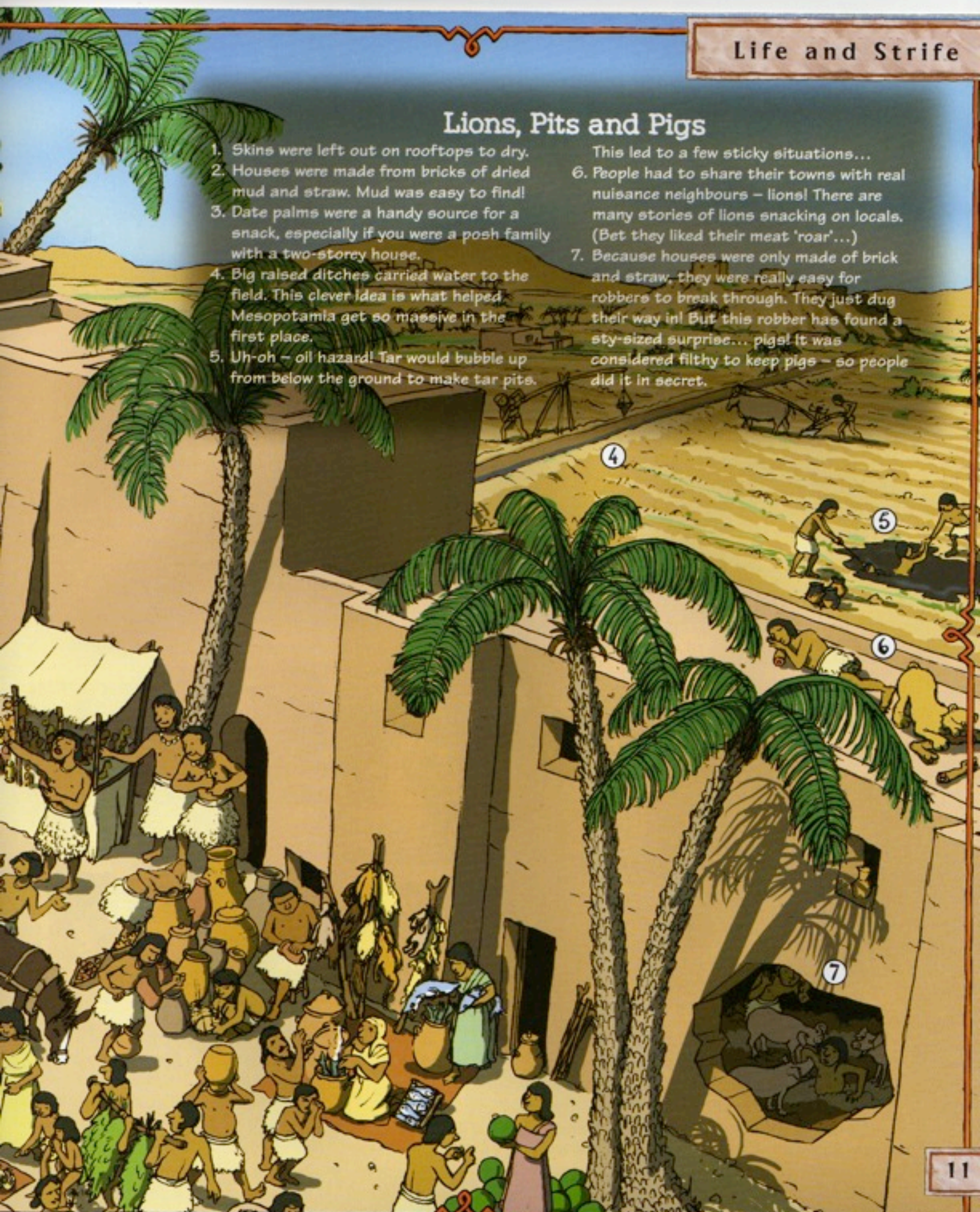


## Lions, Pits and Pigs

1. Skins were left out on rooftops to dry.
2. Houses were made from bricks of dried mud and straw. Mud was easy to find!
3. Date palms were a handy source for a snack, especially if you were a posh family with a two-storey house.
4. Big raised ditches carried water to the field. This clever idea is what helped Mesopotamia get so massive in the first place.
5. Uh-oh – oil hazard! Tar would bubble up from below the ground to make tar pits.

This led to a few sticky situations...

6. People had to share their towns with real nuisance neighbours – lions! There are many stories of lions snacking on locals. (Bet they liked their meat 'roar'...)
7. Because houses were only made of brick and straw, they were really easy for robbers to break through. They just dug their way in! But this robber has found a sty-sized surprise... pigs! It was considered filthy to keep pigs – so people did it in secret.





# Batty Beliefs

Think number 13 is unlucky and never walk under ladders? You're almost as superstitious as a Babylonian...

**M**esopotamians believed they had to feed the gods to keep them happy. So they took food to the temple, which the gods ate behind curtains. Of course, the gods didn't eat the grub – the priests did! They kept the leftovers to dish out at public celebrations so that people would think, "How generous the gods are!"

## 'Urine' for it

The Babylonians had some odd superstitions. They thought that if a red dog peed on a man, that man would have good luck. But the wee of a white dog would bring bad luck. If the soggy, smelly man wanted to get rid of the bad luck,

this is what he had to do...

1. Make a model dog out of clay, cover it with goatskin, place cedar wood on its neck and a drop of oil on its head, and make it a horsehair mane.

2. Take the model dog down to the riverbank and set up an altar to the Sun god Shamash, the upholder of law.

3. Place 12 loafs, some dates, flour, honey, butter and some beer on the altar as an offering and get a priest to ask Shamash to remove the bad luck.

4 Afterwards the priest can have a picnic and get drunk. Hang on a moment...

temple offerings and free picnics? It seems the Babylonian priests got 'lucky' quite a lot!



## Ancient Animal Crackers

A white dog's wee wasn't the only animal accident you had to worry about...



1. If an ass gives birth to a two-headed foal, there will be a new king on the throne.

2. If a snake appears where a husband and wife are talking, they will divorce.

3. If a scorpion kills a snake in a man's house, the man's sons will murder him.

4. If black winged ants fly into town, there will be floods.

5. If ants fight each other, a

great army will be defeated.

6. If a scorpion hides in a man's bed, that man shall have riches.

7. If a wild ox appears in front of the city gates, an enemy army is on the way.



## Offal for Kings

Mesopotamian kings talked to the gods to try to find out what they wanted them to do. But it took some guts...



**LIVER 'N' LET DIE**  
If the king had a question for the gods, he would write it on a clay tablet, which was then placed inside a temple. Priests then sacrificed an animal – usually a goat – and cut out its liver. They believed they could 'read' the

answer to the king's question by looking at the shape of the liver.

## GUT FEELING

Fortune-tellers looked at sheep guts to see into the future. The guts were thrown on the ground.

If they split at the stomach end, it meant the king's son would rule; a split at the other end and a peasant would be the next king. And if the guts split in the middle? That meant a madman would take over!



## BANGERS AND MATHS

The next time you're going to have a new maths teacher, you could try this trick at home. Get your mum to cook some sausages. If they split in the middle, your new maths teacher will be mad. Nothing new there, then.



## Star struck

Mesopotamians also believed that the movements of the stars and planets revealed what the gods planned to do. The Babylonians watched the stars carefully. It was they who came up with the signs of the zodiac and invented astrology... which many people still believe in today. (So if you know someone who reads their horoscope, you can tell them their ideas are ancient.)

Here is a Babylonian horoscope for a boy born under the sign of the ram, Aries:

*Your baby will be lacking in wealth. His food will not satisfy his hunger. For 36 years he will have wealth but the wealth which he has in his youth will not last. He will live a long time*



One of the worst omens was an eclipse of the Sun (when the Moon passed across the Sun and blotted out its light). But if clouds covered the Sun after the eclipse had started, it didn't count. The astrologers would tell the king that, as he couldn't see it, this meant that the bad omen was intended for somewhere else.



## Did you know?

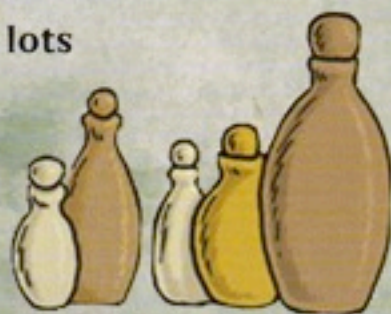
Watching the movements of the Moon, Sun and stars helped the Babylonians work out time more accurately than other early peoples. They were first to measure time in hours of 60 minutes. Bet they were the first to tell kids when they were late for school...





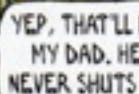
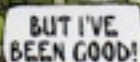
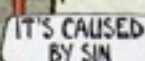
# Nutty Notions and Potions

**A**ncient Mesopotamians believed that illnesses were caused by evil spirits or angry gods. That's why magic spells were as important as medicines for curing a patient, and spooky signs were just as important as symptoms in working out what was wrong.



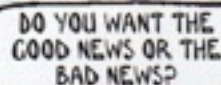
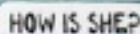
## DOCTORS AND GODS

- If the patient was covered with red pustules (probably smallpox), the illness was caused by the Moon god Sin.
- If it was a fever lasting four or five days, it was all down to the disgusting demon Ahhazu.
- Headaches were the work of the god of storms, who was known as Adad.



The trouble was they might not even make it to your house in the first place...

- If the front door of a sick person's house creaked when the doctor opened it, it meant that the patient had eaten something bad, and he would be ill for a long time... and then die.
- If the doctor passed a black dog or a black pig on his way to the patient, he would probably just turn round and go home again because it meant that the illness was fatal.
- If on the other hand he saw a white pig, the patient was going to be alright. (But what about if he saw a black-and-white pig?)





## Cabinet of Curious Cures

Mesopotamian medicines could be absolutely awful. If you want to get ill to sneak a day off school, just take a peak inside this medicine cabinet. Here are just some of the gross ingredients the ancients used...



### No tar!

If you had a sore throat, you'd be given a hot drink made of herbs, beer, honey – and crude oil called bitumen. (Today, bitumen is used to make tarmac for roads – wonder if the taste would “drive” you round the bend?) Then, after you'd drunk this nasty mixture, the doctor would stick a feather down your throat and make you sick – if you hadn't already thrown up because of the taste.

### Pine in the head

Mesopotamian doctors made headache cures by boiling twigs from cedar trees with pine resin, myrrh and suet (the fat from, in this case, sheep's kidneys). Must have tasted like toilet cleaner. But it would certainly take your mind off your pain!



## Foul Facts



Magic cures could be messy. One required a priest to cut the heart out of a live kid (a baby goat, not a child!) and thrust it still warm and quivering into the patient's hand while reciting a magic spell. If you weren't feeling sick before...



### Beware the toothworm

Ancient Mesopotamians thought that toothaches were caused by a tiny worm burrowing into the tooth. Ow! So they were very keen on keeping their teeth clean – and the toothworm out. They had a toothpaste made of pine resin, salt and other plant juices that they rubbed over their teeth with a finger. Then they swilled out this vile stuff with oil, honey and beer again. Bet their breath was smelly after all that!

### Dodgy for docs

It could be pretty dangerous being a doctor in King Hammurabi's Babylon. If a doctor was looking after a rich patient and the patient died, the doctor would have his hand chopped off. But if the patient who died was only a slave, the doc just had to pay the owner enough to buy a new one.



# Write Like an Ancient



Writing was invented back in ancient Mesopotamia, so the next time you're staring at your unfinished homework, you know who to blame!



The Mesopotamians were a smart bunch. They came up with some clever ideas – like writing and maths. Without them there wouldn't be any books (boo!) or maths homework (hooray!). The Mesopotamians didn't make their marks on paper. They wrote their words and numbers on flat blocks (or 'tablets') of wet clay using the tip of a reed or wooden stick.

## Taking the tablets

This tip was carved into a wedge shape, like a little arrow. It was pressed into the clay to make a mark. Words and numbers were different combinations of wedges. (The sworrry word for 'wedge-shaped' is 'cuneiform'. That's what Mesopotamian writing gets called by the experts: cuneiform.) The tablets lasted well. In fact, thousands of them have survived to the present day. That's how we know so much about life in ancient times. (It's a good job they didn't use exercise books.)

## Pic a word

Cuneiform was a better version of a simpler kind of writing that had been invented by the Sumerians. This had used simple pictures to represent words. For example, the symbol for the word 'head' was a picture of a head. Can you work out what's on this Sumerian shopping list? (Answers below.)



Answers: water, fish, sheep, ox, oats, bird.

## Cylinder seal

If there was one thing an ancient Mesopotamian hated losing, it was their cylinder seal.

This was a little roller of hard stone with a design or pictures carved into it. When the seal was rolled out across wet clay it printed a pattern. Everyone's seal was unique, so it was like signing your autograph. (So a book of autographs would weigh a tonne. Imagine how strong an ancient autograph collector would have to be!)



## Clay away

People used these clay seals on letters as well as wine jars and boxes. It was a way of saying "See this seal? It means Hands off! This belongs to me!"

## Sumerian Sayings

Clay tablets tell us that the Sumerians liked proverbs. Here are four of their sayings...

- He who has not supported a wife and child doesn't know what it's like to be kept on a leash.
- When a poor man dies, do not try to revive him.
- A rich person can be happy, but someone with nothing can sleep peacefully at nights.
- A mother should be treated like a goddess.

CAN I HAVE A GLASS OF MILK, OH GREAT ONE?





# SUMER SCHOOL STATISTICS

The first schools ever opened in Sumeria over 5000 years ago. Blame them!

**1** Because pupils wrote out their lessons on clay tablets, Sumerian schools were called Tablet Houses. Imagine hauling slabs of clay about in your school bag. Groan! And you thought your geography textbook was a burden...



**2** Older pupils, known as 'Big Brothers', helped the teachers prepare the tablets.

**3** The headmaster was called 'The Expert', and geometry teachers were called 'Scribes of the Fields'.

**4** The pupils sat on brick benches (ouch!) while they listened to lectures or copied from other tablets.

**5** The school day started at sunrise and it lasted till sunset. There were NO holidays.

**6** Did Sumerian schools have bullies? You bet. Big Brothers sometimes got into fights with

the younger kids. The big guys didn't always win, of course. Boys who started fights could be given a good beating and chained up in the classroom... but for how long?

- a) two hours
- b) two days
- c) two months

The awful answer is c! (Makes lunchtime detention look like a picnic...)



## MASSAGING THE RESULTS

About 4000 years ago, one Sumerian boy had a bad day at school. First he got a thrashing for being late... then another for failing yesterday's spelling test... another for being scruffy... another for slouching in morning assembly... and yet another for trying to bunk off early.

Despite all this, when he got home, the boy asked his dad to invite the headmaster for dinner. When the headmaster turned up, the boy's father sat him in the best chair in the house, feasted him, got the servants to massage him with scented oil, gave him a new coat and sent him home with presents. The boy's next report was a good one.

Perhaps your dad could try this trick on your head teacher?

I WONDER IF THE MATHS TEACHERS OF THE FUTURE WILL BE FAT, UGLY, SPOTTY NERDS?



## School's out

Learning to write in cuneiform took a long time because it used hundreds of different symbols, so only rich parents could afford to send their kids to school. Kids from poor families stayed at home. Lucky devils, you might say... but they probably had to work instead. Not so lucky.

Also, most girls didn't get to go to school anyway. All in all, this meant that very few people could read and write.

After 1000BC the Assyrians started to use an alphabet which used fewer symbols and was easier to learn. Write on!

## BUY-BUY KIDS

**T**hings got worse than school! In 1450BC the Mitanni people took over Mesopotamia. Mitanni dads would whip disobedient children or shut them up in creepy caves. And if they were short of money, the dastardly dads would even sell their kids for cash!

ARE YOU IN TROUBLE?





# Lachish

See folk suffer in a savage siege as the Assyrians wreck a rebel city and reduce it to rubble...

King Sennacherib of Assyria ruled over much of Mesopotamia. On the edge of his empire was the town of Lachish. The local king had enough of Sen, so he shut the gates of Lachish. Sen sent his troops in... It was time for a savage siege!

The Assyrians built a huge stone ramp against the walls, then they pushed 'siege engines' up it to attack the walls. Hole-ly smashing!

Lachish had an inner and an outer wall. Double rubble trouble!

The siege engines had battering rams with spear-like tips or huge iron prongs.

Assyrian troops were armed with bows and bronze-tipped arrows, spears and slings that hurled stone balls. Yow!

I'M FEELING REALLY 'RUNG' OUT

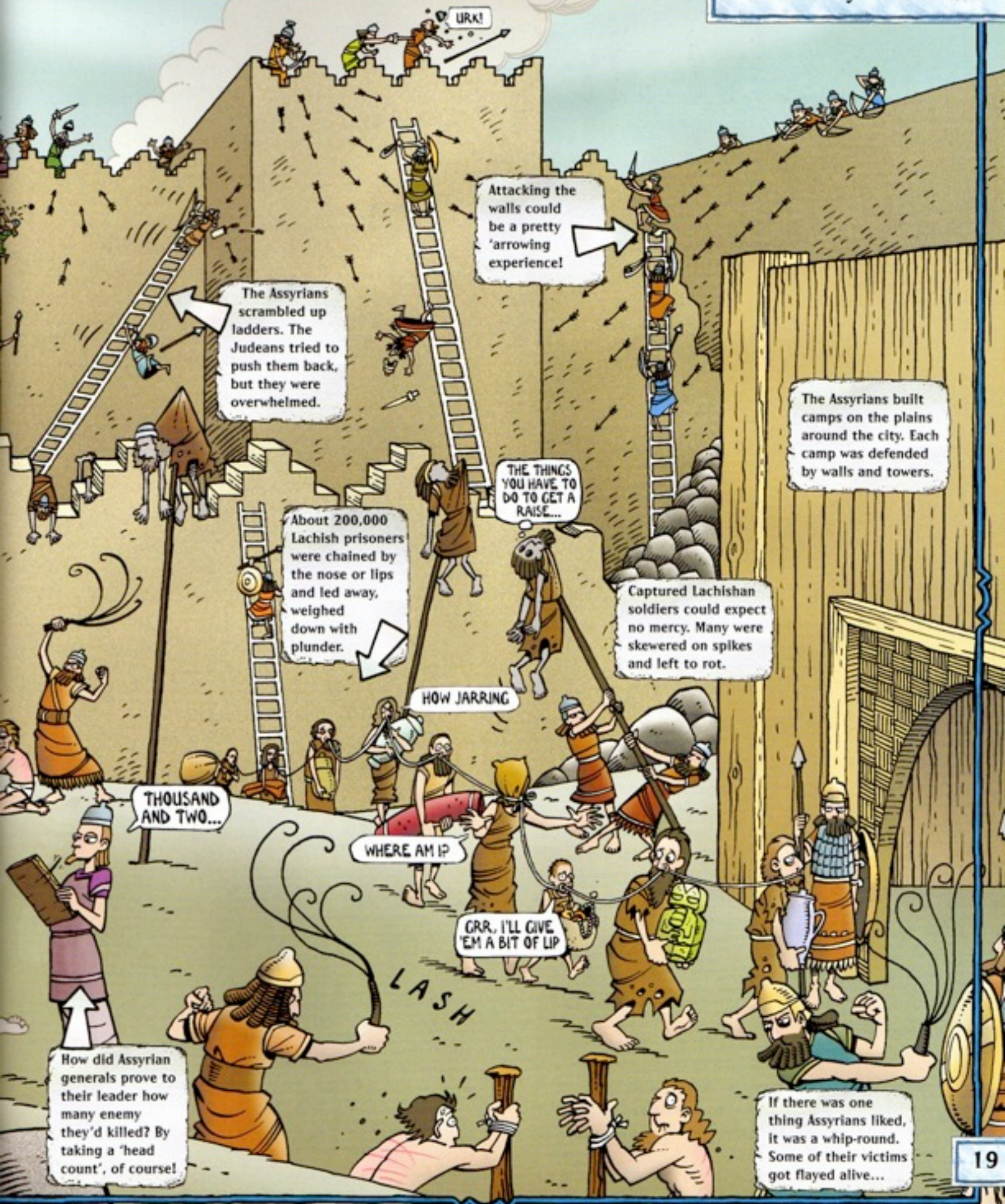
HOW VERY UPLIFTING

LOOK!

OUCH!

SLASH





URK!

Attacking the walls could be a pretty 'arrowing' experience!

The Assyrians scrambled up ladders. The Judeans tried to push them back, but they were overwhelmed.

The Assyrians built camps on the plains around the city. Each camp was defended by walls and towers.

THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET A RAISE...

About 200,000 Lachish prisoners were chained by the nose or lips and led away, weighed down with plunder.

Captured Lachishan soldiers could expect no mercy. Many were skewered on spikes and left to rot.

HOW JARRING

THOUSAND AND TWO...

WHERE AM I?

GRR, I'LL GIVE 'EM A BIT OF LIP

LASH

How did Assyrian generals prove to their leader how many enemy they'd killed? By taking a 'head count', of course!

If there was one thing Assyrians liked, it was a whip-round. Some of their victims got flayed alive...



# Wars and Walls

The siege of Lachish was won in the same way the Assyrians usually beat cities – brutally. If the army couldn't break through the walls, they went over them with huge ladders. The enemy got beheaded or skinned alive. Their bodies were stuck on spikes and their heads hung from trees.



Those who were captured and kept alive didn't do much better. They ended up being sent all over Sennacherib's kingdom. The cruel but clever king worked out that the best way to rule a people was to split them up and send them away.

The awful Assyrian army showed no mercy – and when it came to deadly decorating, neither did their king...

## Floating Foes

As well as ladders and siege engines, the army had some cool equipment to help them get past a city's defences. They had a sneaky secret weapon for launching surprise attacks from rivers – swimming aids! They weren't quite Assyrian armbands, but they weren't far off. The army used inflatables made from waxed, sealed animal skins. The inflatables helped the soldiers paddle across rivers that flowed so fast no one would expect them to cross.



## Petrifying Palace

How do we know about the siege of Lachish? Because King Sennacherib put pictures of it all over his palace walls.

King Sen didn't actually start the fad for gory wall paintings. That was King Ashurnasirpal, who had a new palace built at Nimrud in 879BC. He held a 10-day party to celebrate its opening. Ash was very proud of his palace. He said:



*I decorated the doors with bands of bronze. I carved and painted the walls with vivid paint showing my victories.*

He must have been exhausted after all that decorating. (Of course he didn't do it himself. He got slaves to do it.) Ash invited 69,574 people to the party. Generous? Not really. He wanted his guests to see the frightening 'frieze' on his palace walls. That way they'd know how ruthless he was, and would be so scared they wouldn't rebel themselves. (They were

'frieze'-en with fear!)

QUARRY WORRY

Sennacherib's petrifying palace was at Nineveh. The top part of his frieze shows beaten kings and rulers paying their respects to the smug king. That's how he liked it – Sen on top. And in case they didn't get the message, the lower frieze shows the siege of Lachish, how gorily it was won, and what happened to its people.

In one scene, the conquered people are being taken to Nineveh. Here they are used as slave labour, cutting stone for the king's new buildings.





## Foul Facts

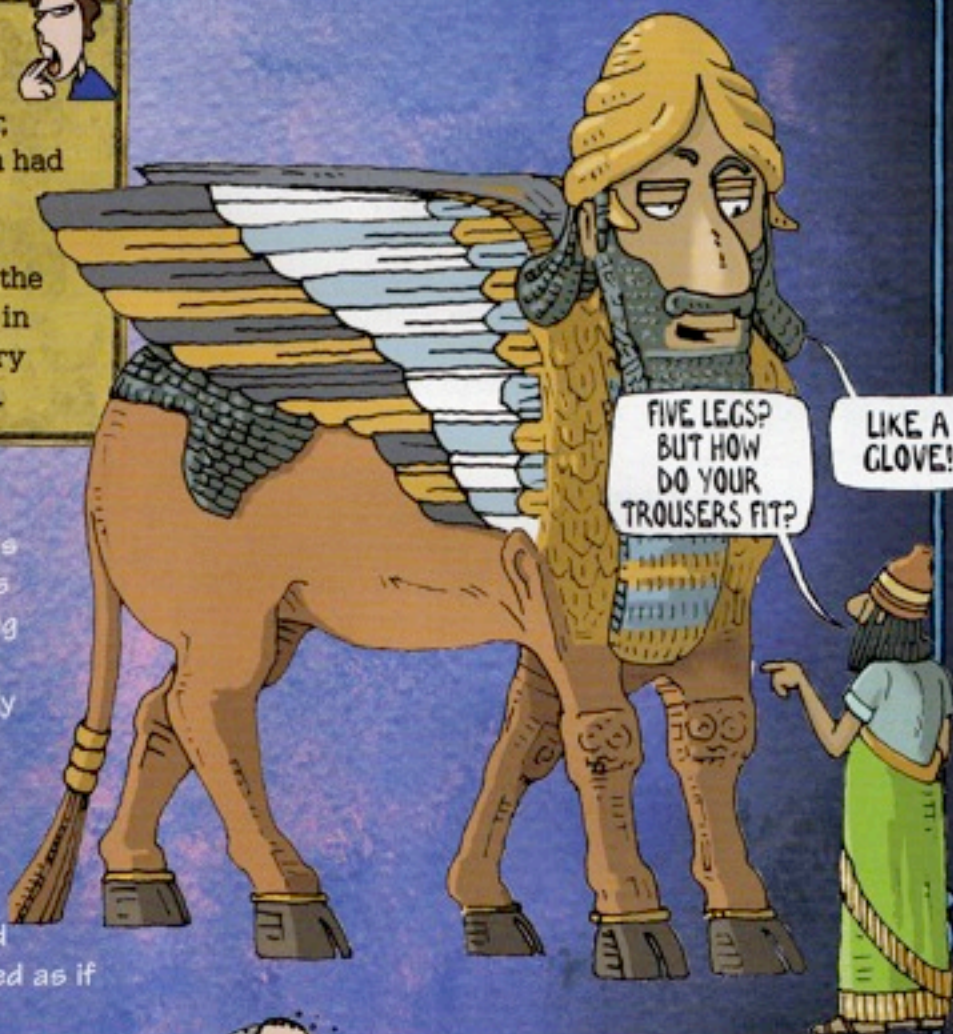
When the siege was over, the vultures of Lachish had a nice picnic. The Assyrians wrote that vultures flew away with the insides of the dead enemy in their mouths, looking very pleased with themselves.

SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT THOSE PEOPLE HAD CUTS!



## BEARDED BEASTIES

Sick slaughter scenes weren't the only things inside the temple designed to scare the wits out of people. Huge statues of barmy-looking beasts called 'lamassus' stood at the entrance to the throne room. Each amazingly odd monster had the body of a bull, the wings of a vulture and a human head – with a big beard! Even more peculiar than that, it had FIVE legs. Why? So that when you looked at a lamassu straight on, it seemed to be standing to attention, and when you looked at it from the side it looked as if it was walking.



FIVE LEGS? BUT HOW DO YOUR TROUSERS FIT?

LIKE A GLOVE!

THIS REALLY STICKS IN MY THROAT

ROAR DEAL

Ruined rebels and defeated enemies aren't the only poor souls who are shown on the palace walls 'getting it in the neck'. Sen is shown spearing lions.

Killing lions was the kingly thing to do. This may seem very brave... but the royal lion hunts were actually fakes. They took place inside special gardens called 'paradises'...

which just happened to be where they kept the royal lions.

LOOK! A LION!



YES, YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT A SURPRISE (GROAN)

## DAFT DEEDS

The upper panel of the frieze shows defeated kings offering gifts to savage Sen. These include fruit, monkeys, and even baby elephants! But treasures and goods weren't always enough.

As an extra humiliation, some kings were forced to polish their conqueror's sandals. Not so bad you might think. But they had to polish them using their own beards.



I'VE HEARD OF THE 'HAIR' TO THE THRONE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!



# Puzzles

## Ask an Ancient

Here's a quick quiz to baffle a Babylonian, stump a Sumerian or make a Hittite upright!

1. The first farmers needed to plough their land but oxen hadn't been tamed to do this yet. What did they use instead?

- a) Their camel
- b) Their dog
- c) Their wife



2. What would a Mesopotamian king wear to make him look powerful and handsome?



- a) A bronze crown with jewels to make him shine like the fairy on a Christmas tree
- b) A pair of platform shoes to make him as tall as a date tree
- c) A false beard and lots of eye make-up to make him look like something out of a pantomime

3. Where would a Mesopotamian go for a quick meal?

- a) A burger bar
- b) A fried fish shop
- c) A fried chicken shop



## Mesopotamian Mess-up

Can you match these three crimes with their painful punishments?

### Crime

### Punishment



1) Stealing something from a fire



a) Having one of your legs snapped



2) Breaking someone's leg in a fight



b) Being thrown in the river



3) Charging too much for a drink



c) Being burned alive

I TOOK ALL THE LEADING <sup>1</sup> AND HAD THEM <sup>2</sup> AND COVERED A PILLAR WITH THEIR <sup>3</sup>. SOME REBEL LEADERS WERE <sup>4</sup> INSIDE THE PILLARS, SOME WERE <sup>5</sup> ON <sup>6</sup> ON THE PILLAR, SOME WERE TIED TO STAKES AROUND THE BASE OF THE PILLAR. I SKINNED MANY IN MY COUNTRY AND SPREAD THEIR SKINS ON THE WALLS. I CUT OFF THE <sup>7</sup> AND <sup>8</sup> OF THE <sup>9</sup> OF THE <sup>10</sup>

## Lost Words

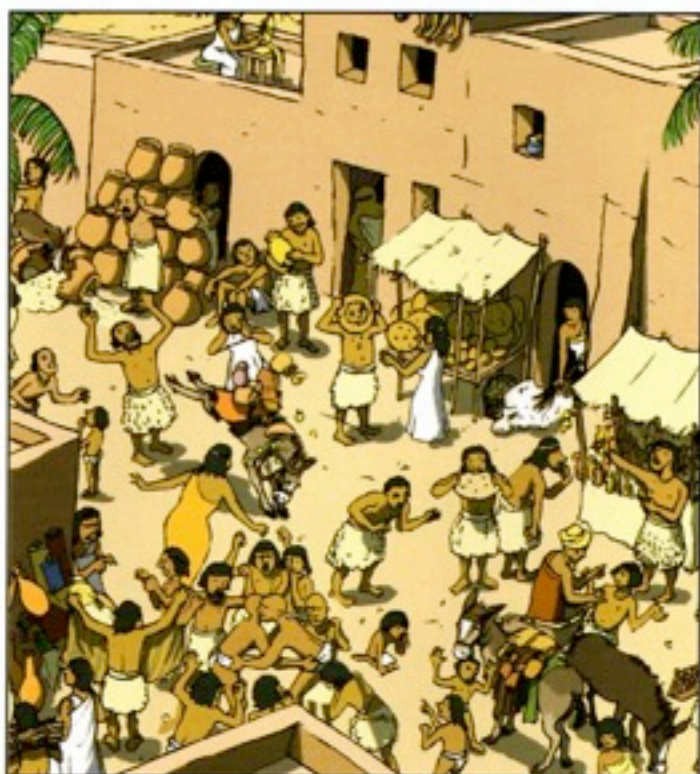
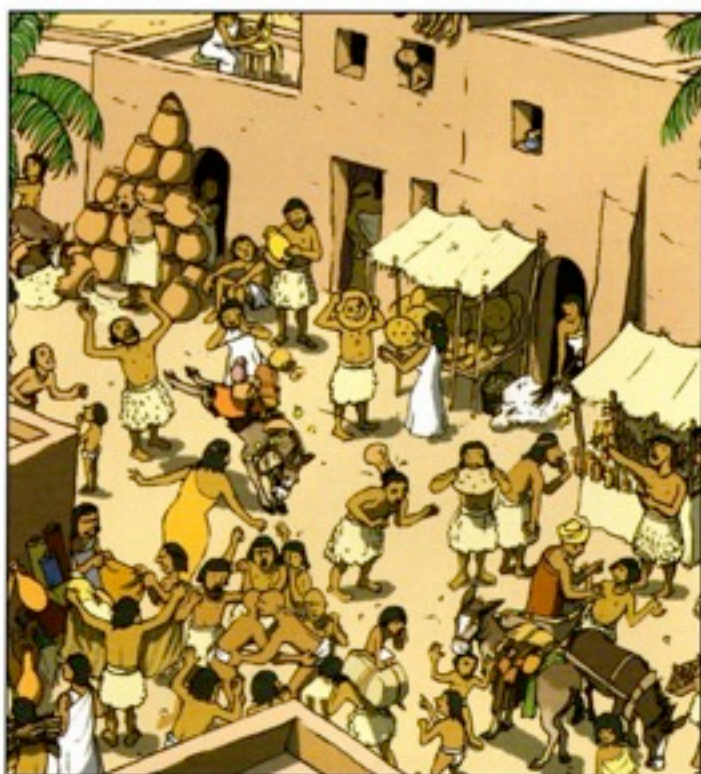
On his palace wall, cruel King Ashurnasirpal has written about what he's done to some rebels. But the wall's been damaged...

Can you fit the words back into their right places? Here are the missing words – not in the right order! SPIKES, REVOLT, SKINS, REBELS, ARMS, BURIED ALIVE, STUCK, LEADERS, LEGS, SKINNED



# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Seven tiny tweaks have been made to the second muddy Mesopotamian pic below. Can you spot all the differences?



## Wise Guys

Find eight awful ancients – kings, goddesses and a giant!

R	F	O	G	I	L	G	A	M	E	S	H	Y	A
L	A	D	I	N	A	O	W	U	V	O	I	S	N
A	M	Z	L	K	M	D	U	P	A	Y	H	H	G
P	B	J	Z	Y	T	D	R	P	L	U	A	A	E
R	Z	R	A	E	I	A	K	O	R	X	M	M	L
I	V	I	R	K	N	I	M	B	V	F	M	U	V
S	A	U	N	H	G	D	A	A	E	A	U	R	A
A	R	E	O	E	R	N	A	U	I	N	R	A	O
N	K	P	G	M	I	B	S	H	Y	T	A	N	R
R	L	Q	R	P	S	U	A	O	C	A	B	T	Q
U	J	W	A	B	H	R	R	R	Y	U	I	E	M
H	S	L	S	H	T	P	G	N	K	B	B	R	Y
S	G	C	E	U	A	L	I	T	O	M	O	E	O
A	P	A	N	N	R	E	T	X	M	T	D	Y	N

HAMMURABI

ASHURBANIPAL

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

ENKIDU

ASHURNASIRPAL

ISHTAR

SARGON

GILGAMESH

## Answers



Spot the Difference



Word Search

Ask an Ancient  
1 c). 2 c). 3 b).  
Mesopotamian Make-up  
1 c). You'll really feel the heat!  
2 a). Snap! The punishment matches the crime. 3 b).  
Cheat on the booze and you'll end up in the drink.



## Section Three

### **Ancient Egypt - Old Kingdom**

The Nile river is the longest in the world. The fertile land that surrounds it led to one of the greatest civilizations the world has ever seen. As you read: think about how the Egyptians used the Nile and what their civilization was able to accomplish.



### Take Me Back pg 28-29

#### Questions:

- pg 28-29 What is the “Old Kingdom”?
- pg 28-29 What types of goods did Egypt trade with African and the Mediterranean?
- pg 28-29 What were the many ways Egyptians used the Papyrus plant?
- pg 28-29 Why was the Nile River so important to the Egyptians?
- pg 28-29 What were seasons like for the Egyptians?



**answer online**





## Horrible Histories: Mummy Mania **ALL**

### Questions:

Why was Narmer so important to Egypt? (one paragraph, at least 3 ways)

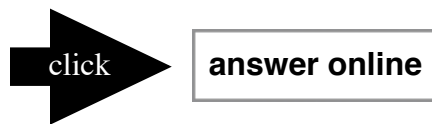
Who was Imhotep? Why was he important to Egypt?

How were pyramids were built? (one paragraph)

How is a mummy made? (one paragraph, explain all of the steps)

What did the Egyptians believe about the afterlife?

(see Take Me Back 32-33 for more info)





THE

An EagleMoss Publication Every fortnight UK £1.99 Euro €2.50 Malta LM 1.50

3

# HORRIBLE HISTORIES

THE AWESOME EGYPTIANS

COLLECTION

# MUMMY MANIA

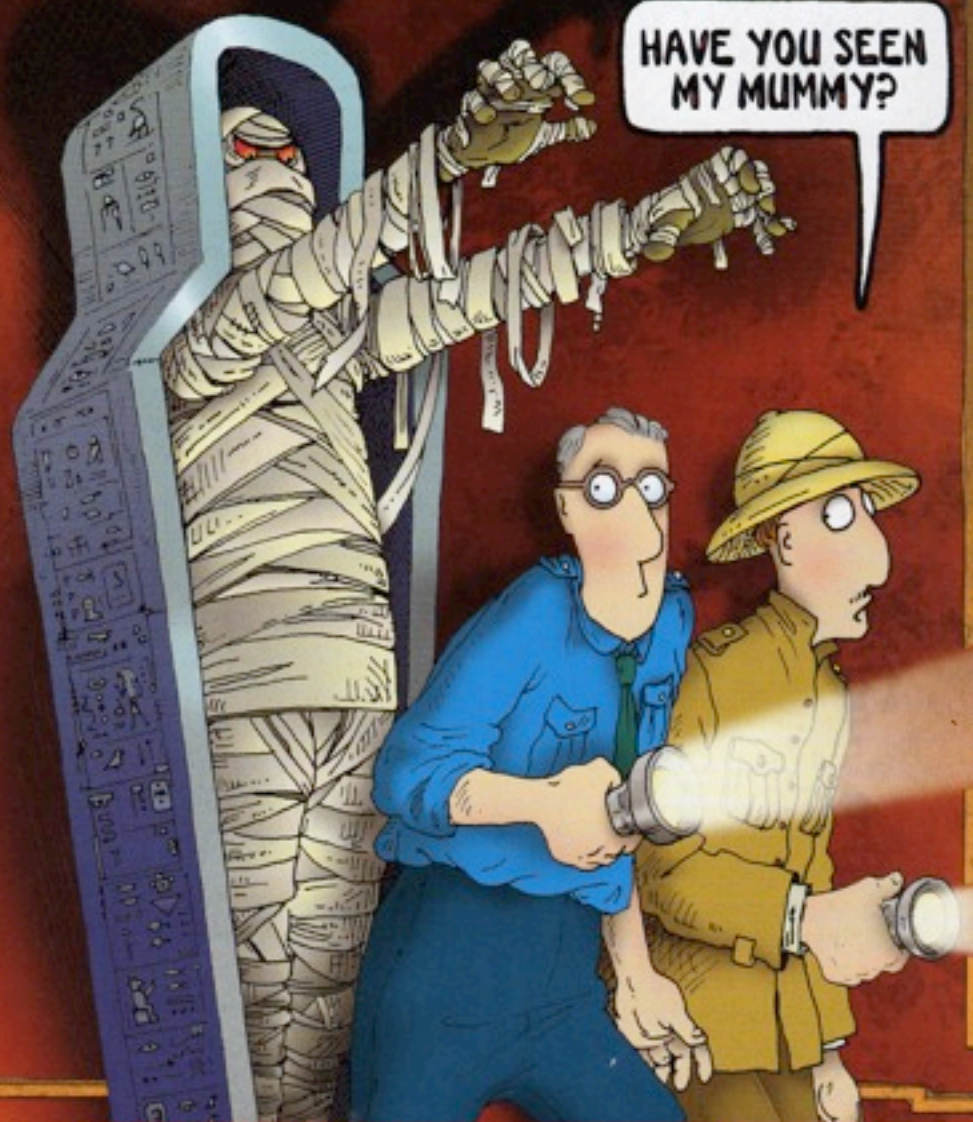
**IT'S A WRAP!**

**BRAINS OUT, BANDAGES ON**

**SEE A PYRAMID'S  
SECRETS (IF YOU DARE!)**

**Fierce, Foul and  
Full of It: The  
First Ever Pharaohs**

**Ghoulish Grave-  
Robbers Caught  
Dead-Handed!**



TERRY DEARY



# CONTENTS

## Terrible Times

**Changing Tombs, Nile-style** 4-6  
The TRUE STORY of early Egypt – full of blood, floods and pyramids!

## Who's Who?

**Wannabe Mummies** 7-8  
The top pharaohs and pyramid-builders of ancient Egypt

IFC code for website  
access: HH3WP903

## Front Page News

**Imhotep Invents Pyramid!** 9  
Plus lots more stories about Egypt's top genius

## Petrifying Places

**Perilous Pyramids** 10-11  
Take a look at one of the scariest building sites ever!

**Pyramid Power** 12-13  
Freaky pyramid facts!

## Life and Strife

**Making a Mummy** 14-15  
A step-by-step guide. Be warned – it's gruesome!

**The Trip of an Afterlife-time** 16-17  
What to pack for a journey to the land of the gods

**Afterlife Assault Course** 18-19  
Could you pass these terrifying tests?

**Tomb Raiders!** 20  
Want to break into a pyramid? Here's how!

**Mummy Misuse!** 21  
Yucky uses for our bandaged buddies

## Awesome Activities

**Puzzles** 22-23

### YOUR COLLECTION

The Horrible Histories Collection is published fortnightly at the regular price of £1.99 (€3.50).

Visit our website at

### DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

To make sure you receive every issue, take out a subscription and get The Horrible Histories Collection delivered direct to your door or place a regular

### UK Subscriptions

When you subscribe you will also receive exclusive free gifts. To subscribe today, call our credit card hotline on 08707 277 377 or you can complete and send us the subscription form which you will find inside issues 1, 2, 3 and 6 or order from our website at

### UK Enquiries

Customer Services Call 08707 277 377  
E-mail: enquiries@eaglemoss.co.uk  
Write to: The Horrible Histories Collection, Eaglemoss Publications Ltd, 5 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2HR

Please retain publisher's

### Circulation Manager

Gary Neale 020 7590 8339

### UK Back Issues

To order any back issues, call 08707 277 377

Distributor



# THE AWESOME EGYPTIANS MUMMY MANIA

Wrap your bones up tight for a journey through the barmy worlds of embalming and tombs – ancient Egyptian style!



Overseas readers visit our website at [www.horrible-histories.com](http://www.horrible-histories.com)  
**Overseas Subscriptions**  
 Australia Call (03) 9872 4000  
 E-mail [bissett@bissettmags.com.au](mailto:bissett@bissettmags.com.au)  
 Write to: The Horrible Histories  
 Collection, PO Box 460, Eastern MC  
 VIC 3110

**New Zealand** Call (09) 625 3057  
 E-mail [mercury@gordongotch.co.nz](mailto:mercury@gordongotch.co.nz)  
 Write to: The Horrible Histories  
 Collection, PO Box 24013, Royal Oak,  
 Auckland  
**South Africa** Call (011) 265 4307  
 E-mail [service@jacklin.co.za](mailto:service@jacklin.co.za)  
 Write to: Horrible Histories Collection,  
 Private Bag 18, Censurion 0046

**Overseas Back Issues**  
 Please order from your magazine retailer  
 © Eaglemoss Publications Ltd (2002).  
 All rights reserved.  
 Printed in the UK by Headley Bros. Ltd.  
 Colour origination: Icon Reproductions  
 Published by Eaglemoss Publications Ltd,  
 5, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2HR.

Some of the material in this partwork has previously been published in Horrible Histories The Awesome Egyptians © Terry Deary and Peter Hepplewhite, 1993. Horrible Histories books are published by Scholastic Ltd. Horrible Histories is a trademark of Scholastic Inc. and is used under authorisation. All rights reserved.

**Illustrations:**  
 Patricia Aggs front cover, 4-6;  
 Martin Brown 8(b), 12-13, 16(t),  
 17(tr), 19, 20-21; Leo Hartas 10-11;  
 Pat McCarthy 7-8, 9, 16(b), 18, 22-  
 23; Wildlife Art Agency (Robin  
 Carter) 2-3, 14-15.



# Changing Tombs, Nile-style

EGYPT! LAND OF PYRAMIDS AND PHARAOHS. BUT IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WEREN'T ANY PYRAMIDS OR PHARAOHS – JUST THE RIVER NILE AND THE DESERT. HERE'S THE STORY OF EGYPT'S EARLY DAYS.

ABOUT 5000 YEARS AGO, SETTLERS BUILT VILLAGES ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE.



THEY FARMED THE FERTILE LAND BESIDE THE RIVER...



...EVEN THOUGH IT GOT FLOODED EVERY YEAR.



THE VILLAGES GREW INTO TOWNS, AND EACH TOWN WAS LED BY A CHIEF. THE MORE POWERFUL CHIEFS CONQUERED THEIR WEAKER NEIGHBOURS, AND BUILT KINGDOMS. THEN THE KINGDOMS WENT TO WAR WITH EACH OTHER...



WHEN THE DUST CLEARED THERE WERE JUST TWO AWESOME CHIEFS – THE KING OF UPPER EGYPT IN THE SOUTH...

...AND THE KING OF LOWER EGYPT IN THE NORTH.



THAT ALL CHANGED WHEN NARMER BECAME KING OF UPPER EGYPT.

I'LL TAKE THAT!

WHAT A MEANIE!



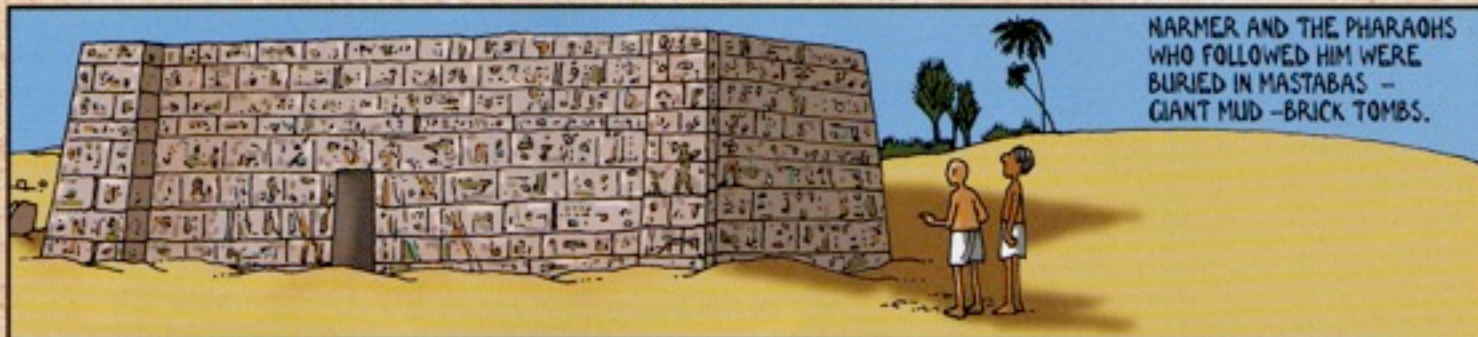
HE CONQUERED LOWER EGYPT, UNIFIED THE COUNTRY – AND BEAT UP ANYONE WHO DIDN'T AGREE WITH HIM!



NARMER DECIDED THAT BEING KING WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM. HE WANTED TO BE A PHARAOH - A KING AND A GOD.



AS PHARAOH, IT WAS HIS JOB TO WATCH OVER THE KINGDOM. HE HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SUN CAME UP EVERY DAY AND THAT THE RIVER FLOODED AT THE CORRECT TIMES.



NARMER AND THE PHARAOHS WHO FOLLOWED HIM WERE BURIED IN MASTABAS - GIANT MUD-BRICK TOMBS.

BUT THE PHARAOH DJOSER DECIDED HE WANTED SOMETHING EXTRA - SPECIAL FOR HIS TOMB.



DJOSER'S ARCHITECT HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA...

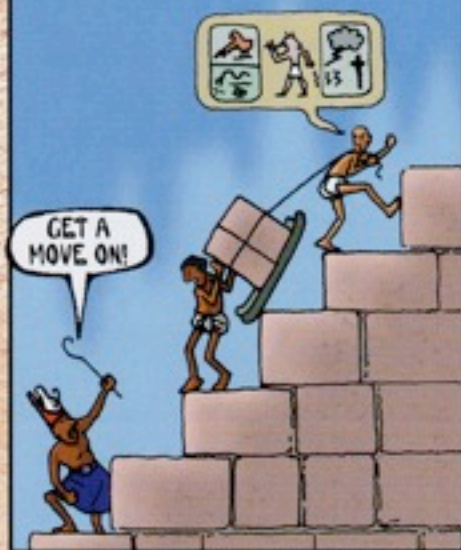


THE PYRAMID WAS INVENTED!





AFTER THIS, PYRAMIDS WERE ALL THE RAGE. EVERY PHARAOH WANTED TO HAVE ONE.



NOT ALL PYRAMIDS WERE SUCCESSFUL. SNEFRU'S FIRST ONE COLLAPSED...



AND SEKHEMET'S PYRAMID GOT LOST!



IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT THE EGYPTIANS WORKED OUT HOW TO MUMMIFY BODIES PROPERLY SO THEY WOULDN'T GO ROTTEN.



THE LARGEST PYRAMID OF ALL WAS BUILT BY THE PHARAOH KHUFU.



BUT BY THE REIGN OF PEPSY II, THINGS WERE GOING WRONG FOR EGYPT. THE PEASANTS WERE REVOLTING, AND THE LOCAL LORDS REBELLED AGAINST THE PHARAOH.



WHEN PEPSY DIED, THE OLD KINGDOM OF EGYPT WAS OVER, AND THE COUNTRY SPLIT UP INTO LOTS OF TINY KINGDOMS. BUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER A NEW PHARAOH WOULD UNIFY EGYPT.





# Wannabe Mummies

Ancient Egyptian kings had a great life, but that wasn't enough – they wanted to have a great afterlife, too!

**H**ere's the lowdown on some of the top dogs from the beginning of the ancient Egyptian story. They had a few hobbies in common: conquering people, building fancy tombs, and leaving a good-looking mummy when they died!

## NARMER

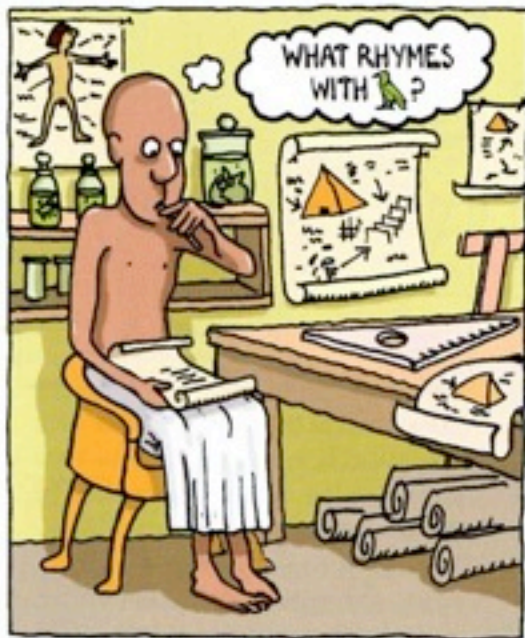
Narmer lived a long time ago – so long ago, in fact, that we know almost nothing about him. All we have is a few carvings and ancient stories. We know that he was the king of Upper Egypt, and a mighty warrior. This wasn't enough for him, though: he also conquered Lower Egypt and



united the country for the first time ever. Narmer is often confused with another famous king called Menes. In fact, they may have been the same person.

## IMHOTEP

Imhotep was the main advisor of the pharaoh Djoser, and an all-round smart cookie. He designed the world's first-ever pyramid for



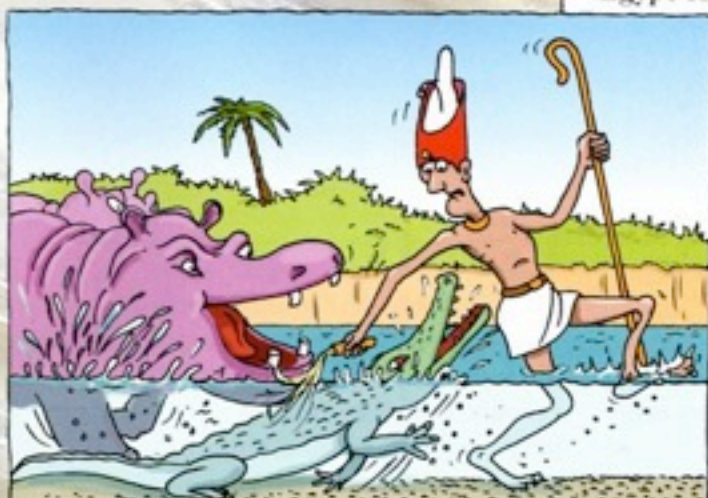
his boss – and started the pyramid-building craze that swept Egypt for the next 1000 years!

But that wasn't all. He was also dead famous as a doctor and a poet. In fact, the Egyptians thought so much of Im that two thousand years later he was declared a god!

Visitors came to his temple in search of healing, and left unusual offerings – like clay models of diseased organs and limbs. How generous!

## MENES MUNCHEDED!

**N**ot every Egyptian king managed to make it to the mummy stage. According to legend, Menes died messily at the grand old age of 63. He was coming home after slaughtering some enemy tribes, when he got eaten by hungry hippos and cranky crocs. The moral of the story is... always look both ways before you cross the river!





## SNEFERU

Here was the kind of pharaoh the Egyptians liked: kind to them, cruel to their enemies! But like all pharaohs, Sneferu wanted a posh pyramid from where he could start his journey to the afterlife.



His first attempt was a bit of a hotchpotch – a stepped one that had its sides smoothed over. The outside of it later fell off. Oops! The next one is known as the 'bent' pyramid – the sides change angle in the middle. Maybe the architect got his sums wrong! Finally, Sneferu had his 'Red Pyramid' built – his best bash yet.

## KHUFU

Sneferu's son Khufu carried on his father's example when he built a whopping great pyramid of his own at Giza. Now known as 'the Great Pyramid', it's the largest surviving one and the most famous.

Khufu had a reputation as a bit of a meanie. Ancient historians say he worked thousands of peasants to death while building the pyramid, and sold his daughter into slavery in order to pay for it!

## CRUEL KINGS!



**E**gyptian kings didn't just need their mummified bodies in the afterlife. They also needed servants! Most kings were buried with models of the servants they would need later.

But the first few kings had a much more gruesome answer to the afterlife servant-problem... when they died they took their human servants with them.

The servants couldn't travel to the afterlife while they were still alive, so they had to be killed!

We don't know if they died willingly or

had to be brutally murdered. We do know that outside King Zer's tomb, for example, there are the graves of 338 servants who were sacrificed at his funeral.

Serving the king was a great honour. But would you have worked for him knowing that if he died, you died?

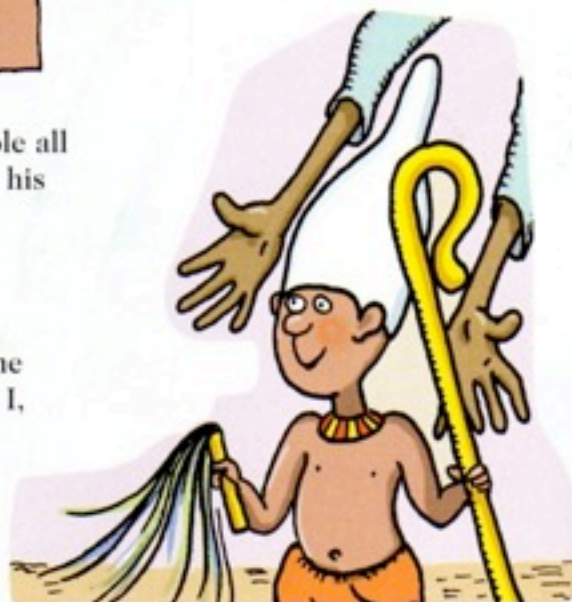


Grave-robbers later broke into Khufu's pyramid and stole all the pharaoh's treasure – and his mummified body. Serves him right!

## PEPY II

Pepy II became pharaoh at the age of six after his dad, Pepy I, died. According to some records he ruled for 94 years – which makes him one of the longest-living rulers in the world EVER!

Unfortunately, Pepy II's reign lasted so long that most of his chosen heirs died waiting, leaving local lords to fight for power when it was mummy time for Pepy. As a result, the kingdom fell apart, but it was later reunited by a mighty new pharaoh, Mentuhotep II.





# THE DAILY PAPYRUS

2660 BC

## IMHOTEP INVENTS PYRAMID!



A dab hand at design: Pharaoh's Djoser's main man, Imhotep.

**Workers have almost finished building a fancy new tomb for Pharaoh Djoser.**

The new design has been hailed as a breakthrough in tomb technology. It's built of STONE, not mud-

brick, and instead of being rectangular like regular 'mastaba' tombs, it's pointy-shaped - they call it a 'pyramid'.

### They won't last

This cutting-edge design is the work of the pharaoh's chief minister and architect, Imhotep. So will these peculiar 'pyramids' catch on, or are they too over-the-top?

We asked a rival tomb-builder from Thebes: 'These new stone pyramids are just a passing phase. They won't last!'

## IMHOTEP: TOP DOC!

People all over Egypt are saying that if you have a problem, there's only one priest-doctor to see: Imhotep!

'That Im's a marvel,' says Ptenisnet, 29, a father of twelve children. 'I live near the Nile, and members of my family kept getting eaten by crocodiles. We must have displeased the gods! Imhotep said the gods just wanted us to move. Since we moved to the edge of the desert, none



If you've got a problem you can't solve, ask Imhotep!

of us has been eaten. Come to think of it, we haven't seen a single crocodile, either!'

Minmose, a farmer from Memphis, says Imhotep helped cure his halitosis. 'All my friends

had been complaining about my smelly breath. Imhotep suggested that I cover my body with hippo dung every morning. Now no-one mentions my bad breath. Thanks, Imhotep!'

ON PAGE 3:

### HOLY IMHOTEP!



Im's at it again! He's wowing them with pics on papyrus.

### Imhotep's New Poem: Best Yet?

Word on the street is that Imhotep has completed a new poem, which critics are calling his best yet. He is giving an EXCLUSIVE reading at the Temple of Thoth in Memphis. Come along and see some terrific hieroglyphics (picture writing).

### ATTENTION ALL ARCHITECTS AND PHARAOHS!

**STOCK CLEARANCE at TOMB-BASE! MASTABAS at MAD PRICES!**

A ONCE-IN-AN-AFTER-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY! SEVEN FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

**TOMB-BASE - WE PILE 'EM HIGH AND SELL 'EM CHEAP.**



# Perilous Pyramids

It's believed the Egyptians used large ramps to build their super-large pyramids. Unfortunately, they didn't leave any records except for a list of all the injuries that the pyramid-builders suffered! So come on site, but mind your step...

A lot of people think these pyramids were built by slaves. Wrong! They were built by farmers who were free for work when their lands were flooded each year by the River Nile.

The wheel hadn't been invented when the Egyptians built their pyramids, so teams of men had to drag the colossal stones on massive sledges. Sometimes the men – and ropes – reached breaking point!

The workers had no excuses for turning up late – they lived in a large town right next to the building site! It was huge...but then again, it needed to be – it took thousands of men to build one of these things!

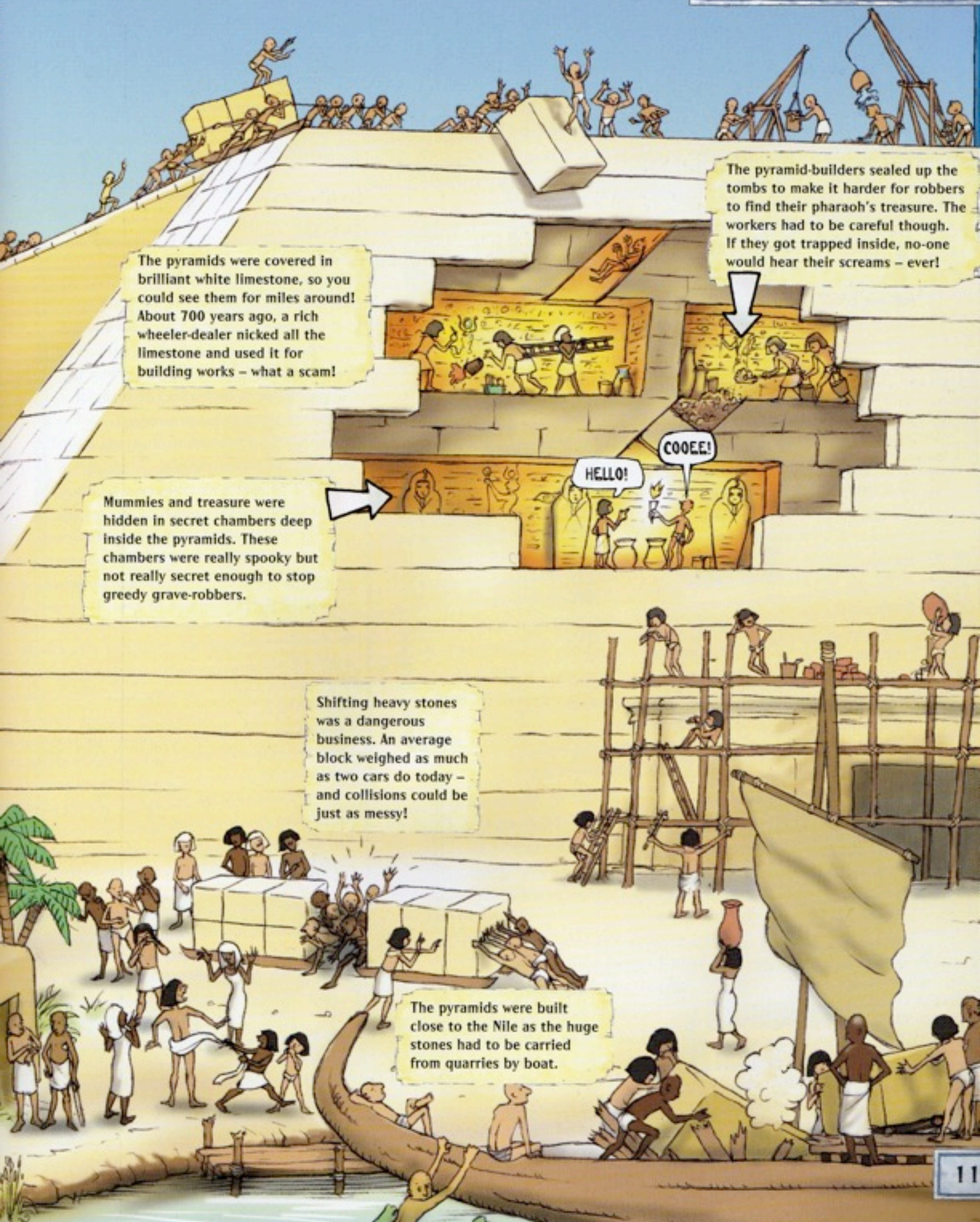
The pharaoh inspected the work himself to make sure no-one was slacking. Boo!

The site hospitals were kept busy. Doctors mended broken bones, lopped off mangled limbs – and then sent you back to work!

The pharaoh's foremen made sure the workers worked **HARDER** and **FASTER**!

Workers ate bread and fish. They were paid partly in radishes and garlic, which kept them healthy but made them a bit whiffy!





The pyramids were covered in brilliant white limestone, so you could see them for miles around! About 700 years ago, a rich wheeler-dealer nicked all the limestone and used it for building works – what a scam!

The pyramid-builders sealed up the tombs to make it harder for robbers to find their pharaoh's treasure. The workers had to be careful though. If they got trapped inside, no-one would hear their screams – ever!

Mummies and treasure were hidden in secret chambers deep inside the pyramids. These chambers were really spooky but not really secret enough to stop greedy grave-robbers.

Shifting heavy stones was a dangerous business. An average block weighed as much as two cars do today – and collisions could be just as messy!

The pyramids were built close to the Nile as the huge stones had to be carried from quarries by boat.

HELLO!

COOEE!



# Pyramid Power

For thousands of years people have been fascinated by the pyramids – and have come up with all kinds of crazy ideas about them. Here are some amazing pyramid facts...

**1** Some people believe that the centre of the Great Pyramid is a tremendously powerful place, and that strange and wonderful things can happen within its chambers.

People have gone into shock or fainted when they reached the centre. This even happened to the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte! In 1799 he went into the Great Pyramid alone – and came out pale and shaking. He refused to tell anyone what had happened – even on his deathbed!



**2** Fifty years after Napoleon's secret experience, a Frenchman named Bovis visited the pyramid. Inside, he found a dead cat. Nothing unusual about that – except it was perfectly (or should that be purrfectly) preserved.

It could have been a mummy, but without any wrapping or embalming. Bovis decided that only one thing could have preserved the cat in this way... the power of the pyramid.

Bovis decided that some powerful forces of nature are pulled together by the shape of the pyramid.

He went back to France and tried some experiments. He made model pyramids and placed different types of food inside them – food that usually goes rotten in a very short time.

Bovis found that food placed under the models stayed fresher for longer than anyone would expect!

**3** Pyramid-builders tried to fool thieves by placing a blocking stone at the end of a passageway and plastering it in. If the thieves broke through the plaster then they would come to the stone and give up. The real way into the tomb was through a hidden trapdoor in the ceiling.

This trick didn't fool the thieves for long, though. All of the pyramids were robbed of their treasures

within a couple of hundred years of being built.

The only tombs to escape until modern times were those dug into rock, not placed in pyramids.

I WOULDN'T BE SEEN DEAD IN ONE OF THOSE THINGS



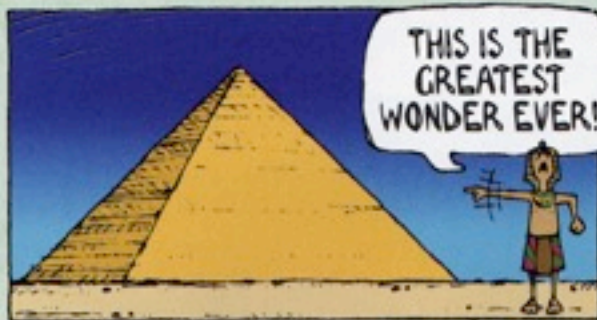
ZIZ IZ VRRY STRARNGE





**4** The pyramids are not the most awesomely large human construction. The Great Wall of China is much more awesome and the Mexican Pyramid of Quetzacoatl is an even more awesome 54 metres tall and has a volume of 3.3 million cubic metres.

The Great Pyramid is just 2.5 million cubic metres. But the pyramids of Egypt are the oldest stone buildings in the world.



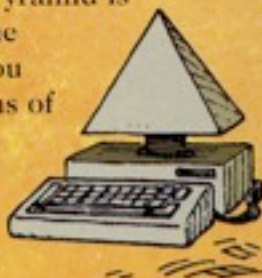
**5** If you broke the Great Pyramid into slabs 30cm thick, you could build a wall one metre high that would stretch all the way around France.

If you had a little more time you could cut the stone into rods about 6cm square. If you joined them together, you'd have enough to reach the Moon!

**6** If you could weigh the Great Pyramid it would weigh more than 6,300,000 tons – and its base covers an area equal to the area of seven or eight full-size football pitches!

## Nutty Pyramid Notions

**1** The Great Pyramid is a giant stone computer! If you take the lengths of the sides, and their heights and angles, you can calculate all sorts of things.



**3** The Great Pyramid is an observatory for watching the stars.



**4** The Great Pyramid is a sundial – you can tell the time of day by looking at where its shadow falls.



**2** The Egyptians could use the Great Pyramid to work out the distance the Earth travels around the sun, and the speed of light.



Warning! Someone who studies pyramids is called a pyramidologist... so people who come up with weird ideas about pyramids must be called pyramididiots!

**5** The pyramid is a giant horoscope – you can calculate the future from it! The Institute of Pyramidology in London says that the pyramid has already predicted the crucifixion of Jesus and the First World War. It has also predicted that the world will end in 2979 AD!





# Making a Mummy

In ancient Egypt, the sure-fire way of getting to the afterlife was to be mummified. The Egyptians turned this into a super-slick process, but be warned... it gets gruesome!

## 2. No-brainer

Your brain is yanked out with a long hook – through your nose! – then chucked away.

## 5. Mummy makeover

By now, your appearance is really letting you down, so you need a beauty treatment. Your skin is softened by oil, then, to restore your former shape, you're stuffed with sawdust and rags. Onions are used to make a set of false eyes!

## 6. The wrap up!

Your body is parcelled up in about twenty layers of linen. The bandages are 'glued' using a goo that turns your flesh rock-hard and waterproof.



## 1. Wake-up call

Before washing your body in water and salt, the embalmers check that you're actually dead - by shouting at you and tickling your feet with a feather!



## 3. Gutted!

Your lungs, stomach, liver and intestines are taken out, and slopped into canopic jars. These are then placed in your tomb.

## 4. Salt it out

Your body is then covered in salt for forty days. This sucks all the moisture out, leaving you wrinkled like a prune!

## 7. Face facts

The chief embalmer, dressed up as Anubis, (the god of embalming), places a mask on your face. This mask was made to look like you - only much better looking!

## Handy extras

Sometimes limbs fell off during the whole grisly process and wooden ones had to be stuck on instead!

## 8. Coffin fit

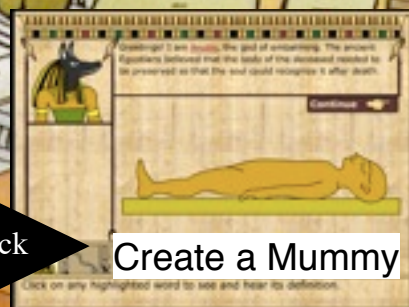
Your mummified body is now snugly popped into its sarcophagus (a fancy stone coffin) and taken to your tomb.

## Pet-rified

If you were a really wealthy person, then you'd have your pets mummified too!

click

Create a Mummy





# The Trip of an Afterlife-time



No self-respecting mummy would be seen dead without the right afterlife accessories...

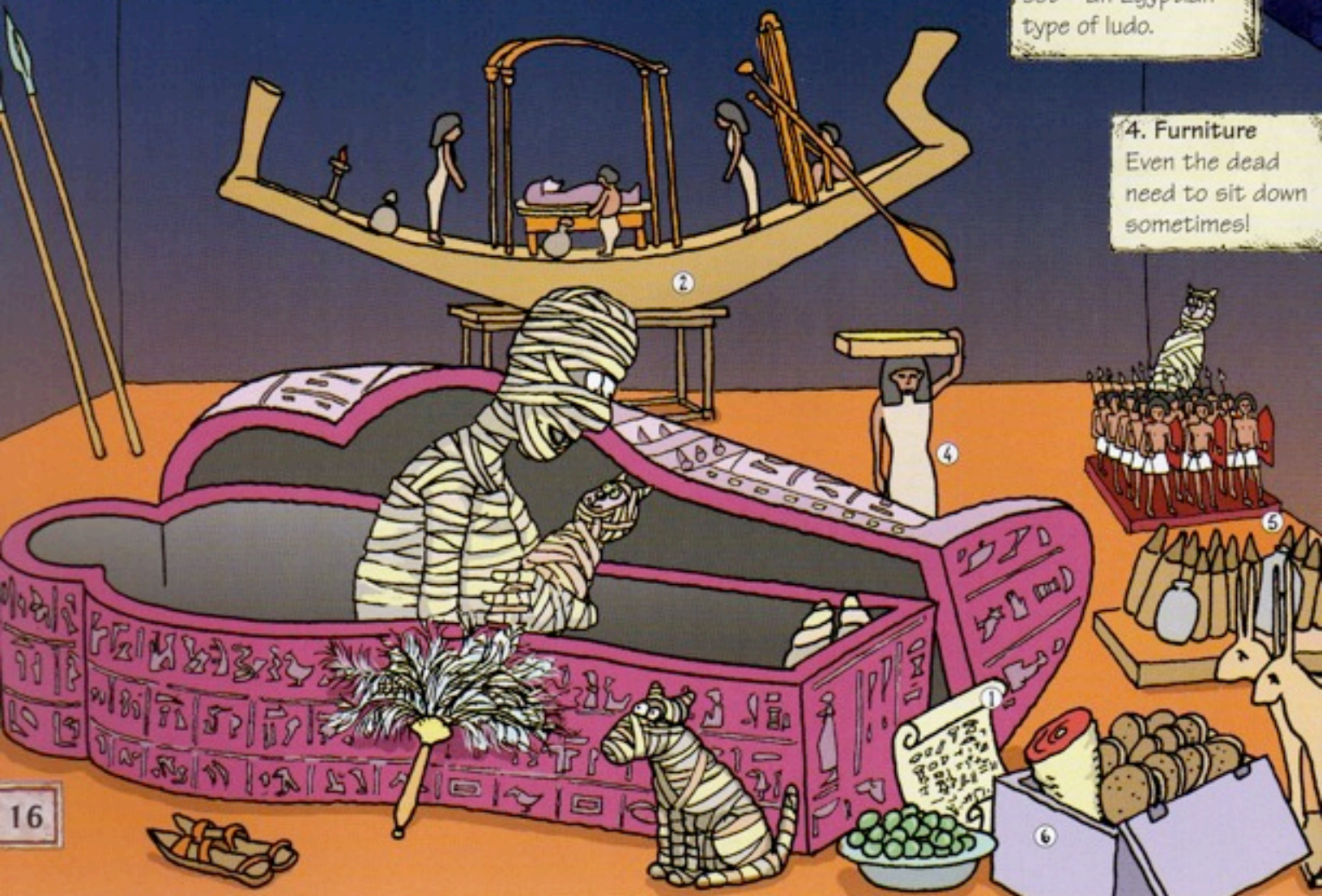
The absolute must-have for the trip to the afterlife was a fancy coffin. If you were really posh, you had three coffins that fitted inside one another – Russian-doll style. These were decorated with hieroglyphics (picture writing) that said what a wonderful person you were, and spells to help you in the afterlife. The coffins were put

**1. Something to read** The scroll of spells and prayers called 'the Book of the Dead'. This will help your spirit overcome the dangers of the Underworld, such as fierce animals and rivers of fire, and get your soul safely to the afterlife!

**2. Transport** A model boat or chariot. You don't want to have to WALK everywhere when you're dead, do you?

**3. Games** Just in case eternal life gets boring. Lots of Egyptians were buried with a 'senet' set – an Egyptian type of ludo.

**4. Furniture** Even the dead need to sit down sometimes!





inside a larger, stone coffin called a sarcophagus. The sarcophagus was placed in your tomb along with all the possessions you might need on the other side.

## Preserved Pets

It wasn't just people who were mummified – the Egyptians mummified just about anything that moved! Here are a few examples...

- Cats! Egyptians were keen on cats, and often mummified them so they could accompany their owners into the afterlife. Many were enclosed in cat-shaped statues, but some mummy moggies had a sarcophagus or even a mini-pyramid of their own.
- Egyptians also believed that certain animals were sacred to certain gods – for example, crocodiles were sacred to the crocodile-headed god Sobek. These animals were mummified when they died.
- Other animals were mummified so they could be offered to a god at their temple. You could buy a preserved pet and leave it on the altar as a present (or bribe) for the god. Much later when explorers uncovered the temple of the cat-goddess Bast, they found it was filled with thousands of mummified cats which had been left for the goddess.

What happened to all the kitty corpses? They were shipped to Europe and ground up to make fertiliser. What a total cat-astrophe!

- No animal was safe from the Egyptian mummification mania. They mummified snakes, gazelles, mongooses, snakes, hawks and even baboons!

5. Servants and soldiers In the afterlife these models will come to life to serve you. Some pharaohs were even buried with whole model armies!

6. Food for the journey Pack a hamper of figs, bread and mummified meat. Yum!

7. Make-up, mirrors and combs These will help you keep up appearances in the afterlife. Some people were buried with their favourite pair of sandals – perhaps they wanted to protect their soles!



## Did you know?



Not all Egyptians were rich enough to be mummified properly. If they couldn't afford the full organ-removal-and-bandages treatment, they could go for the cheaper option. In this case, the internal organs weren't removed when they died. Instead, cedar oil was injected up the bottom – this dissolved the guts!

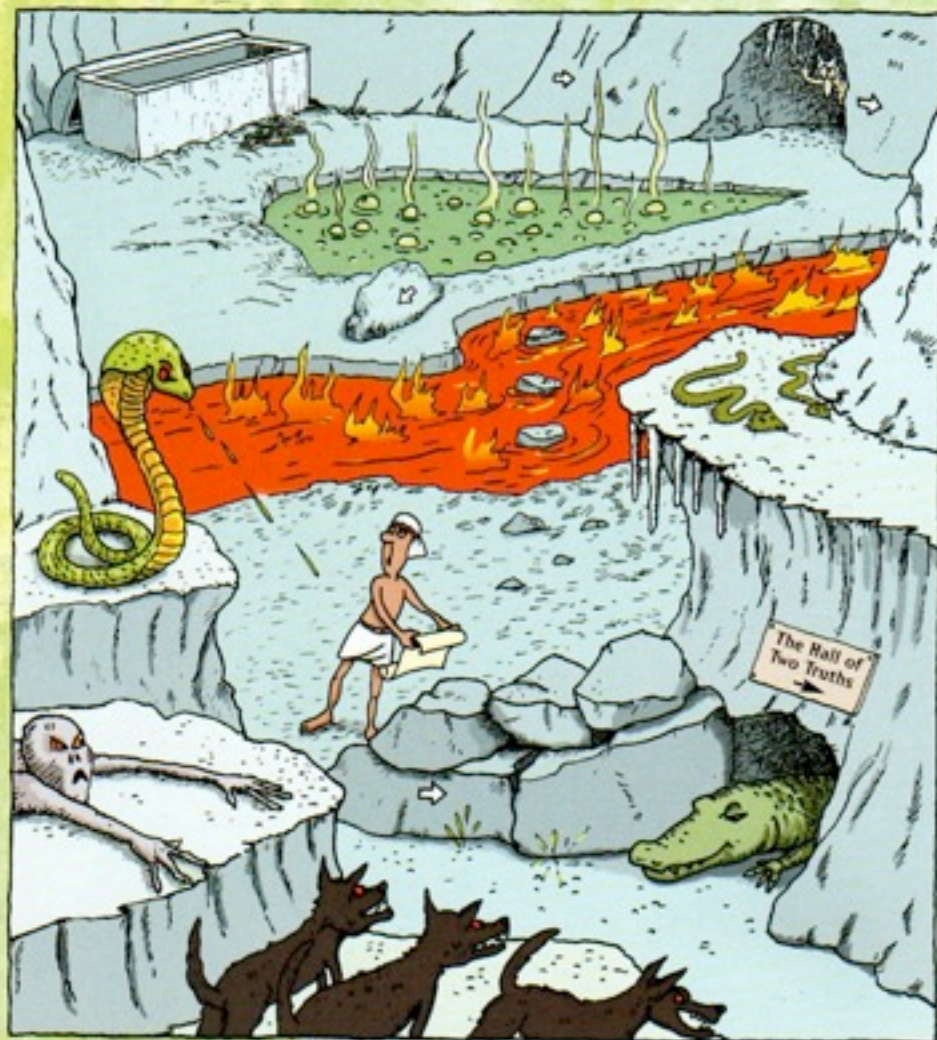
But the cheapest way to get mummified was actually one of the best – to be buried in the hot dry sand of the desert. Bodies left this way got completely dried out, so they didn't rot – and were preserved for thousands of years.





# Afterlife Assault Course

Mummified pharaohs couldn't relax – they had to pass some terrible tests to get to the land of the gods. Meanwhile, normal people had to keep a huge gang of gods happy...



If they overcame the monsters then they'd reach the gates of Yaru (the Egyptian afterlife) and meet their friends again. But first they had to pass the greatest test of all in the Hall of Two Truths.

## Have a heart!

The heart (the only organ left in a mummy) was placed on one side of the Scales of Justice and the Feather of Truth on the other side. Three gods – Osiris, Anubis and Thoth – judged the result.

Egyptians believed that the heart held the weight of a person's conscience. If they'd been good, the heart would be as light as the feather and they'd be allowed through the gates of Yaru. But if their heart was weighed down by sin, it would be heavier than the feather and would be gobbled up by Ammut the Devourer. If Ammut – who was part crocodile, part hippo and part lion – ate your heart, you were lost forever!



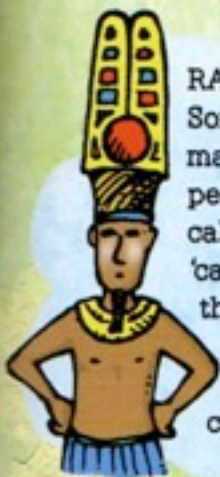
**Y**ou'd think that once things had been nicely wrapped up, your mummified pharaoh would have had everything he needed for an easy journey to the afterlife... Wrong!

## Duat's dangerous!

Egyptians believed that the dead person would then have to pass through a dangerous zone known as the Duat. The dangers here were monsters, boiling

lakes and rivers of fire. One particularly nasty beast was a snake that spat poison! However, these monsters could be avoided if you took the right short cuts and they could also be overcome with the right prayers or spells. These handy tips were written down and left in or near the coffin – like a travel guide to surviving the perils of the Duat. The papers became known as the Book of the Dead.





**RA** – the Sun god. Some said he had made the Egyptian people. The Egyptians called themselves the 'cattle of Ra'. It is said that when Ra shone his light on the afterlife, mummies came to life.



**HORUS** – the falcon-headed god. He looked after pharaohs and was king of the living – so don't call him 'bird-brain'! He defeated evil Seth.

**BES** – the dwarf-god of happiness and protector of the family. Bes was also a children's entertainer – a kind of scary party clown! And his wife was a hippo. What a family!



**ISIS** – the wife of Osiris who took special care of women and children. She was thought to be the most powerful magician in the whole universe.



## A Gallery of Gods

It may have been tough for the pharaohs to get to their special afterlife, but it was tricky for ordinary Egyptians to reach their own spirit world, too.

Even though they knew exactly where it was – just over the western horizon – there was an awesome assortment of gods to please before they got there. And if they annoyed one... well, it meant bundles of trouble when they arrived! You see, the gods had lived before people existed and now treated humans as if they were a mixture of toys and servants. They controlled the world and everything that happened and they demanded respect. Try keeping this lot happy!



**SETH** – the god of the desert and storms. Enemy of his brother Osiris, and all-round bad egg.

**SOBEK** – the crocodile-headed god. He controlled the water supplies. In the Book of the Dead, Sobek helped destroy Seth.



**THOTH** – the ibis-headed god of wisdom who invented writing and speaking. His job was to write down EVERYTHING that happened. That's a lot of dictation!



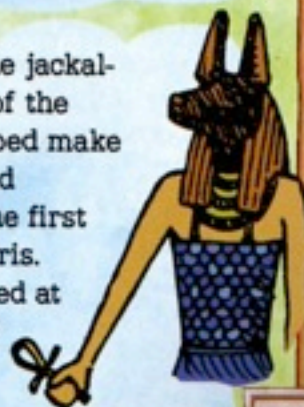
**OSIRIS** – god of death, rebirth and the Underworld and the Earth. Long ago he taught people to farm. He was murdered by his brother Seth, but his wife Isis brought him back to life. Because he was the first god to snuff it, Osiris became the Lord of the Dead.



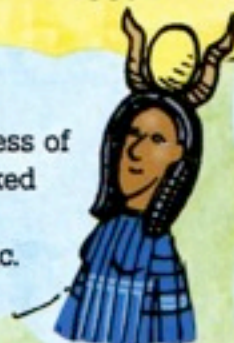
**PTAH** – the god who spoke the names of all the things in the world. By doing this he made them exist. (Neat trick, eh?) His job was making bodies in which men's souls could live in the afterlife.



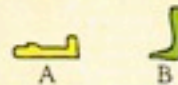
**ANUBIS** – the jackal-headed god of the dead. He helped make mummies and embalmed the first one ever, Osiris. He also judged at the Scales of Truth... best not to upset him then!



**HATHOR** – the cow-horned goddess of love. She also looked after happiness, dancing and music.







# Tomb Raiders!

The pharaohs built pyramids to keep their mummies safe – but they couldn't stop grave-robbers breaking in and stealing all their buried treasure.

As the pyramids got bigger and stronger, the grave-robbers got cleverer (See our Top Tips below). In the end every pyramid was robbed and it was the pharaohs who gave in and stopped building pyramids. They realised that a pyramid was a huge stone advert saying: 'Look at my grave! Look at my wealth!' The only answer was to hide their tombs underground or in hidden caves. So you could say these ancient tomb raiders changed the shape of Egypt. (Use the symbols around the page to read our secret message.)

## Top Tips for tomb raiders

Remember the penalty for being caught robbing a grave. Torture, then execution.

Bribe everyone concerned with the burial:

*The coffin-maker.* Get him to make a trap-door in the coffin so you can easily pull out the body.

I'M IN A RUT, I SPEND ALL THE MONEY I GET FROM MY LAST TOMB ROBBERY ON BRIBING PEOPLE SO I CAN ROB A TOMB SO I CAN AFFORD TO BRIBE PEOPLE SO I CAN ROB TOMBS

*The tomb-sealer.* His job is to seal up the three doors to the tomb. If you slip him a few coins, he might 'forget' to do his job properly.

*The tomb guards.* These chaps have a boring job. A little tomb-robbing would liven up their lives (and fill their pockets).

*The priests.* If you promise them a lot of money they might look the other way when you break in.

*The court officials.* These guys will arrest you if you rob a tomb – but not if you bribe them first!



Have a gang of seven or eight. Make sure everyone has a useful skill. You will need:

- expert stone-masons to chisel their way in
- a smith to melt down your gold and silver
- a boatman to get to and from the tomb
- some labourers to do the lifting.

Know the tombs and their passages well, like a tomb-builder – many tomb-builders became grave-robbers. When they weren't paid well, they often

went on strike, and could even turn to robbing the tombs they'd helped to build.

Try to find a back way into the tomb. Then it will be a long time before the priests guarding it know that they have been robbed.

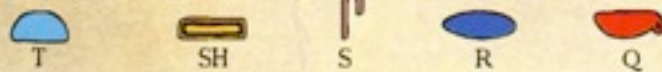
Learn some 'tricks of the trade'. Here's a quick

trick to get gold from a tomb: set fire to it! All the wood will burn and the gold will melt into puddles. When these cool and turn hard they can just be picked up and carried off. Awesome!

Make a deal with travelling merchants. They will buy your stolen treasures and not ask any awkward questions or betray you.

Don't spend all your treasure at once, or people may start to ask awkward questions.

Best of all, try to steal the mummy and its treasures before it is buried! Somebody once did this to the mother of the great Pharaoh Khufu...





# Mummy Misuse!

Ancient Egyptians believed they needed their bodies in the afterlife, so they would have been horrified by the things that their bandages and body bits were used for thousands of years later.

**W**hen Egyptians no longer believed that they needed an earthly body in the afterlife, they didn't need their mummies anymore! Mummies were exported to Europe where they were chopped up and fed to sick people as a cure. In fact, by the 16th century, so many mummies had left Egypt that the Egyptian government banned their export. Egyptian mummy sellers then made fake mummies out of any bodies lying around! Ugh!

Here are just some of the bizarre ways mummies were used and misused...

**As ornaments** A display case with the hand or foot of a mummy became a very popular ornament for Victorian mantelpieces.

**In witchcraft** William Shakespeare knew about it: mummy is used as an ingredient of a witches' brew in the play *Macbeth*.

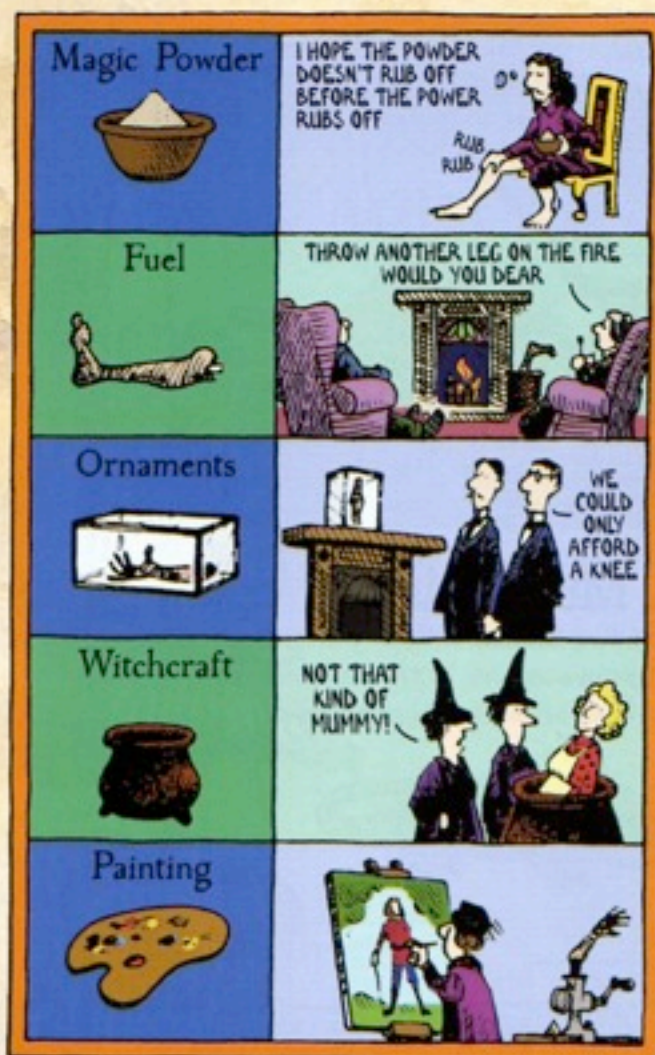
**As magic powder** King Charles II of England (1630-1685) used to collect the dust and powder that fell from collections of mummies. He would rub this powder into his skin, all over. He believed that the ancient greatness of the mummies would rub off on him.

**As fuel** So many mummies were dug up in the 1800s that they became common and worthless. Some were burned as fuel for steam trains when wood and coal were in short supply! Poor people in Thebes used the bandages to heat their ovens.

**In painting** 16th-century artists believed that adding powdered mummy to their paint would stop it cracking when it dried.

## Foul Facts

In 19th-century America, mummy bandages were turned into brown paper... which was sold to butchers and grocers to be used as... wrapping for food! This caused an outbreak of the deadly disease cholera. Many people died... the mummies' revenge?



**For showbiz** In Victorian England, people flocked to see a mummy being unwrapped! Doctor Pettigrew at the Royal College of Surgeons held the most popular unwrappings. Even on a bitterly cold January night, tickets were sold out and many important people could not get in. Refreshments were served after the performance, just as if it were a normal theatre show.





# Puzzles

## Song of the Nile

This song of the Nile, written by a priest of ancient Egypt, has lasted over 3000 years. Can you choose the right words to finish it off?

- ① A. soak B. tickle C. feed
- ② A. rejoices B. stinks  
C. gets a bit wet
- ③ A. animals B. women  
C. camels

HAIL TO YOU, O NILE  
YOU HAVE COME TO 1 EGYPT  
WHEN YOU FLOOD, THE LAND 2 !  
JOY WHEN YOU COME, O NILE!  
JOY WHEN YOU COME!  
YOU WHO FEED THE MEN AND 3  
JOY WHEN YOU COME!



## If it Moves... Mummify it

The Egyptians believed you had to mummify any creature you might need or want to have around in the next world. Which of these creatures have been found mummified?



baboon



crocodile



snakes



ibis



sheep

## Pyramid Numbers

Which number goes on the missing block to complete this puzzling pyramid?



## Tomb with a View

Today the pyramids look like this....

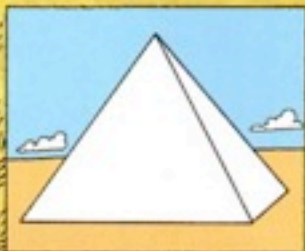


But what did a newly built one look like?



A. Pyramid with 'step' sides turned into miniature gardens

B. Pyramid decorated with brightly coloured hieroglyphics (picture writing)



C. Pyramid with gleaming white smooth sides



# Ancient Attractions

The Great Pyramid of Giza was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The other six are pictured here. Can you spot the one that is completely made up?



- A** The Hanging Gardens of Babylon  
**B** The Statue of Zeus at Olympia

- C** The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus  
**D** The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus  
**E** The Trans-Atlantic Bridge of the Vikings  
**F** The Colossus of Rhodes  
**G** The Lighthouse of Alexandria



## Answers

may be a fake, produced by a dodgy antique dealer.  
 name is Ginger. Some people believe that Ginger  
 Mystery Object 2 is the only real one. (His nick-  
 at making mummies)  
 opened so we don't know how good Pettigrew was  
 an ancient Egyptian stone coffin. It hasn't been  
 Hamilton died in 1852. His body was placed in  
 Wrap Artist 1. Pettigrew did just that when  
 Ancient Attractions: E is made up.  
 needed to make the bottom row add up to 5.  
 each row increases by 1 as you go down - so 2 is  
 Pyramid Numbers: 2. The sum of the numbers in  
 17th century and used to make other buildings  
 covered with limestone. This was removed in the  
 Tomb with a View: C. Pyramids were originally  
 If it Moves... Mummy is: All are correct!  
 (Women were less important than animals)  
 Song of the Nile: 1-feed, 2-rejoice, 3-antelope.

## Wrap Artist

In Victorian times, a Dr Pettigrew turned unwrapping mummies into a popular public show at the Royal College of Surgeons. The Duke of Hamilton was so impressed by one performance he...



- ① Asked to be mummified himself  
 ② Asked Dr Pettigrew to perform a private mummy-stripping show at his wedding reception  
 ③ Dressed up as a mummy as a practical joke and gave Pettigrew a heart attack



## Mystery Object...

Only one of these objects is on display at the British Museum. But which one?

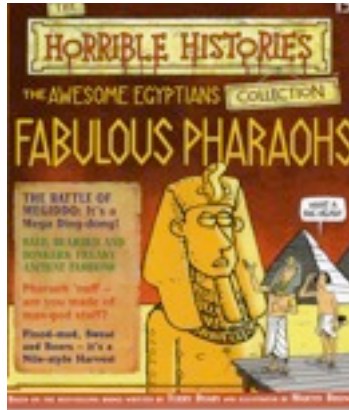
- 1 The top stone of a lost pyramid that has never been discovered  
 2 An ancient Egyptian peasant, mummified by dry sand  
 3 A 7,000-year-old skull that laughs when you tickle it  
 4 Tutankhamen's mummified pet ant





## Section Four

### Ancient Egypt: New Kingdom



### Horrible Histories: Fabulous Pharaohs **ALL**

#### Questions:

What was the New Kingdom? What were some important things happened in Egypt during this period?

Who were some of the famous rulers of the New Kingdom? What were some of their accomplishments?

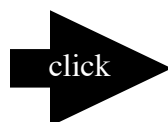
What was war like in Ancient Egypt?

What was farming like on the Nile (one paragraph, use the text and the pictures)?

What were the 4 main duties of the Pharaoh?

What was life like for Egyptian women?

What was life like for Egyptian workers?



[answer online](#)



# HORRIBLE HISTORIES

THE AWESOME EGYPTIANS

COLLECTION

## FABULOUS PHARAOHS

**THE BATTLE OF  
MEGIDDO: It's a  
Mega Ding-dong!**

**BALD, BEARDED AND  
BONKERS: FREAKY  
ANCIENT FASHIONS**

**Pharaoh 'nuff –  
are you made of  
man-god stuff?**

**Flood-mud, Sweat  
and Beers – it's a  
Nile-style Harvest**



BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING BOOKS WRITTEN BY TERRY DEARY AND ILLUSTRATED BY MARTIN BROWN



# THE AWESOME EGYPTIANS

## CONTENTS

### Terrible Times

#### Crackpot Kingdoms

4-6

From the 'middle' to the 'new' – how ancient Egypt became so awesome.

### Who's Who?

#### From Hat to Tut

7-9

Thut, Tut, Hat and Ram – that's all the fun of the pharaohs!

### Beastly Battles

#### Megiddo

10-11

See a shock Egyptian attack! Thutmose has got the Canaanites cornered...

#### Soldiers and Sieges

12-13

How the army won their wars, and the weapons they used to do the deadly job.

### Life and Strife

#### Harvest Time

14-15

Hurry up! The Nile's about to flood the fields with mud – so get those crops cut!

#### Phar-out Pharaohs

16-17

The god-kings' duties – and their garish headgear.

#### Wonderful Women

18-19

Why Egyptian women had to act like Isis – and wax their hair!

#### Work Like an Egyptian

20-21

The troubles and trials of ancient life by the Nile.

### Awesome Activities

#### Puzzles

22-23

A wicked wordsearch, a double dose of Thutmose, trouble in Tut's tomb and three mysterious objects.

Code for website  
access: HH2TN215

### YOUR COLLECTION

The Horrible Histories Collection is published fortnightly at the regular price of £1.99 (€3.50).

Visit our website at  
[www.horrible-histories.co.uk](http://www.horrible-histories.co.uk)  
(UK & ROI readers only)

### DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

To make sure you receive every issue, take out a subscription and get The Horrible Histories Collection delivered direct to your door or place a regular order with your magazine retailer.

### UK Subscriptions

When you subscribe you will also receive exclusive free gifts. To subscribe today, call our credit card hotline on 08707 277 377 or you can complete and send us the subscription form which you will find inside issues 1, 2, 3 and 6 or order from our website at [www.horrible-histories.co.uk](http://www.horrible-histories.co.uk)

### UK Enquiries

Customer Services Call 08707 277 377  
E-mail: [enquiries@eaglemoss.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eaglemoss.co.uk)  
Write to: The Horrible Histories Collection, Eaglemoss Publications Ltd, 5 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2HR

### Circulation Manager

Gary Neale 020 7590 8339

### UK Back Issues

To order any back issues, call 08707 277 377

### Distributor

Comag Magazine Marketing

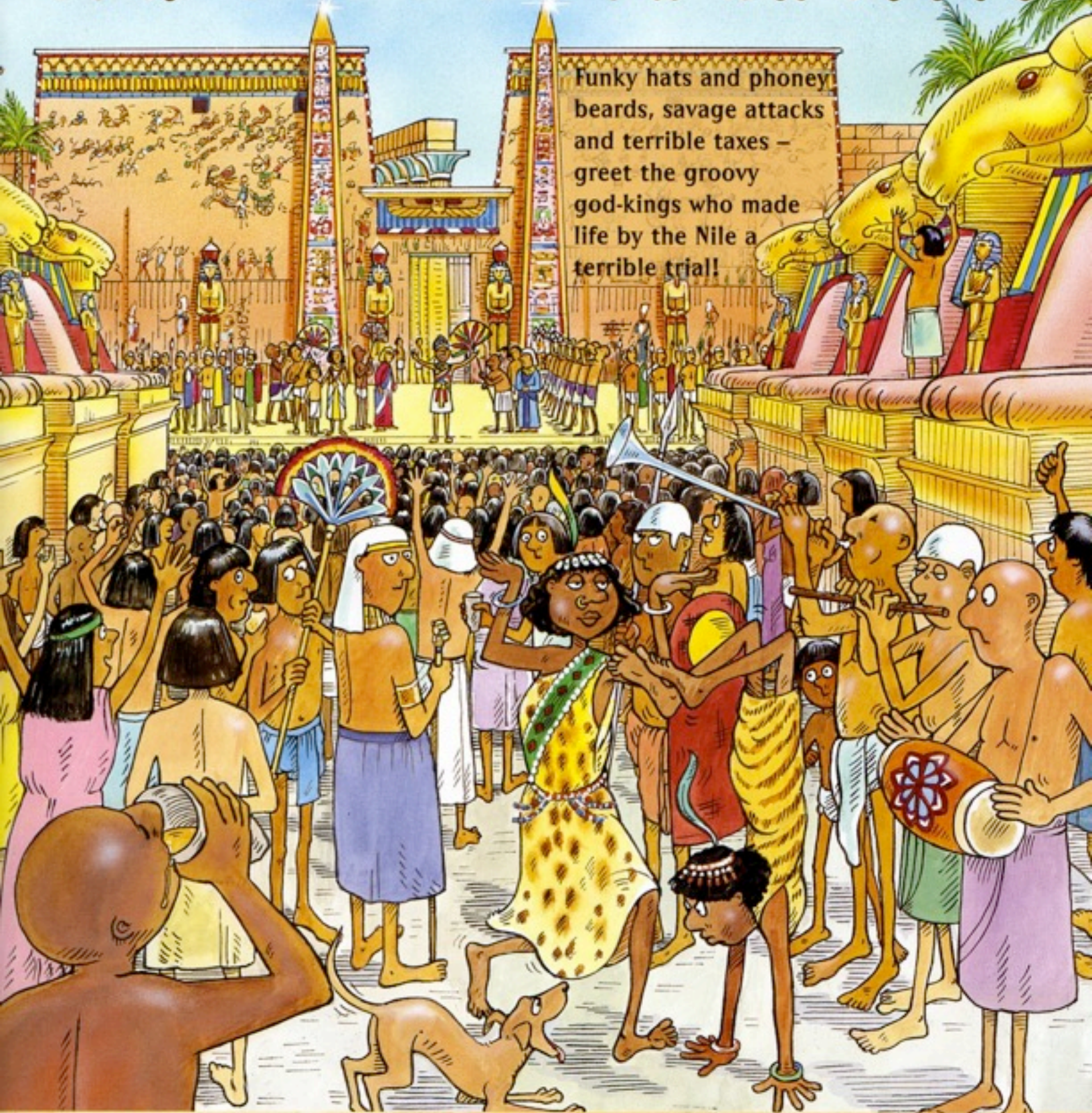


Please retain publisher's  
rights and return to:



# FABULOUS PHARAOKHS

Funky hats and phoney beards, savage attacks and terrible taxes – greet the groovy god-kings who made life by the Nile a terrible trial!



Overseas readers visit our website at [www.horrible-histories.com](http://www.horrible-histories.com)  
**Overseas Subscriptions**  
 Australia Call (03) 9872 4000  
 E-mail [bissett@bissettmags.com.au](mailto:bissett@bissettmags.com.au)  
 Write to: The Horrible Histories Collection, PO Box 460, Eastern MC VIC 3110

**New Zealand** Call (09) 625 3057  
 E-mail [mercury@jordanotz.com](mailto:mercury@jordanotz.com)  
 Write to: The Horrible Histories Collection, PO Box 24013, Royal Oak, Auckland  
**South Africa** Call (011) 265 4307  
 E-mail [service@jacklin.co.za](mailto:service@jacklin.co.za)  
 Write to: Horrible Histories Collection, Private Bag 18, Centurion 0046

**Overseas Back Issues**  
 Please order from your magazine retailer  
 © Egmont Publications Ltd (2002, 2003). All rights reserved.  
 Printed in China  
 Colour origination: Icon Reproductions  
 Published by Egmont Publications Ltd, 5, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2HR.

Some of the material in this partwork has previously been published in Horrible Histories The Awesome Egyptians. Text copyright © Terry Deary and Peter Hoplewhite, 1993. Illustration copyright © Martin Brown, 1993. Horrible Histories books are published by Scholastic Ltd. Horrible Histories is a trademark of Scholastic Inc. and is used under authorisation. All rights reserved.

**Illustrations:**  
 Patrice Aggs 10-11, 22(tr), 23(tl); Martin Brown 7(c), 9(t), 16, 17(t), 18-19, 20-21, 23(b); Christian Fox front cover; Chantal Kees 14-15; Gary Northfield 8(l), 9(b), cards, 12-13, 17(b); Warren Pleace 4-6; Dave Shelton 7(Lbr), 8(tlc); Wildlife Art Agency (Robin Carter) 2-3, 22(b), Timeline



# Crackpot Kingdoms

ANCIENT EGYPT BECAME AN AMAZING EMPIRE WITH MASSIVE MONUMENTS TO MATCH – BUT IT WASN'T ALL EASY. THE DEMI-GOD SQUAD CALLED THE PHAROAHS HAD TO FIGHT TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER – OR WATCH IT FALL APART. IT'S A STORY OF BATTLES AND BEER!

WHEN EGYPT'S OLD KINGDOM FELL APART, LOCAL LORDS FOUGHT AMONG THEMSELVES TO SEE WHO WOULD BECOME PHARAOH. THEN FAMINE STRUCK AND THE PEASANTS WERE STARVING TO DEATH. LUCKILY, A NEW KING CAME ON THE SCENE...

THE MIGHTY MENTUHOTEP II REUNITED EGYPT AND THE TIME KNOWN AS THE MIDDLE KINGDOM BEGAN. MENTU DECLARED THAT EGYPT HAD A NEW CAPITAL CITY, A NEW MAIN GOD – AND A NEW PHARAOH.



THE MIDDLE KINGDOM WAS A GREAT TIME FOR EGYPT. THE PHAROAHS WON WARS AND KEPT THE PEASANTS BUSY BUILDING FORTRESSES AND MIGHTY MONUMENTS. IT WAS OKAY FOR THE PEASANTS, THOUGH – THEY GOT PAID PARTLY IN BEER!



THE MIDDLE KINGDOM CAME TO AN END WHEN THE CHARIOT-RIDING HYKSOS OR 'SHEPHERD KINGS' ROLLED INTO EGYPT AND TOOK OVER THE NORTH BIT. MAYBE THE EGYPTIANS WERE TOO BUSY DRINKING TO NOTICE?



"THE EGYPTIANS CALLED THEM 'SHEPHERD KINGS' COS THEY KEPT SHEEP INSTEAD OF GROWING GRAIN."

THE HYKSOS DIDN'T RULE FOR LONG THOUGH. THE EGYPTIANS BUILT THEIR OWN CHARIOTS AND USED THEM TO DRIVE THE 'SHEPHERD KINGS' OUT.

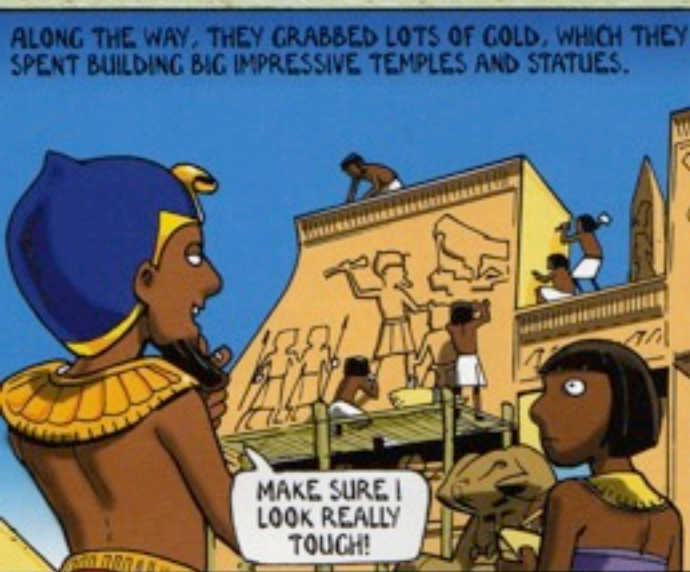




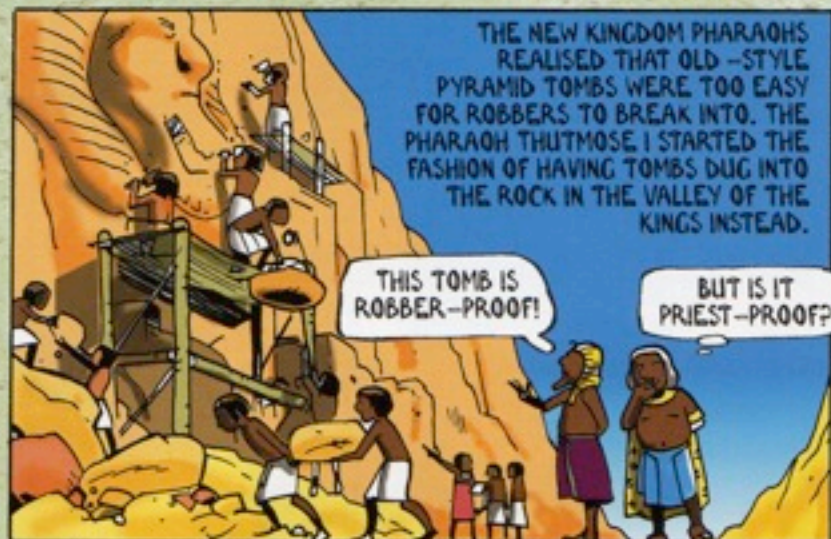
THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW KINGDOM, THE GREATEST TIME IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY. THE PHARAOHS BUILT UP A MIGHTY EMPIRE, WHICH STRETCHED FROM NUBIA IN AFRICA TO CANAAN IN THE MIDDLE EAST.



ALONG THE WAY, THEY GRABBED LOTS OF GOLD, WHICH THEY SPENT BUILDING BIG IMPRESSIVE TEMPLES AND STATUES.



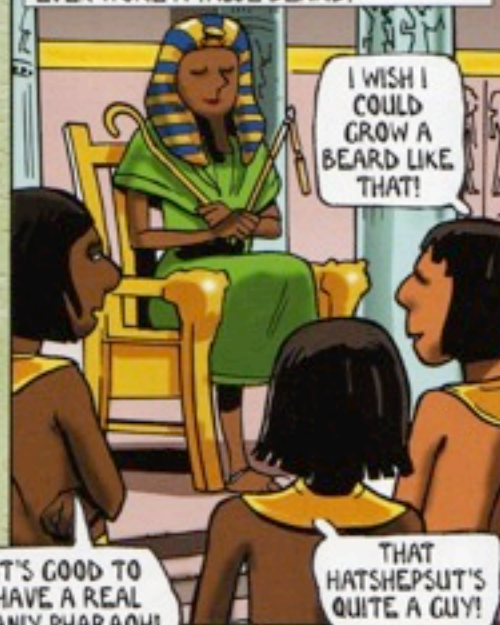
THE NEW KINGDOM PHARAOHS REALISED THAT OLD -STYLE PYRAMID TOMBS WERE TOO EASY FOR ROBBERS TO BREAK INTO. THE PHARAOH THUTMOSE I STARTED THE FASHION OF HAVING TOMBS DUG INTO THE ROCK IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS INSTEAD.



THE TROUBLE WAS, THESE NEW TOMBS OFTEN GOT ROBBED - BY THE PRIESTS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING THEM!



HATSHEPSUT WAS THE WIFE OF THUTMOSE II. WHEN HE DIED SHE FANCIED BEING PHARAOH. BUT PHARAOHS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MEN, SO HATTIE HAD TO 'PRETEND' - SHE EVEN WORE A FALSE BEARD!



WERE THE EGYPTIANS EMBARRASSED ABOUT HAVING A WOMAN ON THE THRONE? IT SEEMS THAT HAT'S STEPSON, THUTMOSE III, GOT IN A GRUMP ABOUT IT. WHEN HAT DIED, THUT WENT AROUND CHIPPING HER NAME OFF ALL HER MONUMENTS. THUTMOSE III DEFINITELY WASN'T A STEP-MUMMY'S BOY - IN FACT HE WAS A TOUGH NUT, FAMOUSLY HARD TO CRACK IN BATTLE.





WHEN TOUGH-NUT THUT DIED, HIS SON AKHENATEN BECAME PHARAOH. HE DECIDED TO GET RID OF EGYPT'S OLD GODS, LIKE HORUS AND AMUN. INSTEAD, HE DECLARED THAT THE SUN-DISC ATEN WAS THE ONLY GOD. (THIS DIDN'T MAKE THE PRIESTS VERY HAPPY.)



THE NEXT-BUT-ONE PHARAOH, TUTANKHAMUN, GOT RID OF THE ATEN RELIGION AND MADE AMUN THE HEAD GOD AGAIN. (TUT BECAME FAMOUS WHEN HIS TOMB WAS DISCOVERED IN THE 20TH CENTURY. IT WAS THE ONLY PHARAOH'S TOMB THAT HADN'T ALREADY HAD ITS TREASURES PINCHED!)



ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN PHARAOHS OF ALL WAS RAMESSES II. THIS WAS BECAUSE HE BUILT DOZENS OF TEMPLES AND STATUES DEDICATED TO... HIMSELF!



THE NEW KINGDOM SOON GOT INTO TROUBLE. THE PRIESTS OF AMUN GOT TOO POWERFUL AND STARTED TO CHALLENGE THE POWER OF THE PHARAOHS. WHILE THE PHARAOHS AND THE PRIESTS BICKERED, TRIBES FROM OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA - LIBYA AND KUSH - INVADDED EGYPT. THE NEW KINGDOM COLLAPSED! IT BROKE UP INTO LOTS OF QUARRELLING KINGDOMS.



WEAK NATIVE RULERS AND FOREIGN CONQUERORS CAME AND WENT UNTIL EGYPT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE GREEK ALEXANDER THE GREAT. IT WAS RULED BY THE GREEK PTOLEMY FAMILY FOR THE NEXT 300 YEARS.



THE LAST PTOLEMY WAS THE FAB AND FAMOUS CLEOPATRA. SMART CLEO MADE ONE BIG MISTAKE - GETTING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR AUGUSTUS. CLEO KILLED HERSELF, ROME CONQUERED EGYPT - AND THAT WAS THE END OF THE PHARAOHS!





# From Hat to Tut

Egypt's kings liked to think they were supreme beings. Supreme big-heads, more like! From girl-power to god-power, zany religions to zits, here are some of the strangest of them all.

## HATSHEPSUT

Hat was one funny pharaoh. She was a wife of her half-brother, Thutmose II.

That's odd enough, but when Thut II died, a son of one of Thut's other wives took over. At first Hat helped the young Thut III rule – but gradually, sneakily, Hat ruled alongside him – and set herself up as a king.

This was a bit weird for the Egyptians, who preferred their pharaohs to be fellas. But it wasn't too obvious. Hat had to wear a false beard – but most

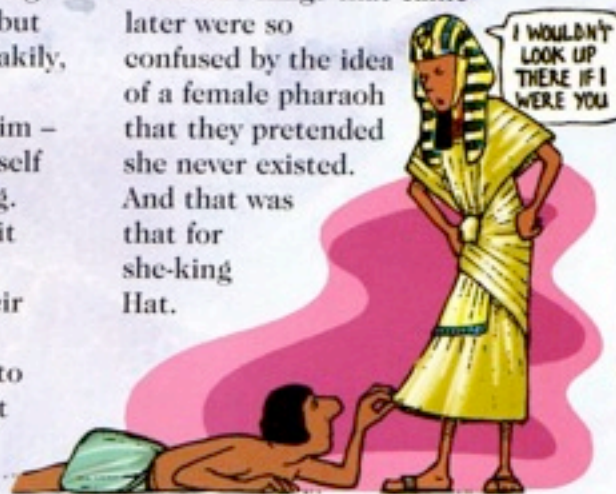
pharaohs wore fake face-fur anyway. And the pharaoh's robes fitted her rather nicely, too.

For a lady whose name sounds like a sneeze, Hatshepsut made a surprisingly cool king. She sent traders and explorers to grab exotic goodies. She built mega monuments all over Egypt (with her name on, of course!).

But the kings that came later were so confused by the idea of a female pharaoh that they pretended she never existed. And that was that for she-king Hat.

## Did you know?

The ancient Egyptians had no word for 'queen' – even though they were ruled by a few! The first one, Nitocris, murdered some posh plotters and then killed herself. Another queen, Sobekneferu, is known only from a handful of headless statues. Wonder what she looked like? Well, she was named after Sobek, the crocodile god – so maybe she had big teeth!



## THUTMOSE III

Thut was...

**an expert horserider** and an incredibly accurate archer, too.

**awesomely powerful** and he was supposed to be able to shoot an arrow through a chunk of copper three fingers thick!

**a deadly general** and he clobbered the Canaanites (a people from lands north of Egypt) at the Battle of Megiddo. (Turn to page 10 to see how!)

Three cheers for Thutmose III – he was the utmost! Most pharaohs spent their lives trying to convince everyone they were brilliant – but Thut really WAS brilliant.

As soon as his meddling stepmum Hat died, Thut the Third started scratching Hat's name off Egypt's monuments. (Either he hated Hattie or he found the whole woman-king thing a bit batty.) Apart from this bit of vandalism, Thut turned out to be an all-round superhero.





## AKHENATEN

Akhenaten (say *ark-en-art-en*) was the odd-bod man-god of ancient Egypt. He was originally named Amenhotep IV, but he called himself Akhenaten instead – after the sun god Aten, who he thought was the best. He was a *real* sun-lover! Akh wanted everyone to worship Aten. He even built a new capital city for Egypt and called it Akhetaten, too!

But Akh spent so much time worshipping Aten that he forgot to defend Egypt against her enemies. So maybe he wasn't paying 'Aten'-tion after all? (Groan!)

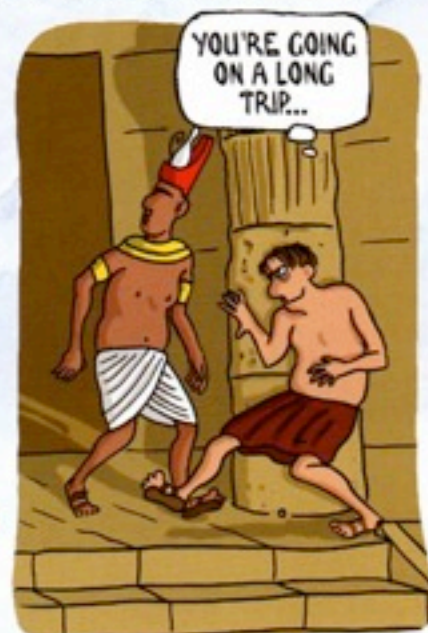


### Puckered pose

Akhenaten messed around with another old way. Pharaohs were supposed to be superhuman, so artists showed them looking perfect. But Akh had himself pictured being horribly human – kissing his kids and holding hands with his wife. Akhenaten had to go. And he went. He died suddenly and mysteriously. His Uncle Ay (say 'eye') may have had something to do with it. (Maybe he arranged for Akh to have a nasty 'akh-cident'?) Ay made sure that the next pharaoh would be much easier to handle, by choosing a young boy (the pharaoh's brother) – Tutankhamun.



In his fifth year as ruler, Akh did his battiest things – like changing his name and the capital city. He got so active about Aten that he had the names of the old gods, especially Amun the Unknowable, scraped off the temple walls. But Egyptians had worshipped Amun for centuries – he was the official god of Egypt! The people weren't going to forget about their fave god just because Akh had got busy with a chisel.

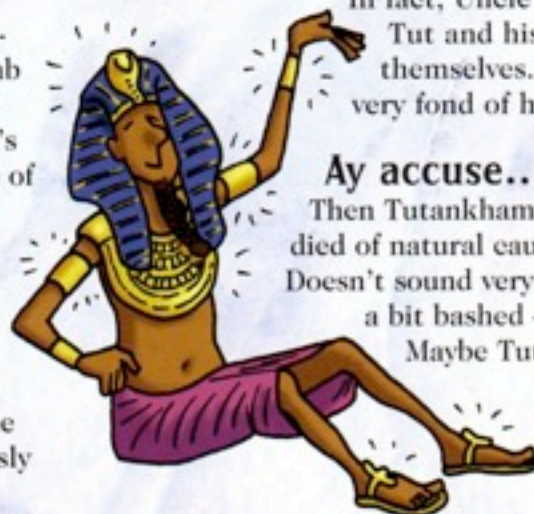


## TUTANKHAMUN

Tutankhamun did away with Akhenaten's cult of Aten (hooray!), but he didn't really get the chance to do much else (boo!). To be honest, his biggest claim to fame is the treasure in his tomb, which remained untouched by grave-robbers for centuries. When the tomb was discovered in 1922, his brilliant burial-hoard was put on display. Tut's loot was really beaut! It became one of the top attractions in the world.

### Golden gifts

And no wonder. Cow-shaped couches, toy boats, a chariot, even a packed lunch – you name it, they'd packed it for Tut's trip to the afterlife. Not to mention his famously stunning mummy mask.



### Carefree pharaoh

Tut was only nine when Ay helped make him king, so he couldn't sort out Egypt's problems by himself. In fact, Uncle Ay ran the country while young Tut and his wife Ankhesenamun enjoyed themselves. They played games and were very fond of hunting.

### Ay accuse...

Then Tutankhamun died. How? He could have died of natural causes... but he was only 18. Doesn't sound very natural, does it? His skull looks a bit bashed – so maybe he was murdered.

Maybe Tut had decided it was time to take over from Uncle Ay... and maybe evil Ay didn't want to let go of the power he'd enjoyed for nearly ten years.





## ENGAGED TO GRANDAD!

**N**ow that Tut was gone, Ay had to act quickly to hold on to his power. The best way to do this was to marry Tutankhamun's widow Ankhesenamun. But she was his grand-daughter.

### WEDDING WOES

Imagine how potty for power you'd have to be to marry a grandchild. Unlucky Ankh didn't like the idea of marrying Ay one little bit. Would you? Can you imagine anything so horrid as having to get hitched to your evil grandad – who might have murdered your man? But what could she do? What would you have done?

1. Try to marry a foreign prince who would become the new king of Egypt? It might make you

unpopular, but at least it would keep Gramps at bay!

2. Poison yourself? You couldn't be wed – you'd be dead.

3. Marry your gross grandad? You'd be a wrinkly's wife, but at least you'd still be queen.

4. Run away?



### HITTITE HIT

Anxious Ankh chose 1. She offered to marry a prince of the Hittites – even though the Hittites were Egypt's enemies! But the prince never arrived – he was murdered on the way. Guess who arranged that? Ay ay! So unlucky Ankh had to marry Grandad Ay after all. She had to say 'Ay do'!



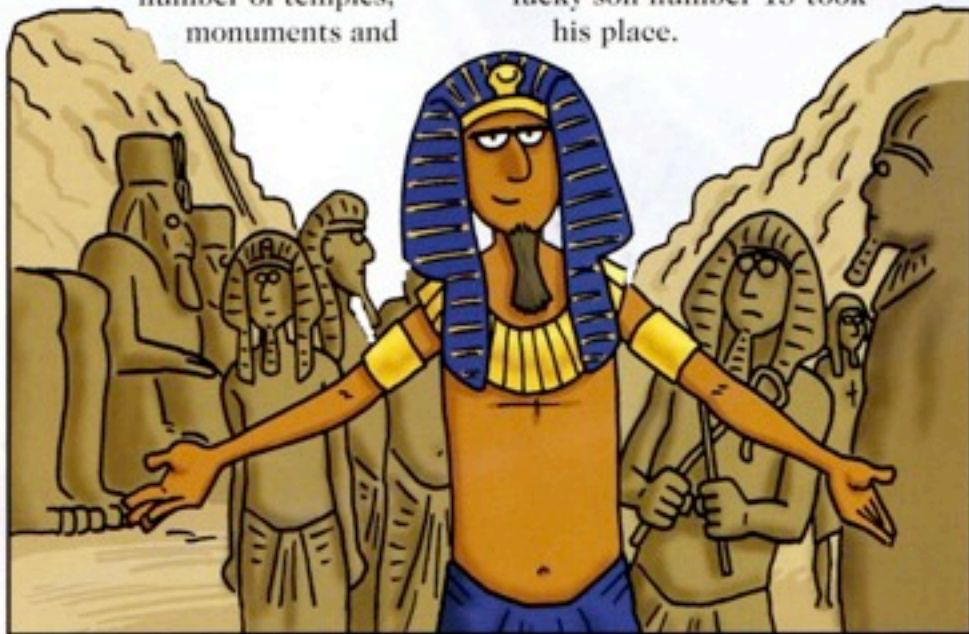
## RAMESSES II

Ruler of Egypt for a record 66 years, dad of more than 160 children, defeater of the Hittites at Qadesh... no wonder Ram was known as 'Rameses the Great'.

And how he loved it. This guy really, REALLY worshipped himself. Not only did the big-head go around putting up a record number of temples, monuments and

gigantic statues showing himself as a god, he also signed his name on the monuments of earlier rulers. That's like writing your name on someone else's homework. Cheat!

Ram's reign was so long that he kept his many sons waiting. It was quite a queue! Eventually, lucky son number 13 took his place.



## Foul Facts



Rameses II had rotten spots! How do we know? Explorers discovered Ram's mummy and several others in 1881. When modern scientists peeled the bandages from the pharaoh's face, they found that his skin had been well preserved. So well preserved, in fact, that they they could 'spot' all his zits! Poor Rameses may have thought he looked like a god, but he had a bad case of blocked pores. The big-head had a blackhead problem!





# Megiddo

Pharaoh Thutmose III caught the Canaanites completely by surprise. They were camped outside the walled city of Megiddo. It was soon a case of climb or be clobbered...

The fleeing Canaanites left everything in their camp behind – so the Egyptian soldiers helped themselves.

The Egyptian army used skilled archers from Nubia, a land on the Upper Nile they called 'the Land of the Bow'. The archers shot arrows at the defenders of Megiddo's walls. It must have been 'arrowing'!

IS THIS MY COLOUR?

LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND

Egyptian soldiers had a hideous habit – they hacked off the right hand of each enemy's corpse to prove how many men they'd massacred. Give 'em a hand for sheer horridness!



## Beastly Battles

When Thut's army attacked, the people of Megiddo shut the gates of their city tight. But that meant they'd locked out their own army! Canaanite commanders had to be hauled over the walls. (What a drag!) Their soldiers were done for...

Some of Thut's men used the latest swords – bronze and viciously curved. Thut liked to be on the sharp end of weapons technology!

OPEN UP FOR PHARAOH THUT!

Attacking the walls of Megiddo was a tough call – ladders were too short to get over them, never mind how dangerous they were in the first place! There was nothing for it but to make sure that no one could get in or out and then wait for the city's food to run out. The battle turned into a siege.

Any Canaanites trapped outside the city walls just didn't stand a chance.

I FEEL WHEEL-Y AWFUL





# Soldiers and Sieges

Pharaohs liked fighting, and empires need armies, so Egyptian soldiers were always busy. At least a siege gave them a chance for rest!

Megiddo was just one of Thut's victories. He'd soon made sure that Egypt was the most powerful country in the land. And he knew how to hang on to that power when he won it. Thut was smart. In fact, the way he got to Megiddo in the first place shows just what a cunning king he was.

## Thut's the Way to Do It



Megiddo was on the other side of some mighty mountains. Thut had a choice. Lead his army round them – or go through them on a dangerously narrow pass. Thut's generals didn't want the rocky route – they thought they'd get ambushed, and

they wanted an easy walk. But Thut, being a pharaoh and all-round clever-clogs, said:

*As I am the beloved of Ra... I will go on the narrow road. Let those who will go on the roads you have mentioned: and let anyone who will follow my majesty.*



Would you risk the wrath of a full-of-himself pharaoh? Uh-uh. The generals fell in line behind Thut as he led his army straight through the mountains. It took them three days, marching single file. But it worked – because it was the last thing the enemy expected. And that's how Thut caught the Canaanites by surprise.

## Now Thut's Clever

The siege of the city lasted for seven months. Megiddo gave up when there was no food left. But Thut didn't kill its leaders. This fair old pharaoh spared their lives. He knew that if he let them live, they'd tell any other troublesome types that Thut was one hard nut. Now Thut's smart.

## Djehuty's Duty

While Thut had Megiddo under siege, he sent his general, Djehuty, to attack another uppity town nearby – Joppa (modern-day Jaffa in Israel). Like the folks at Megiddo, the people of Joppa shut themselves inside their city walls once they'd been attacked. Djehuty wasn't going to settle for a seven-month siege! The stories say that Djehuty was as cunning as his master – because he ended the siege in a very clever way.

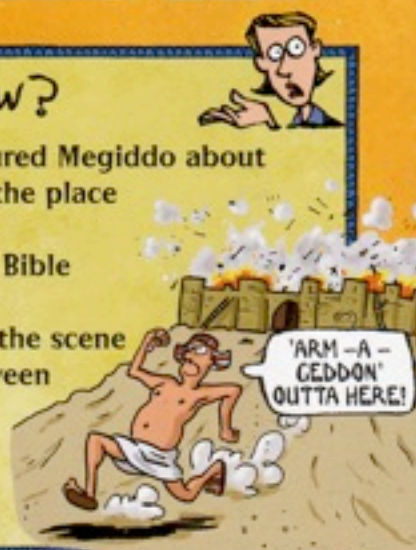
He got two hundred of his soldiers to wrap themselves up in sacks. He sent these parcels of powerful people to the city gates, pretending that they were a delivery for the prince of Joppa. The gullible Joppans let in their prince's shopping – and Thut's soldiers jumped out and took the city.

Of course this probably isn't true – but it's a good story. It might actually be where the story of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves comes from.



## Did you know?

The Hebrews who captured Megiddo about 3000 years ago called the place 'Har Megiddo' – Hill of Megiddo. It says in the Bible that Har Megiddo – or 'Armageddon' – will be the scene of a mighty battle between the forces of God and the armies of evil just before the end of the world. Yikes!





## Soldiering On

Don't get the idea that pharaohs were always seeking sieges. Their armies preferred to fight on an open battlefield. Sieges needed special equipment – ladders, towers, and axes to attack city gates. (And a

CHARGE!

good book to pass the time, maybe?) It was just that a lot of the Palestinian and Canaanite people in the lands north of Egypt (in what is now Israel) lived in fortified cities. And the only way to conquer a city with an

enormous wall is to surround it and wait till its food runs out. (Most fort towns, like Megiddo, had deep wells inside the walls – so water wasn't a worry.)

## Nuisance neighbours

When they weren't attacking, the Egyptian armies had to defend their land – from bandits who wanted to pinch their cattle, from tribes like the 'Sea People' who had lost their own land, and from other nations like the Hittites who wanted Egypt's wealth. Phew!

## Aaargh... Megiddo

The soil around Megiddo should be revoltingly dark red. (It isn't, but that's not the point!) Why? Because it's been soaked in the blood of many ancient battles. Assyrian, Egyptian, Israelite, Phoenician, Greek and Roman armies have all bashed and slashed here. Why the nasty past? Because this city stood on a vital route between Africa and the Near East. So if you controlled Megiddo, you controlled the trade.

In World War One the Brits and Turks got in on the gory act, too. A British commander called

Edmund Allenby copied Thut's tactic. He marched his troops through the same mountain pass to defeat a unit of Ottoman Turks. He must have paid attention to his history lessons at school – what a soldiery swot!



## EGYPTIAN ARMY EQUIPMENT TEST

An Egyptian scribe wrote this about a soldier's life: 'The common soldier has many, many officers all telling him what to do. The officers say things like, "Get the men to work!" So the common soldier is woken after just an hour's sleep and worked until sunset. He is always hungry. He is like a dead man and yet he lives.' Sounds a bit like going to school, doesn't it?

But what were their lives really like? Test yourself – are you tough enough to kill a Canaanite or nobble a Nubian? There is one wrong answer in each of these lists of Egyptian army gear. See if you're sharp enough to pick it out!



**1** A soldier's weapons were... a stone-headed club, a spear, a bronze axe, a poison-dart blower.

**2** A common soldier protected himself with... a shield, a mop of thick hair, a helmet, a linen apron.



**3** When soldiers weren't at war they had to work as... policemen, messengers, palace guards, firemen.

**4** A soldier's chariot had... tyres, weapon-racks, doors, two horses.



**5** An Egyptian army travelled with... laundry women, weapon-makers, cooks, writers.

Answers on page 22.



# Harvest Time

Farmers on the banks of the River Nile had to race against time to gather their harvest before the mighty river flooded again. There were ditches to be dug – and taxes to be paid...





## Life and Strife

The Nile wasn't just full of silt – there were some fine fish in there too! Nile perch grew to be enormous – the size of a man! Careful with that catch...

The unharvested wheat had to be protected from hungry birds. After all, it could be some of the pharaoh's portion that bird has got in its beak!

The wheat was separated by 'winnowing' – throwing it into the air so that the light stuff (chaff) got blown away.

TAKE THAT FIELD, IT'S FULL OF CASTOR OIL – OH, I'VE GOT TO THROW IN A BOX OF DATES

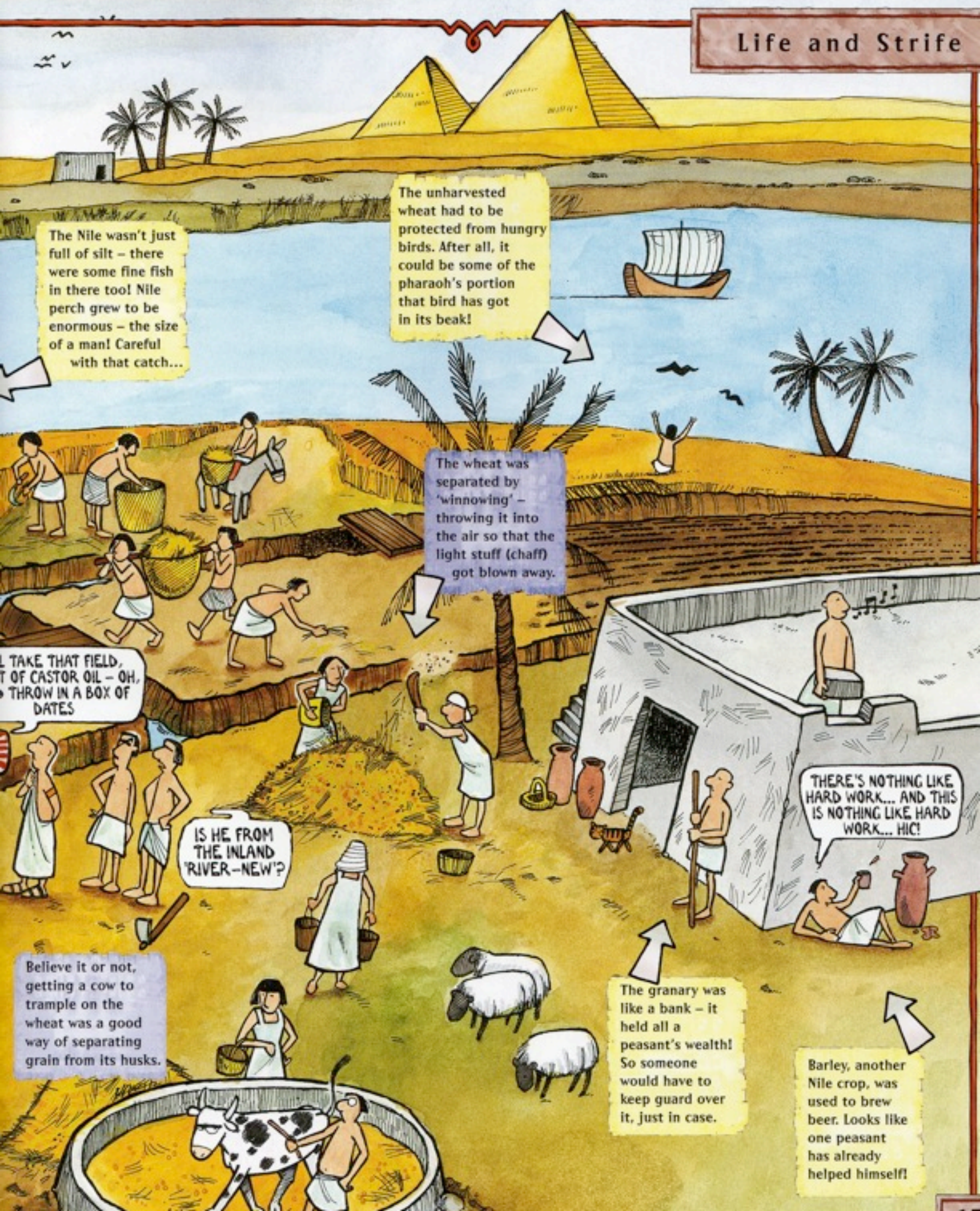
IS HE FROM THE INLAND 'RIVER-NEW'?

Believe it or not, getting a cow to trample on the wheat was a good way of separating grain from its husks.

The granary was like a bank – it held all a peasant's wealth! So someone would have to keep guard over it, just in case.

Barley, another Nile crop, was used to brew beer. Looks like one peasant has already helped himself!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE HARD WORK... AND THIS IS NOTHING LIKE HARD WORK... HIC!





# Phar-out Pharaohs

Half-king, half-god and fully fearsome, the pharaohs ruled Egypt for over three thousand years. They were cruel and they were crazy, but they always did it in style!



The people of the Nile could usually grow enough food to live – but they were always worried that one year the Nile would let them down and not flood at all... and so they'd all starve. So they invented gods and prayed that the gods would make the Nile flood. Then along came some really clever people who said, 'Actually, we are those

gods you pray to! So give us lots of food, build us palaces, worship us and we'll look after you!' These really clever people became known as 'pharaohs' – probably because they had a 'fair-old' life.

Peasants had to pay them 'tributes' of food and gifts – a bit like modern-day taxes. Oh, and they had to build them pyramids in their spare time.

## FOUR FRIGHTFUL FUNCTIONS OF A FABULOUS PHARAOH

The life of a pharaoh isn't all fun and games. If you want to be a pharaoh, you have some work to do. As a king, here are some of your duties...

YOU MUST  
BE JOKING

FINISH

### 1. The Heb-sed festival

Are you fit? The king has to prove his fitness by running around a fixed course. This is usually held after the king has ruled for 30 years. This terrible trial is held at the Heb-sed festival.

### 2. Government leader

An important duty is to keep the two parts of Egypt together – Upper and Lower Egypt. Feeling a bit overwhelmed? Don't worry, you have lots of officials to help you run the country. (Some of them might even try to run you!) They will also go round collecting your taxes for you.

### 3. Awesome army leader

Carvings on most Egyptian monuments show the king as a conqueror. But what if you lose a battle? Don't worry, you can still say you won! Ramesses II's famous victory over the Hittites at the Battle of Qadesh was actually more of a draw. Ram even ended up having to marry a couple of Hittite princesses to keep his enemies quiet. That didn't stop him having a massive monument carved specially to celebrate his daring deeds!





Oh Pharaoh it isn't fair-o

They get the best food that there is on earth,  
They're treated like gods from the day of their birth...  
Pharaohs.



They live in a palace all graceful and tall,  
While their servants slave on they do no work at all...  
Pharaohs.

Their graves are those pyramids up to the sky,  
They have a fine afterlife, they never die... Pharaohs.

But who builds the pyramids?  
Who sweats and slaves?

Who works... then ends in a

dusty old grave? ...the peasants!



#### 4. Religious leader

Remember you are not just a king – you are also a god. You're not likely to forget! Every year there's a festival to celebrate your godliness. It's quite a party, with loads of free beer and cakes! (That's what's happening on pages 2 and 3.) You have to make offerings to the other gods every morning. This is to ask the sun to rise. If you don't then the sun won't rise and the world will end! One of your special powers is command over the great River Nile. Each year you perform the ceremony to make the river rise and flood the land. Just remember to tell it to stop, too!

## Pharaoh Fashion

Egyptian god-kings had to look the part!  
Here's what the best-dressed pharaohs wore.

### Fake Beards...

The pharaoh was the top priest in Egypt – and priests weren't supposed to have any hair on their faces or bodies. But the king had to show that he was really grown-up by having a beard. How do you have a beard if you have no hair? Wear a false one of course!

Made of wood or woven plant fibre, a pharaoh's false beard was hung on wires from a band around his brow. When he died, he was given a godly beard – one that was plaited and turned up at the end.



### and Funny Hats

The pharaohs had a lot of different headdresses which they wore on special occasions.

### Crown Quiz

Can you match the titles of these crazy crowns with their pictures? There are some hatty hints...

1. Crown of Upper Egypt (CLUE: get it whitel!)
2. Crown of Lower Egypt (CLUE: red-y yet?)
3. Nemes Headcloth (CLUE: you'll be hooked)
4. Crown of All Egypt (CLUE: double trouble)
5. Atef Crown (CLUE: feather-brain)
6. War Crown (CLUE: bad and blue)



Answers on page 22.



# Wonderful Women

Want to be an absolutely fabulous lady, Nile-style? Check out our advice on marriage, make-up... and more!

**S**ome Egyptian women got to run the country or be a priest, but most of them had a tough time of it. After all, they had a lot to live up to!

## How to be wonderful

The Egyptians had a clear idea of what made a wonderful woman – the goddess Isis. She...



## Foul Facts

To find out if they were going to have a baby, Egyptian women peed on some barley and emmer (two types of seeds) and waited to see which grew. Barley meant a 'wee' boy, and emmer a 'wee' girl. If neither grew, it meant 'no kids yet'. Amazingly, it worked!

## How to be fairly wonderful

If being like Isis was too difficult then you could be a fairly wonderful woman by...

- 1 staying at home and obeying your parents until you were 12 years old and old enough to marry
- 2 marrying someone suitable – someone mum and dad approved of
- 3 obeying your husband
- 4 sharing your husband with several other wives
- 5 giving your husband lots of children – six or seven were not unusual.

## How to be normal

Not many Egyptian women managed to be quite so perfect. In fact...

Girls often married for love rather than have their parents choose a husband. It was common to marry someone in the family such as an uncle or a cousin.

A Greek visitor, Herodotus, wrote that Egyptian women were not as obedient as he felt they should be. He complained they were much too independent!

THANKS A BUNCH!



## CHIEF WIFE





## HOW TO BE A BEAUTIFUL EGYPTIAN WOMAN

Egyptian women were proud of their appearance and loved to be fashionable.

If the Egyptians had a book of beauty tips, they might have told you to...

**1** Bathe often. Purify the water with natron – the salt used to preserve mummies!

**2** Have a massage. A servant will give you a massage – if you're lucky enough to have a servant, that is.



**3** Use face make-up. Brighten your face with blusher, and enliven your lips with lipstick made out of red iron oxides.

**4** Use eye make-up. Take the lead ore, galena, to make a grey-black eye-liner and use it to give an almond shape to the eye. Pluck your eyebrows. Silver tweezers are the best – if you can afford them, of course.

**5** Use nail colour. Mix up some henna to give a red tint to the nails – and it can also be used to colour the palms of your hands and the soles of your feet.



Girls with richer parents would leave home and go to school and learn to read and write.

An Egyptian man could have as many wives as he liked but he had to be able to keep them all in comfort. The chief wife was the equal of her husband and her first son would get his wealth when he died – the chief wife would get his household goods.

ASSISTANT  
CHIEF WIFE

WIFE  
NO. 1



WIFE  
NO. 2

TRAINEE WIFE

Girls often had their first baby when they were just 12 or 13 years old. Women gave birth kneeling on special bricks. Childbirth was a dangerous time because of the high risk of infection. It was common for a mother or baby to die. A woman had to hope that the goddess of childbirth, Tawaret, would keep away evil spirits. Tawaret should have been able to manage that – she was a ferocious, pregnant hippo!



Egyptians cropped their hair short because of the heat. But rich Egyptians wore wigs on important occasions. Then on top of the wig they might wear a white cone of gloopy wax. The wax was mixed with perfume. As the event wore on, the wax melted, the perfume was released... and the wax ran all over their wig.





# Work Like an Egyptian

Want to live like an ancient Egyptian? Pharaohs lived in luxury, but everyone else had to work hard – even the swotty scribes.

**M**ost Egyptians lived in houses built of mud bricks. That's not all that horrible. The mud was free and the bricks were baked rock hard by the hot summer sun. Mud houses could last for hundreds of years – and some Egyptians still build their homes with mud today. Egyptians had very little furniture, but that didn't matter because they spent so much of the time outdoors.



The ancient Egyptians wore very few clothes. Kids and poor people wore nothing. But luckily they lived in a very warm, dry country, so walking around with no clothes was an obvious thing to do. The message is: if you live in the mud, go around in the nud!

## Did you know?



Ancient Egyptian bakers ground flour with sand to make it finer. Trouble was, the bread it made was like sandpaper – so it ground away people's teeth! Sand-wich, anyone?

## Scribes described

The best job was being a scribe. Who said? The scribes! Their job was writing. A scribe was his own boss, made lots of money and paid no taxes. While reed-cutters were eaten by mosquitoes and farmers dug mud, scribes just had to keep copying.

The tools of the trade were easy to make. A young scribe would...

- make his own pen by chewing the end of a reed to make a sort of paintbrush
- carry a few different sizes of pens by sticking them behind his ear
- use black 'ink' that was a block of soot and gum, or red soil for red ink.

## Tease your Teacher with Ten Nile Truths

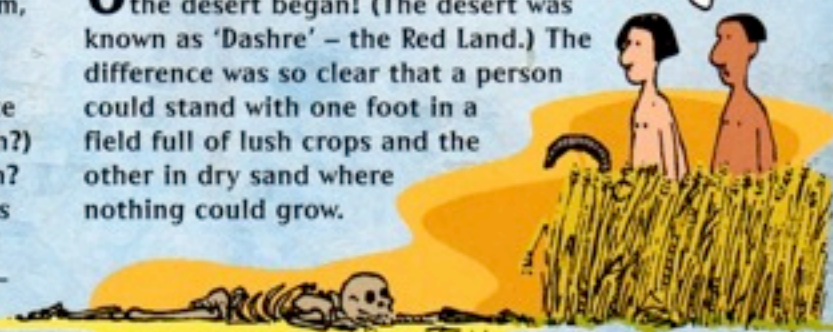
Massive, muddy and floody, the Nile was the centre of ancient Egyptian life. Your teacher will be impressed by these ten top facts (that is unless they're already in de-Nile!)

- 1** The Nile is the longest and most awesome river in the world. It stretches for more than 6740km, from East Africa to the Mediterranean.
- 2** Three rivers flow into the Nile: the Atarba of Sudan, the Blue Nile of Ethiopia and the White Nile of Uganda. (Does that make it pale blue then?)
- 3** The Nile was the main road through Egypt. Eh? How does that work? Well, most long journeys were made by boat, of course.
- 4** The Nile flooded at the same time each year – June. The waters would start to go down in October.

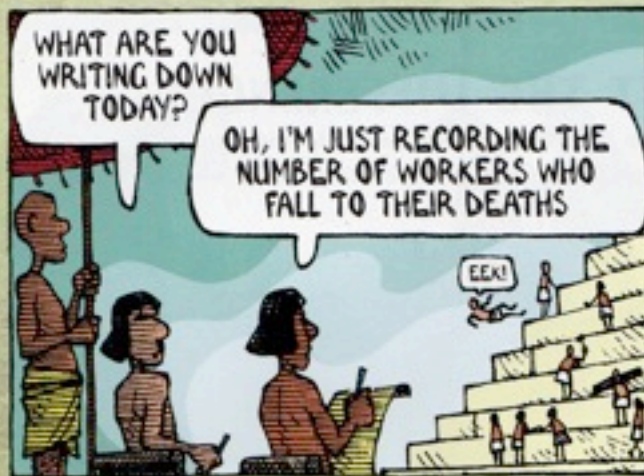
**5** The floods left behind a layer of rich black mud called silt. It was like a thick liquid compost. That's why the ancient Egyptians called their country Keme – 'the Black Land'.

**6** Where the floodwater ended, the desert began! (The desert was known as 'Dashre' – the Red Land.) The difference was so clear that a person could stand with one foot in a field full of lush crops and the other in dry sand where nothing could grow.

POOR DEVIL, HE NEARLY MADE IT







But guess what? It wasn't all ink and money. Trainees spent seven years at scribe school, copying the teacher's writing just the way you copy a friend's homework (only joking!). Discipline was strict and the teachers were awesomely stern. Just read this ancient text, called 'Advice to a Young Scribe'...

O SCRIBE DO NOT BE IDLE, OR YOU SHALL BE CURSED, DO NOT GIVE YOUR HEART TO PLEASURE OR YOU SHALL FAIL. DO NOT SPEND THE DAY IN IDLENESS OR YOU SHALL BE BEATEN. A BOY'S EAR IS ON HIS BACKSIDE AND HE LISTENS WHEN HE IS BEATEN...



Egyptian medicine was a mixture of common sense and magic.

When a government official called Khety had his skull cracked, he went to the doctor for a bit of ancient head-surgery! The doc knocked Khety out with drugs, then removed part of his damaged skull. The wound was sewn up – and Khety lived.



Some Egyptian cures were just plain wacky, though. To cure blindness you were supposed to mash up the eye of a pig with honey and red ochre and pour it into the patient's ear!

Got guts-ache? Recite this ancient Egyptian charm as you drink your medicine:

*'Come, you who drive out evil things from my stomach and my limbs. He who drinks this shall be cured just as the gods above were cured.'*

**10** The Nile may have given life to Egypt, but it could also be dangerous! It was home to hungry hippos, carnivorous crocs and big dangerous fish called Nile perch. And if the river flooded too much, that could mean a wash-out for anyone who lived near the banks. Special 'Nileometers' measured how deep the floodwaters were. The depth was measured in 'ells' (an ell is about 1.5 metres). If the river flooded 18 ells or more – run like ell!

**7** The Egyptian year was divided into three seasons based on the Nile: flood season, planting season and harvesting season.

**8** Peasants had to build and repair irrigation channels each year. This was part of the tax they paid to the pharaoh. The punishment for trying to miss working on the pharaoh's projects was a beating. It was no use trying to run away because if you weren't caught then your family would be punished instead. How irrigating.

**9** Guess when the Nile will flood again? Never! A vast dam (opened at Aswan in 1971) now controls the flow. But the dam has brought unexpected problems. No floods means no silt. The soil becomes tired and farmers now have to pay for chemical fertilisers to replace the nutrients that the Nile brought for free every year. Dam!





# Puzzles

## HOLEY HEADLINES

Which of the following words completes each of these ancient Egyptian headlines?

WRINKLY, MONEY, ELEPHANTS, GREEK, LION, WOMAN, MURDERER

1 SENSATION! PHARAOH HATSHEPSUT IS A \_\_\_\_\_

2 HORROR! IS TUTANKHAMUN VICTIM OF \_\_\_\_\_?

3 SHOCK! TUT'S WIDOW, ANKHESENAMUN, MARRIES A \_\_\_\_\_!

4 EGYPTIAN SHAME! CLEOPATRA IS A \_\_\_\_\_!

5 DESPICABLE! PSAMMETICHUS HOLDS OFF INVASION WITH \_\_\_\_\_

6 WOW! THUTMOSE III ESCAPES BEING KILLED BY \_\_\_\_\_!

7 ASTOUNDING! RAMESSES II FACES ENEMY ARMED WITH JUST A \_\_\_\_\_!

### Answers

#### Crown Quiz on page 17

- 1 F.
- 2 A.
- 3 B. This blue and gold striped headcloth was the grooviest headgear in the pharaoh's hatbox.
- 4 C.
- 5 D. This crazy crown was white with ostrich feathers stitched on to it. It was worn on religious festivals.
- 6 E. The Kheprekh was a blue cloth or leather crown decorated with gold discs, and was worn in battle or war ceremonies.

#### Egyptian Army Equipment Test page 13

- 1 A poison-dart blower. The main weapon was the club to beat out your enemy's brains.
- 2 A helmet. Only officers had helmets. And ordinary soldiers actually did grow their hair thick to protect their heads.
- 3 Firemen. The rest were all soldier's jobs!
- 4 Doors. They did have tyres – but they were made of leather.
- 5 Laundry women. Soldiers only wore loincloths, so they didn't need much washing done.

## THUT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 8 differences between these two Thutmose pics! Can you spot them all?



## TOMB TROUBLE

When archaeologist Howard Carter opened Tut's tombs in 1922, he was stunned to find so many treasures. But a few fakes have been added by mistake – which ones are they?







## Wicked Wordsearch

See if you can spot eight of Egypt's rulers below. But which is the odd one out?

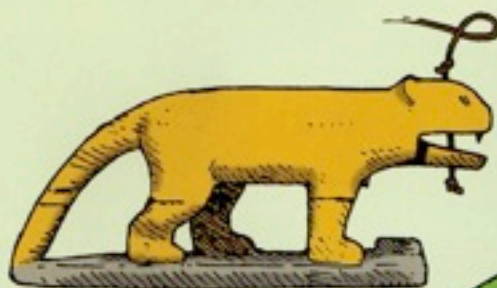
M	E	N	T	U	H	O	T	E	P	N
R	W	L	B	V	O	Y	P	D	U	A
V	A	Y	P	S	E	R	H	M	C	E
E	H	M	Z	Q	G	O	A	W	L	S
Y	G	N	E	R	S	H	P	T	E	O
O	T	D	M	S	K	T	D	U	O	M
E	J	P	V	N	S	A	V	E	P	T
W	S	U	A	P	F	E	O	L	A	U
H	A	T	S	H	E	P	S	U	T	H
B	U	X	H	I	Q	S	T	D	R	T
T	V	E	J	U	K	E	Z	F	A	I

TUTANKHAMUN  
HATSHEPSUT  
CLEOPATRA  
THUTMOSE

AY  
MENTUHOTEP  
HATSHEPSUT  
RAMESSES

## WHAT WAS IT FOR?

Take a look at these awesome ancient objects. Can you work out what the Egyptians used them for?



- A** 1 a fly trap  
2 a toy lion  
3 a club



- B** 1 a sewing box  
2 a decoy duck (for hunting)  
3 a face-cream holder



- C** 1 a fan  
2 flyswatters  
3 bone clappers or castanets



- D** 1 a pipe  
2 an airfreshener  
3 a wine pourer

### Answers:

And the golden bike can go, too – Tutankhamun is the odd one out because she is Greek and the others are Egyptian.

T	V	E	J	U	K	E	Z	F	A	I
B	U	X	H	I	Q	S	T	D	R	T
H	A	T	S	H	E	P	S	U	T	H
M	B	U	A	P	F	E	O	L	A	U
E	J	P	V	N	S	A	V	E	P	T
O	T	D	M	S	K	T	D	U	O	M
Y	G	N	E	R	S	H	P	T	E	O
E	H	M	Z	Q	G	O	A	W	L	S
V	A	Y	P	S	E	R	H	M	C	E
R	W	L	B	V	O	Y	P	D	U	A
M	E	N	T	U	H	O	T	E	P	N

### Wicked Wordsearch

A2  
B3  
C1  
D2

### What Was It For?



### Holey Headlines

1. woman  
2. murderer  
3. wrinkle  
4. Greek  
5. money  
6. elephant  
7. lion

### Tomb Trouble

The stuffed crocodile is bogus. So are Tut's brains in a jar – a mummy's brains weren't kept, just the gut! And the golden bike can go, too – Tut had to make do with toy boats.





**Prove you learned it!**

Choose and complete one of the following. Be sure to review the unit and you the internet as you work. If another student couldn't look at what you created and learn the main ideas of the unit then you need need to keep working!!!

### **Write an archeological journal**

Pretend that you are on an archeological dig. Write a journal describing what you found out about Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Must explain the

[5 Main Ideas](#) in Unit 3.

### **Give a presentation**

Make a presentation (Solo or with Partner ) that explains the [5 main ideas](#) in Unit 3. *MUST be presented in from of class or staff depending on time.*

### **Make a cartoon**

Use [go animate](#) to create a cartoon that proves that you understood the [5 Main Ideas](#) in Unit 3. BE CREATIVE!!!

### **Make a comic**

Use [bitstrips](#) and create a comic strip that proves that you understood the [5 Main Ideas](#) in Unit 3. BE CREATIVE!!!

*You will need to create multiple strips to cover all of the ideas.*