



# The Great Pyramid

Egypt's Tomb for All Time

by Jeanette Leardi

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Egypt's Tomb for All Time



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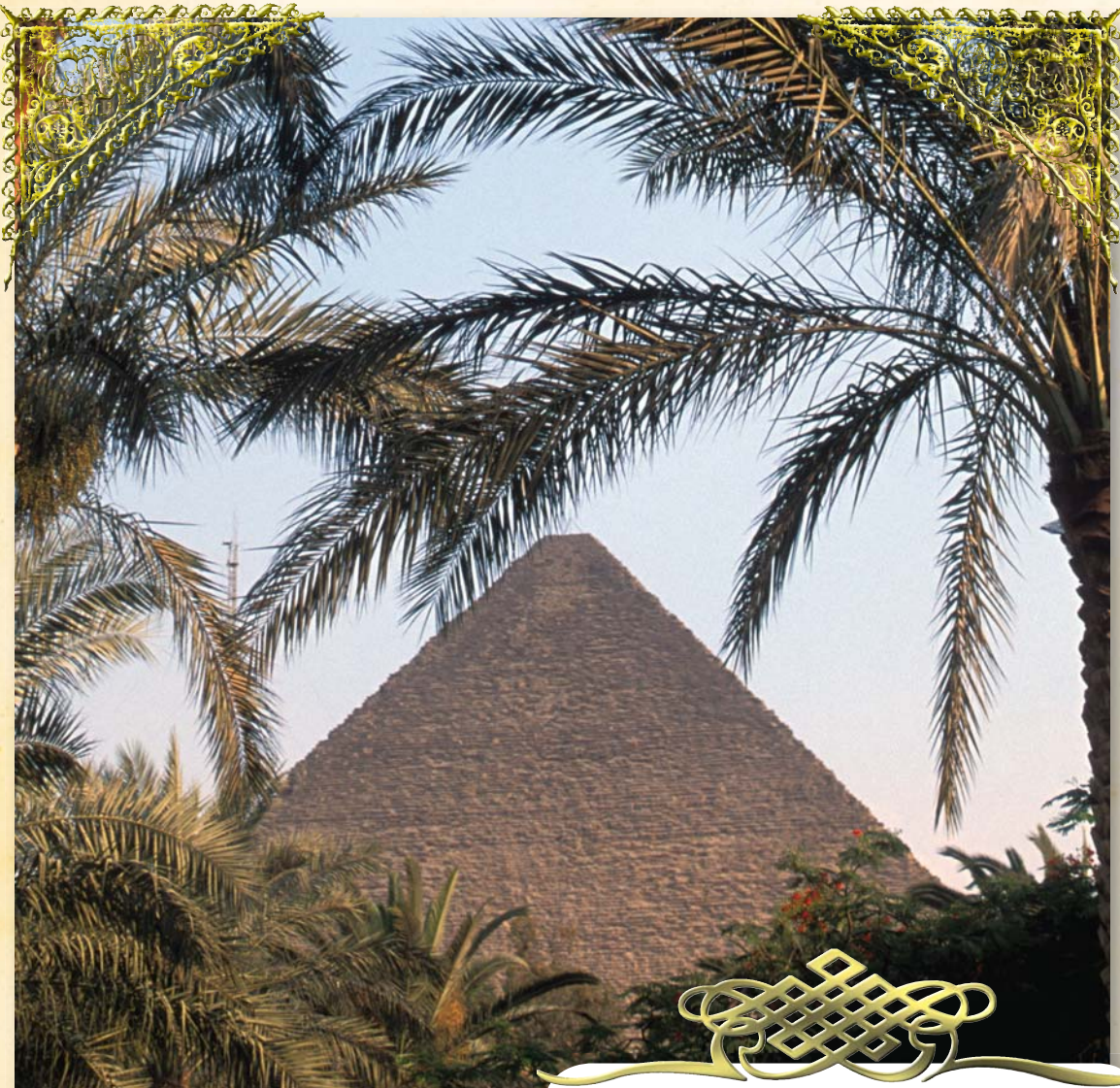
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# Thousands at Work

In the sun's blazing heat, a group of Egyptians arrived at a desert along the banks of the Nile River. They had traveled hundreds of miles by boat. They were scared, but excited. Never before had they left their tiny villages.



The Great Pyramid was built about 4,600 years ago in Egypt near the town of Giza.



As the Egyptians stepped off the boat, they saw 20,000 workers. Many were cutting giant blocks of limestone. Others were pulling huge stones up the slanted sides of a building. All had come at the **command** of their king, Khufu (KOO-foo). They were doing the most important work of their lives. They were building Khufu's **tomb**—the Great Pyramid.



Khufu ruled Egypt from about 2551 to 2528 B.C. This small statue, about 3 inches (8 cm) tall, is the only record of what he looked like.



# Who Were the Pharaohs?

Who was this king who could order such a mighty task? He was an ancient Egyptian ruler, called **pharaoh**. Yet to the Egyptian people, their king was not just a powerful man. He was the sky god, Horus (HOR-us), who had come down to Earth.

Today, Cairo is the capital of Egypt. In Khufu's time, Memphis was the capital, which is 11 miles (18 km) south of Cairo.





The pharaoh was all-powerful. His word was law. Everyone paid **taxes** to the pharaoh. Many Egyptians used crops or animals to pay taxes. They also paid by working for the ruler. They built his palaces—and his tomb.



Painting of pharaoh  
Ramesses III

The pharaohs ruled over  
ancient Egypt for thousands  
of years, beginning around  
3000 B.C.



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## About the Author

Jeanette Leardi is a freelance writer and editor in Charlotte, North Carolina. She has written many educational books for children, and poems, articles, and essays for adults.



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# The Great Pyramid

## Egypt's Tomb for All Time

In the sun's blazing heat, 20,000 Egyptians were hard at work. Many were cutting giant blocks of limestone. Others were pulling huge stones up the slanted sides of a building. All had come to do the most important work of their lives. They were building their pharaoh's tomb—the Great Pyramid.

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Romania's Vampire Home

### Himeji Castle

Japan's Samurai Past

### Windsor Castle

England's Royal Fortress

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