THE “OLD” KINGDOM

In ancient Egyptian history, the Old Kingdom is the period spanning from 2686–2181 BCE.

As shown at the left, it includes the 3rd Dynasty through the 6th one.

It is known as the "Age of the Pyramids" or the "Age of the Pyramid Builders"

In the Fourth Dynasty, King Sneferu perfected the art of pyramid-building.

Kings Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, directed the construction of their pyramids at Giza.

Egypt attained its first sustained peak of civilization during the Old Kingdom.
OLD KINGDOM

• 2686 BCE – 2181 BCE

• Ruled by strong pharaohs who were thought to be both king and god.

• During the Old Kingdom, the king of Egypt (not called the Pharaoh until the New Kingdom) became a living god, who ruled absolutely and could demand the services and wealth of his subjects.
OLD KINGDOM

- Egypt's Old Kingdom - Dynasties 3–6, was one of the most dynamic periods in the development of Egypt and its art.

- During this time, artists learned to express their culture's worldview, creating new art and forms that endured for generations.

- Architects and masons mastered the techniques necessary to build monumental structures in stone, such as the Pyramids.
Old Kingdom

- Egyptians traded materials and other items with people in other nearby countries or areas.

Examples:
- Wood (Cedar and other types)
- Perfumes and Incense
- Medicine
- Gold
- Ivory, and stone
Old Kingdom

- Polytheistic Religion – belief in many gods
- Much of their religion was focused on the afterlife
- They built large temples and pyramids for burial and the afterlife. (It was during this Kingdom that the pyramids were built.)
- They symbolized the pharaoh’s importance and the shape symbolized the pharaoh’s journey to the afterlife.
THE DEFINITION OF SOME TERMS USED DURING THIS PRESENTATION

WIFE: A wife is a married woman having all the legal marital rights which includes her children inheriting the next rights to the family property and other family affairs.

CONSORT: A Consort is a loyal partner who is married or who accompanies a monarch. They usually excel in singing and dancing to entertain their king. Their children do get the family name but do not inherit family property legally.

REGENT: If a queen succeeded in producing an heir that inherited the throne, she would reach a position of great honor as the King's Mother and may be able to rule Egypt on behalf of her child as regent, if they were underage.

While women did occasionally rule as Pharaohs, they generally did not rule while married, except during the Ptolemaic period. Thus, male consorts never existed during the time of the native Egyptian royal dynasties.
### THE 5 PHARAOHS OF THE 3RD DYNASTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horus-name</th>
<th>Personal Name</th>
<th>Regnal years</th>
<th>Burial</th>
<th>Consort(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netjerikhet</td>
<td>Djoser</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Saqqara</td>
<td>Hetephernebtif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sekhemkhet</td>
<td>Djoserty</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Saqqara: Buried Pyramid</td>
<td>Djoseretnebtif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanakht</td>
<td>Nebka</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Abydos ?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khaba</td>
<td>Teti</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Zawyet el'Aryan: Layer Pyramid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qahedjet</td>
<td>Huni</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Meidum ?</td>
<td>Djefatnebtif Meresankh I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the turbulent last years of the Second Dynasty, which might have included civil war, Egypt came under the rule of **Djoser**, marking the beginning of the Third Dynasty.

**This is a painted limestone statue of King Djoser and it is the oldest Egyptian statue in existence today!**

The other pharaohs of the Third Dynasty who ruled for approximately 55 years were:

- **Djoserty** – reigned for 7 years
- **Nebka** - reigned for 18 years
- **Teti** – reigned for 4 years
- **Huni** – reigned for 24 years
KING DJOSER - THE FIRST KING OF THE THIRD DYNASTY

He was King for 20 years and was the first one to delegate the building of a step pyramid (Mastaba), for his eventual tomb.

The god Horus was the most sacred one during these times so his Horus name was Netjerykhet Djoser.

He inherited the throne from his father Khasekhemwy and was the one responsible for directing the completion of a tomb for his father.
THE EGYPTIAN VILLAGE OF SAQQARA

During his reign, the royal capital of Egypt was moved to Memphis, where Djoser established his court.

He was also known as Netjerikhet, which means “Divine of the Body” and he succeeded his brother to the throne.

A new era of building of Pyramids and other structures, was initiated at Saqqara under his reign.
A Necropolis is a cemetery, especially a large one, belonging to an ancient city.

The large one in Egypt where most of the Kings and Queens are buried during the Old Kingdom, is near the town of Saqqara.
During the Old Kingdom the dead were buried in large cemeteries at Saqqara and Giza, on the West bank of the Nile River.
BUILDING LOCATION OF ALL PYRAMIDS AND TOMBS

Note that all cities of the dead’ (burials, pyramids, mastabas, rock-cut tombs, cemeteries, etc.) were built on the West side of the Nile river.

This was because the Egyptians believed that West was the direction of death, while East was the direction of life.

This was based largely upon the birth (rising) and death (setting) of the sun.
During Egypt's Early Dynastic Period and Old Kingdom, when a Pharaoh, high officials, and other royalty died, they were usually buried in a tomb, called a mastaba.

It is a flat-roofed, rectangular structure with inward sloping sides, constructed out of mudbricks.

They were later used for common persons, who could afford to have one built.

Because of the materials used, more pyramids than mastabas survived.

The word Mastaba means “bench”, in Arabic.
The body was placed in an underground burial chamber with a shaft that opens to the sky.
The building contained a chapel where family members could leave offerings for the deceased.
And a Ka statue representing the deceased would be placed in a sealed chamber called the serdab.
It is an ancient Egyptian tomb cellar area at the bottom of the pyramid, but at ground level, that served as a chamber for the **Ka statue** of a deceased individual.

It was a sealed chamber with a small slit or hole to allow the soul of the deceased to move about freely.

These holes also let in the smells of the offerings presented to the statue of the King or Queen that people put by the opening.
SERDAB OF DJOSER

As an example of a Serdab, the one shown was in a small but very well-preserved building found to contain a statue of Djoser who also was named Horus Netjerikhet.

The small chapel was dressed entirely in fine limestone and its front wall inclined by 16°, the same inclination as the lowest step of the Pyramid.

It was aligned with the private apartments underneath the pyramid.
The Ka statue would receive the offerings on behalf of the deceased.
STEP PYRAMIDS

The earliest Egyptian Pyramids were step pyramids, based on stacking smaller and smaller, mastaba-like structures on top of each other.

During the Third Dynasty of Ancient Egypt (27th Century B.C.), the architect Imhotep designed Egypt's first step pyramid, for the burial place of King Djoser.

It is a series of six successively smaller Mastabas, stacked on top of each other which gave a strong structure.

Major pyramids located here include the Pyramid of Djoser—generally identified as the world's oldest substantial monumental structure to be built of dressed stone, instead of the unstable clay bricks.
King Djoser's architect, Imhotep, is credited with the development of building with stone, to make the new form of the *step pyramid*.

**He came to Egypt from Africa.**

It can be said without exaggeration that Djoser’s pyramid complex constitutes a milestone in the evolution of monumental stone architecture in Egypt and in the world as a whole.

**It became the example that the other great pyramid builders of Egypt would follow.**

He was an Egyptian Vizier to the Pharaoh Djoser, architect, astrologer, scribe, physician, politician, scientist, and high priest of the sun god Ra at Heliopolis.

Very little is known of Imhotep as a historical figure, but in the 3,000 years following his death, he was gradually glorified and deified.
Historians believe that Imhotep started with a simple Mastaba, and then piled several mastabas on top of one another to make the structure taller.

stepped pyramid
Stepped Pyramid of Djoser, Saqqara, c. 2667–2648 BCE
The structure itself is solid; the burial chamber is underground, as with a traditional mastaba.

stepped pyramid
Stepped Pyramid of Djoser, Saqqara, c. 2667–2648 BCE
COLUMNS LEADING TO DJOSER’S TOMB

This is a roofed colonnade corridor leading into the Djoser funerary complex, with stone pillars carved to imitate bundled plant stems.

These are the first pillars in Egypt.

This was also the first pyramid in Egypt and the first large stone structure in the world.
And here we see columns attached to the wall in the shape of a lotus flower.
The Lotus and Papyrus were symbols of Upper and Lower Egypt, so the theme of unification that was central to the role of the Pharaoh is communicated here.
At this time the Pharaoh was closely associated with the sun god Ra, and the pyramids were designed to interact with the rising and setting sun.
As the sun set behind the pyramids, it symbolized Ra-Horakty (the Falcon Horus, with a sun-disc on his head) riding his sun bark across the sky.
To the Egyptians, the regular cycles of the rising and setting sun symbolized the fixed order of the universe, as well as the un-changing cycles of life, death, and rebirth that informed their beliefs about the afterlife.
The surrounding funerary complex included a temple, courtyards, shrines, and living quarters for the priests covering an area of 40 acres – **bigger than the city of Hierkanopolis, at the time**.

The outer wall had 13 false doors cut into it with only one true entrance cut in the south-east corner, to discourage unwanted guests.
This photo gives a good perspective of how big the Step pyramid is, with the comparison with the people standing near it.
A pyramid was not simply a grave in ancient Egypt. Its purpose was to facilitate a successful afterlife for the king so that they could be eternally reborn.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMkoX1kfyDs
3.5 minutes  go to 3.23
The Fourth Dynasty of ancient Egypt is characterized as a "golden age" of the Old Kingdom of Egypt.

It lasted from 2613 to 2494 BCE. It was a time of peace and prosperity as well as one during which trade with other countries is documented.
Giza pyramid complex pyramids. From left to right: the Pyramid of Menkaure, Pyramid of Khafre, the Great Sphinx of Giza and Khufu's Great Pyramid of Giza
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sneferu</td>
<td>Nebmaat</td>
<td>2613–2589 BCE</td>
<td>Bent Pyramid, Red Pyramid, Medum Pyramid</td>
<td>Queen Hetepheres I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khufu</td>
<td>Medjedu</td>
<td>2589–2566 BCE</td>
<td>Great Pyramid of Giza</td>
<td>Queen Meritites I, Queen Henutsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djedefre</td>
<td>Kheper</td>
<td>2566–2558 BCE</td>
<td>Pyramid of Djedefre</td>
<td>Queen Hetepheres II, Queen Khentetka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setka?</td>
<td>Nebkare</td>
<td>2558 BCE</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khafre</td>
<td>Userib</td>
<td>2558–2532 BCE</td>
<td>Pyramid of Khafra</td>
<td>Queen Meresankh III, Queen Khamerernebty I, Queen Hekenuhedjet, Queen Persenet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menkaure</td>
<td>Kakhet</td>
<td>2532–2503 BCE</td>
<td>Pyramid of Menkaure</td>
<td>Queen Khamerernebty II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepseskaf</td>
<td>Shepseskhet</td>
<td>2503–2499 BCE</td>
<td>Mastabat el-Fara'un</td>
<td>Queen Bunefer?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djedefptah</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>2499–2494 BCE</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Old Kingdom and its royal power reached a zenith under the 4th Dynasty, which began with **King Snefru** (2613-2589 BCE).

Using a greater mass of stones than any other king, he built 3 pyramids:

- Meidum
- Bent Pyramid
- Red Pyramid

He also sent his military into Sinai, Nubia and Libya, and began to trade with Lebanon for cedar wood.
THE MEIDUM PYRAMID

This pyramid was made as a step mastaba and is the last royal tomb that was built in steps - begun with 7 steps and enlarged to 8.

It was probably built during King Snefru’s reign.

The modern appearance of the Meidum pyramid is that of a stepped tower but it was originally finished with a smooth outer casing to transform it into the earliest true pyramid.

The huge amount of rock material around the base is from the crumbling of the lower mastaba layers there, over thousands of years.
LAYOUT OF KING SNEFRU’S BENT PYRAMID COMPLEX

- Upper Burial Chamber
- Northern entrance and passage
- Western entrance and passage
- Lower Burial Chamber
- Antechamber
- Causeway
- Satellite Pyramid
- Offering Place
- Eastern Chapel
King Sneferu set the standards for art in Egypt.

During his reign, he had artisans create jewelry that nobody else had ever seen.

He also had spectacular life-sized statues of his children, made out of stone.

They were the masterpieces of Egyptian art. His vision and eye for detail inspired artists in the coming centuries.
Rahotep might have been a son of King Senefru and thus, a brother of King Khufu.

He held the titles of High Priest of Ra at Heliopolis, General of the Army, and Chief of Constructions.

He is seen here wearing a short kilt, short hair, a fine mustache, and a heart-shaped amulet around his neck.

Rahotep's wife, Nofret, is described as "the one acquainted to the king." She is seen wearing a shoulder-length wig, decorated with a floral diadem and a broad collar. Her natural hair can be seen under the wig.
Khufu was the second King of the Fourth Dynasty. He came to the throne in his twenties, and reigned for about 23 years.

He did have a cruel reputation, which was totally different than his father and Grandfather.

He had 9 sons and 15 daughters. One of his daughters became Queen Hetepheres II.
The Great Pyramid of Giza was built around 2560 BCE, by Khufu during the Fourth Dynasty.

It was one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World.

It was built as a tomb for him and constructed over a 20-year period.

It probably required an average workforce of 14,567 people and a peak workforce of 40,000.
In fact, a full-sized boat was found buried next to the pyramid Khufu, and is now housed in a museum specially built for it.
THE WOODEN SHIP FOR KING KHUFU

The remains of a magnificent 141-foot-long ship of cedar wood was found in a pit, close to the south side of the Great Pyramid.

The ship was restored over many years, and now lies in a special museum built near the pyramid itself.

The ship may have symbolized the solar journey of the deceased king with the gods, particularly the sun-god Ra.
LIMESTONE BLOCKS FOR THE GREAT PYRAMID

The Great Pyramid consists of roughly some 2.3 million blocks of Tura limestone which were taken from nearby quarries, on the East side of the Nile river.

However, some of the largest granite stones, like those found in the King’s chamber, were carried all the way from Aswan, which is more than 500 miles away.

The heaviest granite stones weight up to 80 tons.

Current thinking is that the stones were floated up close to the site on barges. Some of the pyramids were made in such a way that there was a shallow ramp spiraling up around the structure.

After getting the huge stones, they had to be shaped, smoothed, and placed precisely, which took many years.
For the needs of the Great Pyramid, it is estimated that 5.5 million tons of local limestone and as much as 8,000 tons of granite brought from Aswan would have been used.

Added to this material was the 500,000 tons of mortar needed in the pyramid’s construction.

What is perhaps even more impressive is that once it was completed, the Great Pyramid was surfaced by white “casing stones.”

These casing stones were intricately cut, beautifully polished blocks of white limestone.
Inside the Great Pyramids

By Chris Soprych

Built as tombs for the three pharaohs whose names they’re now known by, Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure weren’t the first pyramids of Egypt and they weren’t the last, but they are the most famous. Known as the Great Pyramids of Egypt, they as a group are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World surviving today. Other pharaohs built many more pyramids over the years that followed but none as great as these at Giza. Khufu’s Pyramid was the tallest structure on Earth until the early 1300s when Britain’s Lincoln Cathedral topped it at 525 feet.

Refining the shape

The Great Pyramids are a culmination of a building process that started with the Step Pyramid of Djoser. Size, height and construction technique were tinkered with particularly during the reign of Sneferu, Egypt’s most prolific pyramid builder, who finished four in all. Sneferu’s experimentation at Meidum and Dashur resulted in the first true pyramid, and paved the way for his son, Khufu, to build the Great Pyramid.

Reconstructing Khufu

The white limestone cladding is now gone and about 30 feet have been lost from its original height, but Khufu’s Pyramid is still a marvel. Many believe that the series of chambers built into the pyramid and excavated from below were meant to house Khufu’s mummy. However, the configuration of the ramps remains a point of debate.
Reconstructing Khufu

The white limestone cladding is now gone and about 30 feet have been lost from its original height, but Khufu’s Pyramid is still a marvel. Many believe that the series of chambers built into the pyramid and excavated from the bedrock were each, in turn, intended for the king’s burial but were successively abandoned as plans changed. Others believe that the three chambers were part of the original plan.

ABOVE THE KING’S CHAMBER

The roof span is so wide, about 17 feet, that the Egyptians used a series of stress-relieving chambers above the King’s Chamber. This system diverts the weight of more than 300 feet of stone above. The chambers were named after prominent people during British rule.

- Campbell’s Chamber
- Lady Arbuthnot’s Chamber
- Nelson’s Chamber
- Wellington’s Chamber
- Davison’s Chamber
- King’s Chamber
- Queen’s Chamber
- Subterranean Chamber
- Portcullis
- Ascending Passage
- Descending Passage
- Entrance
- Grand Gallery
- Air shafts oriented toward Orion constellation
- Single straight sloping ramp
- Multiple winding ramps
The corners of the Great Pyramid of Giza is almost perfectly aligned – within one-fifteenth of one degree, with the cardinal directions — north, south, east, and west.

Researchers have spent years trying to understand how the builders were able to align the pyramid so precisely, and most accept that the ancient engineers used the motion of the Sun and possibly the stars.
The greatest difference in length among the four sides is a mere 1-\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches.

The base is level within less than an inch, an astonishing engineering accomplishment.
It is made of 2.3 million blocks, each weighing about 2.5 tons – experts still have not figured out how the massive blocks were moved into place, given the technology that was available at the time.
DETAIL OF THE CORE BLOCKS OF KHUFU'S PYRAMID

(Photo: Dr. Amy Calvert)

Construction: inner core stones, and outer casing stones (see image in 2 slides).

It has inner, rough-hewn, locally quarried core stones, which is all we see today.
THE PYRAMIDION

At the very top of the pyramid would have sat a capstone, known as a **pyramidion**.

The pyramidion represented the sacred **benben** (the primordial mound from which the world was created).

They were sometimes coated in a layer of precious metal like gold or electrum, and emblazoned with symbols or hieroglyphs.

The reflecting light effect must have been glorious.
It had angled, outer casing blocks laid in even horizontal courses with spaces filled with gypsum plaster, which have long since been removed, that were laid with great precision.

These blocks of white Tura limestone would have given the pyramid a smooth surface and were very bright and reflective.

In 1303 CE, when the Great Pyramid survived a huge earthquake, a lot of the outer casing fell off and people collected it to build temples and mosques.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4cdDT1ZvAA
4.5 minutes
The Great Pyramids at Giza were built for the Pharaohs Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure during the Fourth Dynasty.

The Pharaoh’s pyramids were surrounded by the pyramids for their wives, and the mastabas of officials who worked for them.
King Khufu had a son named Djedefra who was his immediate successor.

King Djedefra had a son, King Khafre who was the next King.

King Khafre coordinated the building of the second pyramid and the Sphinx, in Giza.

The Sphinx is a limestone statue of a reclining mythical creature with a lion’s body and a human head.

The face is generally believed to represent the face of King Khafre.
The tomb of King Khafre had a Valley Temple, located near the Nile river, which is where the body was brought for embalming.
The body was then carried along a long covered causeway to the Mortuary Temple, located next to the Pyramid. This is where the final ceremonies of the dead were conducted, and where offerings to the deceased king would be made on a daily basis, by priests appointed to attend to him.
The Great Sphinx is located next to the causeway leading to Khafre’s Mortuary Temple and Pyramid.
Measuring 240 feet long, it was carved from the stone left behind after quarrying for the stone used to build the Pyramid.
Khufu’s mortuary complex also included seven large boat pits.

Five of these are located to the east of the pyramid and were intended for use in the afterlife to transport the king to stellar destinations.

A fleet of 14 such pits, containing actual boats averaging 60 feet long were encased inside at a Dynasty 1 mortuary enclosure in Abydos, the cemetery of Egypt’s earliest kings.
The Pyramid texts give instructions on how to get to RA’s solar barge.
Menkaure was the 6th King of the Fourth dynasty of Egypt (2620 BCE-2480 BCE) who ordered the construction of the third and smallest of the Pyramids of Giza.

His name means "Eternal like the Souls of Re (or Ra)".

He was famous for his tomb, the Pyramid of Menkaure, at Giza and his beautiful statue triads, showing the king together with various deities, like the one at the right.
PYRAMID OF MENKAURE AND STATUES THAT WERE IN HIS TOMB
THE 5TH DYNASTY
### The 9 Pharaohs of the 5th Dynasty (2494 to 2345 BCE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of King</th>
<th>Horus (Throne) Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pyramid</th>
<th>Queen(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Userkaf</td>
<td>Irimaat</td>
<td>2494 – 2487 BC</td>
<td>Pyramid in Saqqara</td>
<td>Khentkaus I? Neferhetepes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahure</td>
<td>Nebkhau</td>
<td>2487 – 2475 BC</td>
<td>Pyramid in Abusir</td>
<td>Neferetneby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neferirkare Kakai</td>
<td>Neferirkare</td>
<td>2475 – 2455 BC</td>
<td>Pyramid in Abusir</td>
<td>Khentkaus II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepseskare Isi</td>
<td>Shepseskare</td>
<td>2455 – 2448 BC</td>
<td>Possibly in Abusir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neferefre</td>
<td>Neferkhau</td>
<td>2448 – 2445 BC</td>
<td>&quot;Unfinished Pyramid&quot; in Abusir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyuserre Ini</td>
<td>Nyuserre</td>
<td>2445 – 2421 BC</td>
<td>Pyramid in Abusir</td>
<td>Reptynub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menkauhor Kaiu</td>
<td>Menkauhor</td>
<td>2421 – 2414 BC</td>
<td>&quot;Headless Pyramid&quot; in Saqqara</td>
<td>Meresankh IV?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djedkare Iseesi</td>
<td>Djedkare</td>
<td>2414 – 2375 BC</td>
<td>Pyramid in Saqqara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unas</td>
<td>Wadjtawy</td>
<td>2375 – 2345 BC</td>
<td>Pyramid in Saqqara</td>
<td>Nebet (queen) Khenut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Egyptian religion made several important changes. The earliest known copies of funerary prayers inscribed on royal tombs (known as the **Pyramid Texts**) appear.

The cult of the god Ra gains added importance, as kings from Userkaf through Menkauhor built temples dedicated to Ra, at or near Abusir.

Then late in this dynasty, the cult of Osiris assumes importance, most notably in the inscriptions found in the tomb of King Unas.
Egyptians slept with their necks resting on a headrest made of wood.

Examples intended for the tomb were made of alabaster, hard stone, ivory, faience, wood, or even terracotta.
Part of the jewelry and cosmetic items from the burial of a young woman, including this slate palette and grinder.

Calcite and Alabaster vase
Seneb was an Egyptian dwarf who lived in the 6th dynasty, who was the chief of all the palace dwarfs, charged with the care of the royal wardrobe.

He is seated on a rectangular seat together with his wife, Senetites, and his children stand before him.

He has short black hair and wears a short white kilt. His wife rests her right hand on her husband's shoulder and her left hand on his left arm in an affectionate pose.
KING USERKAF

Userkaf was the founder of the Fifth dynasty of Egypt and the first pharaoh to start the tradition of building sun temples at Abusir.

His name means "his Ka (or soul) is powerful".

He ruled from 2494-2487 BCE and constructed the Pyramid of Userkaf complex at Saqqara.

It is believed that he was father of two pharaohs, Sahure and Neferirkare Kakai, who both succeeded him to the throne.
MANY LATER PYRAMIDS WERE BUILT WITH MUD BRICKS REINFORCED WITH STRAW, WHICH DIDN’T LAST AS LONG AS THOSE BUILT WITH SLABS OF ROCK
USERKAF’S PYRAMID TODAY
KING UNAS (2375 TO 2345)

Unas was the ninth and last king of the 5th Dynasty and what some believe to be the end of the Golden Age of the Old Kingdom.

The 6th Dynasty would finally be the end of Egypt's grand beginning, as the country would then slip into the troubling First intermediate Period.

He is believed to have had two queens, Nebet and Khenut, based on their burials near his tomb.
Non-royal tombs were decorated with biographies of the deceased, which were written on the walls, like this one from Unas’ tomb.

During his reign, expeditions were sent to mine for turquoise and copper.

Trade expeditions were sent south to Punt to obtain malachite, myrrh, and electrum, and archeological finds at Byblos attest to diplomatic expeditions sent to that Phoenician city.
ORIGINAL LAYOUT OF KING UNAS’ PYRAMID COMPLEX
The newly-discovered tomb of the ancient Egyptian nobleman “Khewi” dating back to the 5th dynasty at the Saqqara necropolis in Egypt. (Mohamed el-Shahed / AFP)
# THE 7 KINGS OF THE 6th DYNASTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teti</td>
<td>Sehetepetawy</td>
<td>2345 – 2333</td>
<td>Pyramid of Teti at Saqqara</td>
<td>Khenti(kaus III) Iput I Khuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Userkare</td>
<td></td>
<td>2333 – 2331</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepi I</td>
<td>Nefersahor/Merenre</td>
<td>2331 – 2287</td>
<td>Pyramid in South Saqqara</td>
<td>Ankhesenpepi I Ankhesenpepi II Nubwenet Meritites IV Inenek-Inti Mehaa Nedjetet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nemtyemsaf I</td>
<td>Merenre</td>
<td>2287 – 2278</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ankhesenpepi II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepi II</td>
<td>Neferkare</td>
<td>2278 – 2184</td>
<td>Pyramid in South Saqqara</td>
<td>Neith Iput II Ankhesenpepi III Ankhesenpepi IV Udjeten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nemtyemsaf II</td>
<td>Merenre</td>
<td>2184</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitqret? or Neitiqerty Siptah</td>
<td></td>
<td>2184 – 2181</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
From a cultural point of view, the 6th Dynasty is the continuation of the end of the 5th Dynasty.

The burial chamber, antechamber and entrance corridor of these pyramids are inscribed with Pyramid Texts, following the example set by King Unas of the 5th Dynasty.

King Teti, less commonly known as Othoes, was the first Pharaoh of the Sixth dynasty of Egypt and is buried at Saqqara.

The length of his reign was about 12 years.

He adapted the Horus name, Seheteptawy, which means, "He who pacifies the Two Lands".
The ruins of Teti's pyramid at Saqqara

Teti’s Sarcophagus

The ruins of Teti's pyramid at Saqqara
PEPI 1 – 3RD KING OF THE 6TH DYNASTY

Pepi I (Meryre) (reigned 2332 - 2283 BCE).

Pepi was the son of Teti and Iput, who was a daughter of King Unas, last pharaoh of the previous dynasty.

He needed the support of powerful individuals in Upper Egypt in order to put down his brother, the usurper Userkare who had murdered his father and for Pepi to win back his rightful throne.

These individuals would remain a strong presence in his court.
COPPER STATUE OF PEPI 1
THE ROYAL JUBILEE – SED FESTIVAL

One of the most important festivals related to kingship was the Royal Jubilee, also called the Sed-festival.

This significant celebration was a ritual during which the king's right to rule and his royal powers were renewed and normally was held every 30 years of their reign.

Art on building walls depict the king running alongside the Apis bull, in order to prove his fitness to rule.
JUBILEE VESSEL OF PEPI I
ALABASTER AND PIGMENT
SEATED STATUETTE OF PEPY I WITH HORUS FALCON

Made of Alabaster, King Pepy I sits on his throne wearing the tall white crown of Upper Egypt and an enveloping cloak associated with his Jubilee.
PEPI II

MATERIAL: WOOD
PEPE II

Pepi II is traditionally listed as the last ruler of Egypt’s Sixth Dynasty, and the last significant ruler of the Old Kingdom, before the First Intermediate Period.

He was only 6 years old when he began his incredible 90-year rule making him the longest ruling King of Ancient Egypt.
PYRAMID COMPLEX OF PEPI II
PEPE II’S PYRAMID, AS IT LOOKS TODAY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQyDFGFclMY
Go to 2.55 minutes
Ankhnesmerire II holds the infant Pepi II
The decline of the Old Kingdom arguably began before the time of Pepi II, with nomarchs (regional representatives of the king) becoming more and more powerful and exerting greater influence.

Increasing wealth and power appears to have been handed over to high officials during Pepi II's reign, which gave them more power than the King.

Even though he lived to an older age, Pepe II didn’t leave an heir to be the next Pharaoh.

The final blow was a possible severe drought in the region between 2200 and 2150 BCE, which in turn prevented the normal flooding of the Nile.
BIBLIOGRAPHY