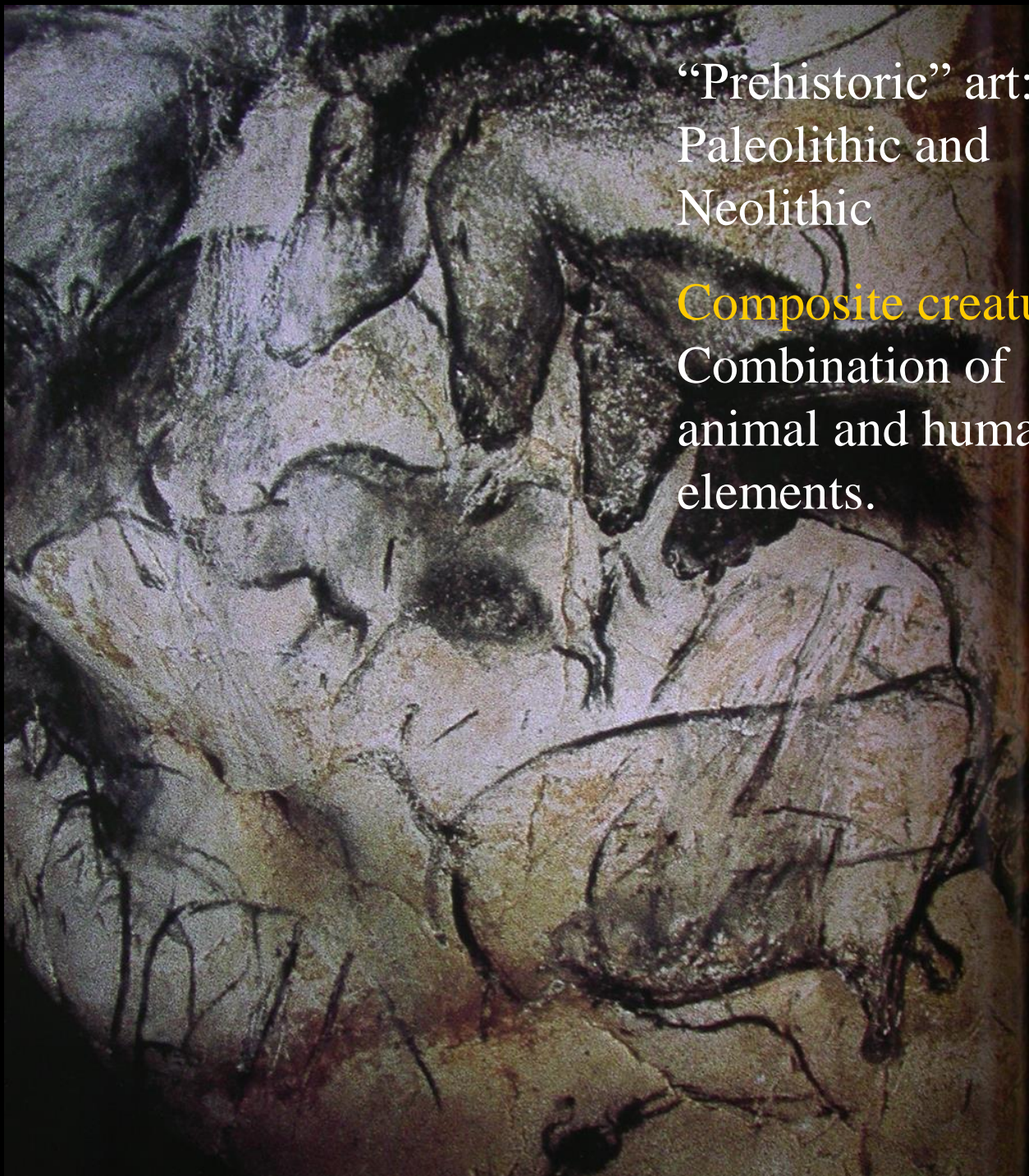


“Prehistoric” art:
Paleolithic and
Neolithic

Composite creature:
Combination of
animal and human
elements.



Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): 40,000 to 8000 BCE

1. Hunters; no domesticated animals
2. Gatherers; no agriculture
3. Nomadic society; no permanent settlements



BCE means “Before the Common Era.” (replaces “BC”)

CE means the “Common Era.” (replaces “AD”)

Left, (1-10) Painting from Chauvet Cave, France, circa 32,000-30,000 BCE.

Right, (1-6) Lion-Human circa 30,000 to 26,000 BCE.





Left, (1-7) Woman from Willendorf, circa 24,000 BCE.

Below, *Venus Figure*, probably La Mouthe, France, sandstone, c. 20,000 BCE (Mia 72.10, in G316)

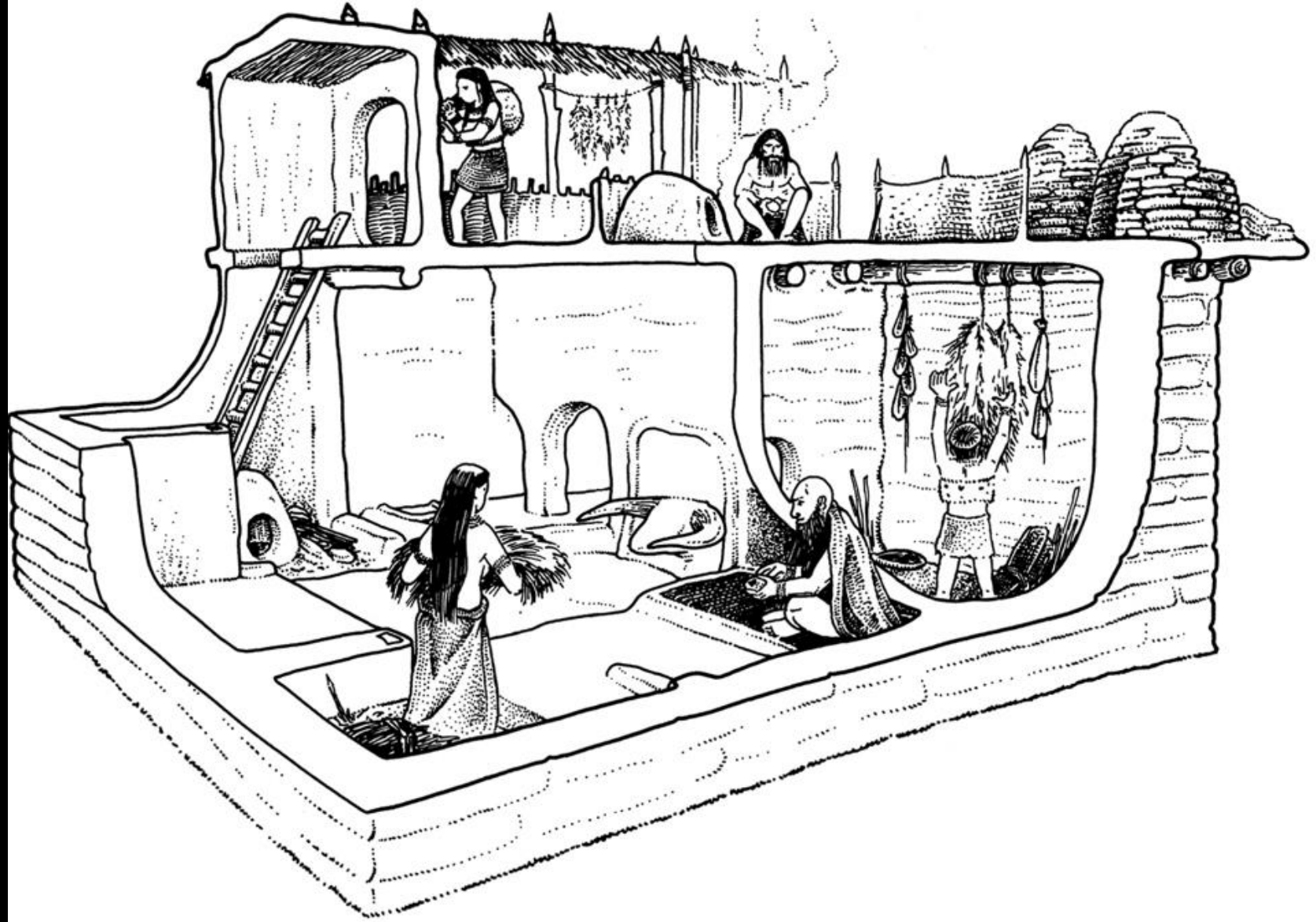


The Power of a Name

By calling this object a “Venus Figure,” how does that title impact the way we think the figure was used or its subject matter?

Figure is carved in relief.

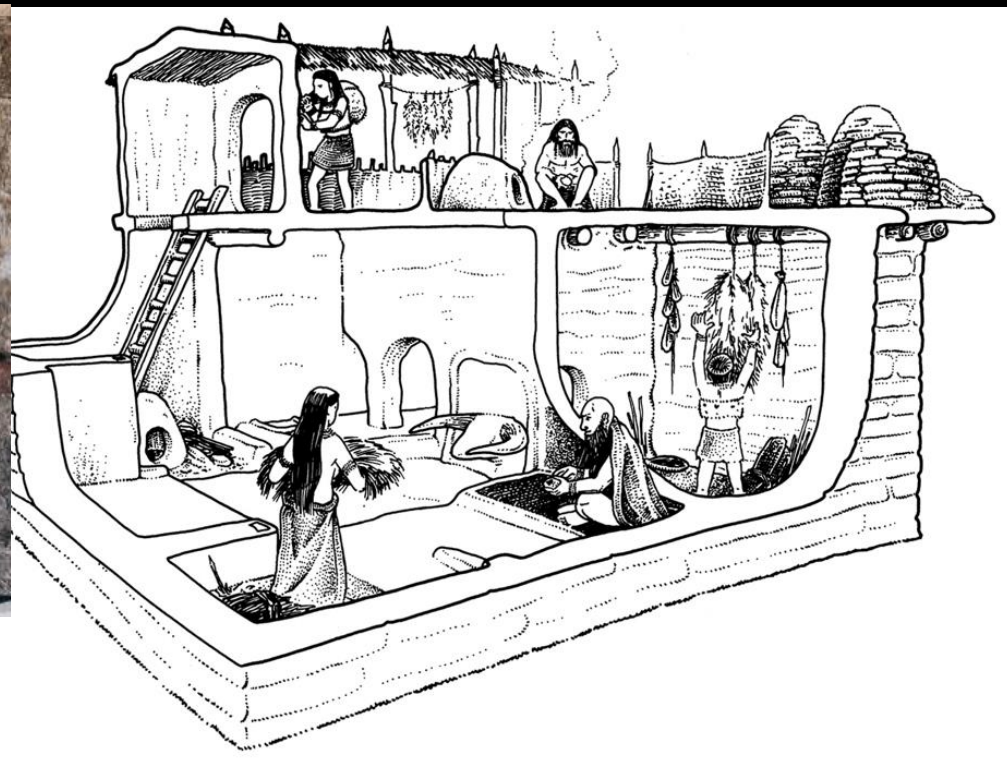




Neolithic (New Stone Age) End of the Ice Age!

8000 to 2300 BCE

1. An organized system of agriculture
2. Herds of domestic animals
3. Permanent, year-round settlements (example: Çatalhöyük)



House in Çatalhöyük, with detail of a wall painting (1-17) on inset. 6000 BCE

Mesopotamia (means “The Land Between Rivers”)

Timeline of Mesopotamia:

Sumerian

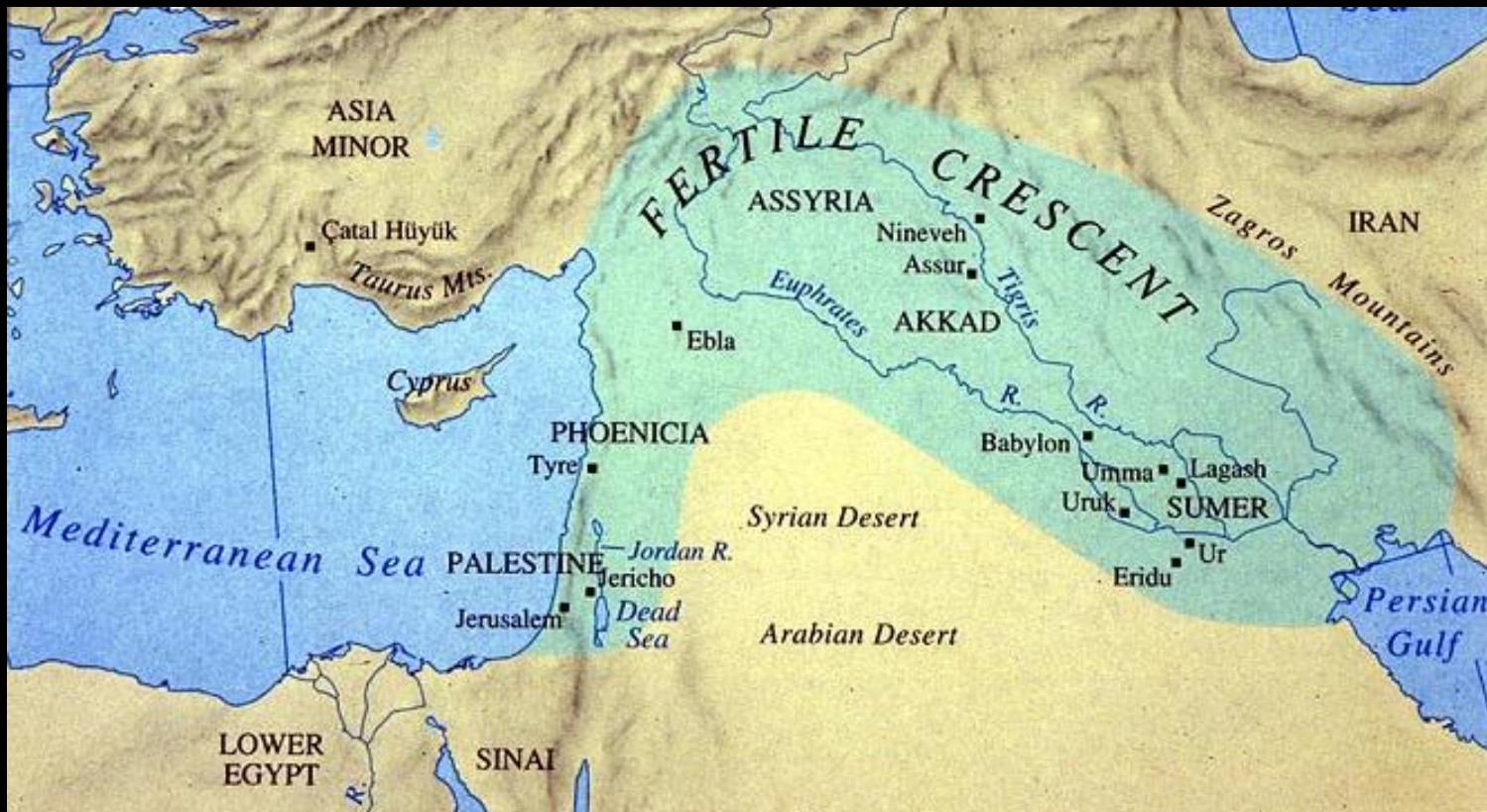
3500 to 2340 BCE

Neo-Sumerian

2180 to 2010 BCE

Assyrian

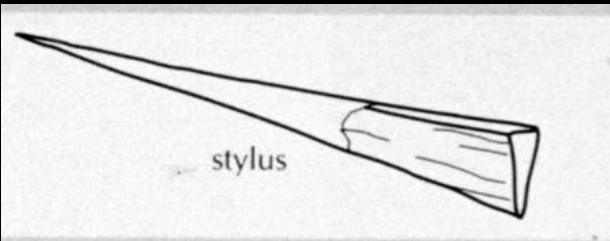
1000 to 612 BCE



Development of cuneiform script, c. 3100 to 700 BCE

Sumerians are credited with many “firsts” in civilization: invention of the wheel, writing (**cuneiform**), an organized system of justice, and epic literature (*Epic of Gilgamesh*).

What materials did they use for writing?



... year is that some 4,000 years ago there were textile businesses concerned with both weaving and export—organized and operated by women entrepreneurs.

	pictograph c. 3100 BCE	early cuneiform sign c. 2400 BCE	later cuneiform sign c. 700 BCE	
bull's head				bull
bowl				bread, food
head bowl				to eat

Inscribed and sealed clay envelope for cuneiform tablet, c. 1700 BCE. Right, cylinder seal in Mia's collection, 800-400 BCE, (Mia 76.73.35.10, not on view) (see Stokstad, 2-10).



How to open a clay envelope...

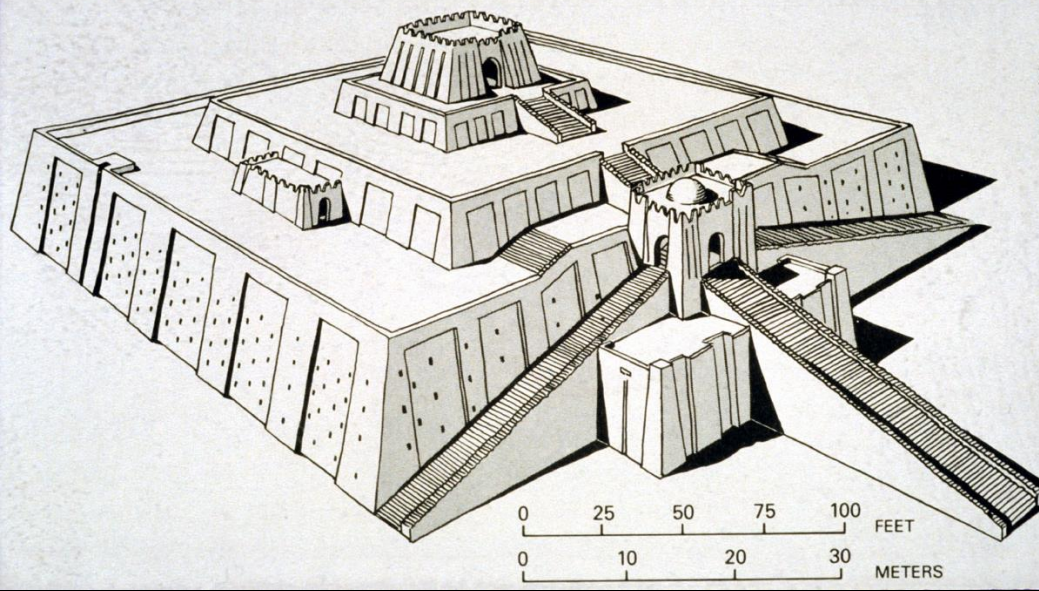
<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/3861771.htm>

Sumerian

2-2: Ruins of White Temple at
Uruk/Warka, c. 3100 BCE

Theocratic socialism:
Planned society ruled
from the temple.

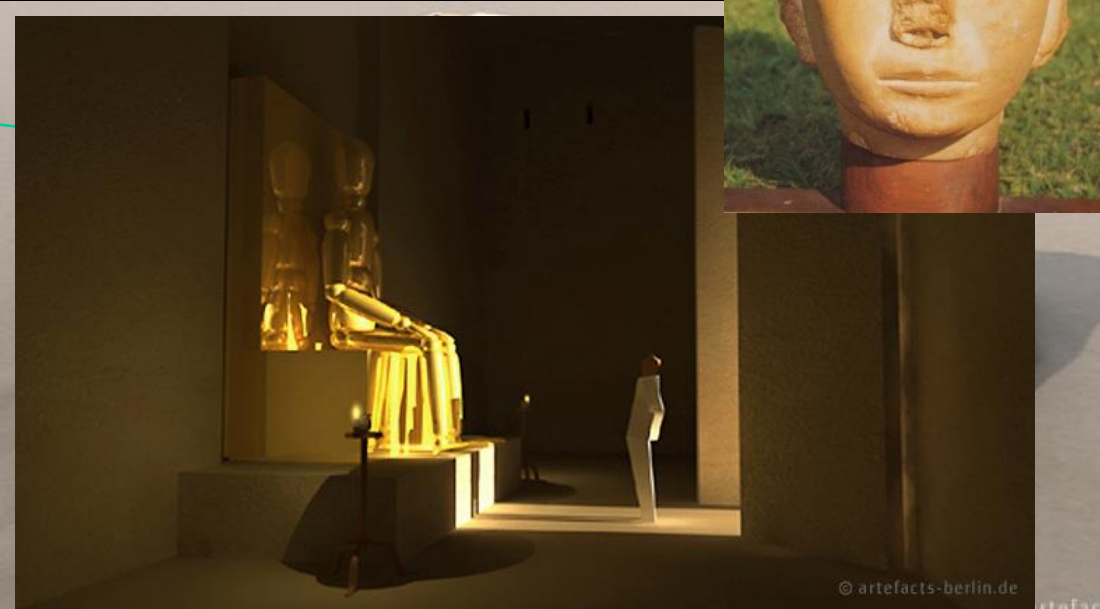
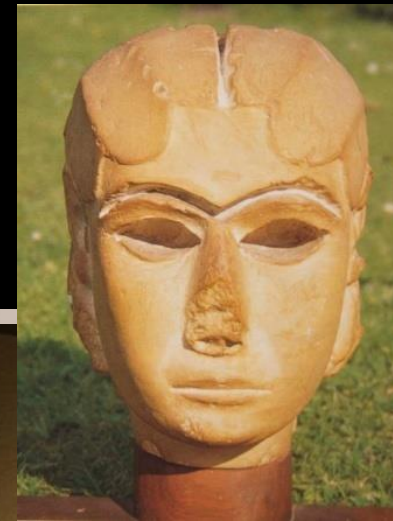




Sumerian Architecture: Left, Plan and reconstruction of the Ziggurat at Ur, 2100 BCE; Below, “White Temple,” c. 3100 BCE and 2-9, Head from Uruk/Warka, c. 3300-3000 BCE

Ziggurat: Stepped pyramid-like temple structure. Why did they build the ziggurat like this, in a stacked form?

Cella: Innermost sacred room of a temple.





Hieratic scale: The most important figure is also the largest in the composition.

Sumerian
2-4: Carved
vessel, alabaster,
c. 3300-3000
BCE (and inset,
line drawing)

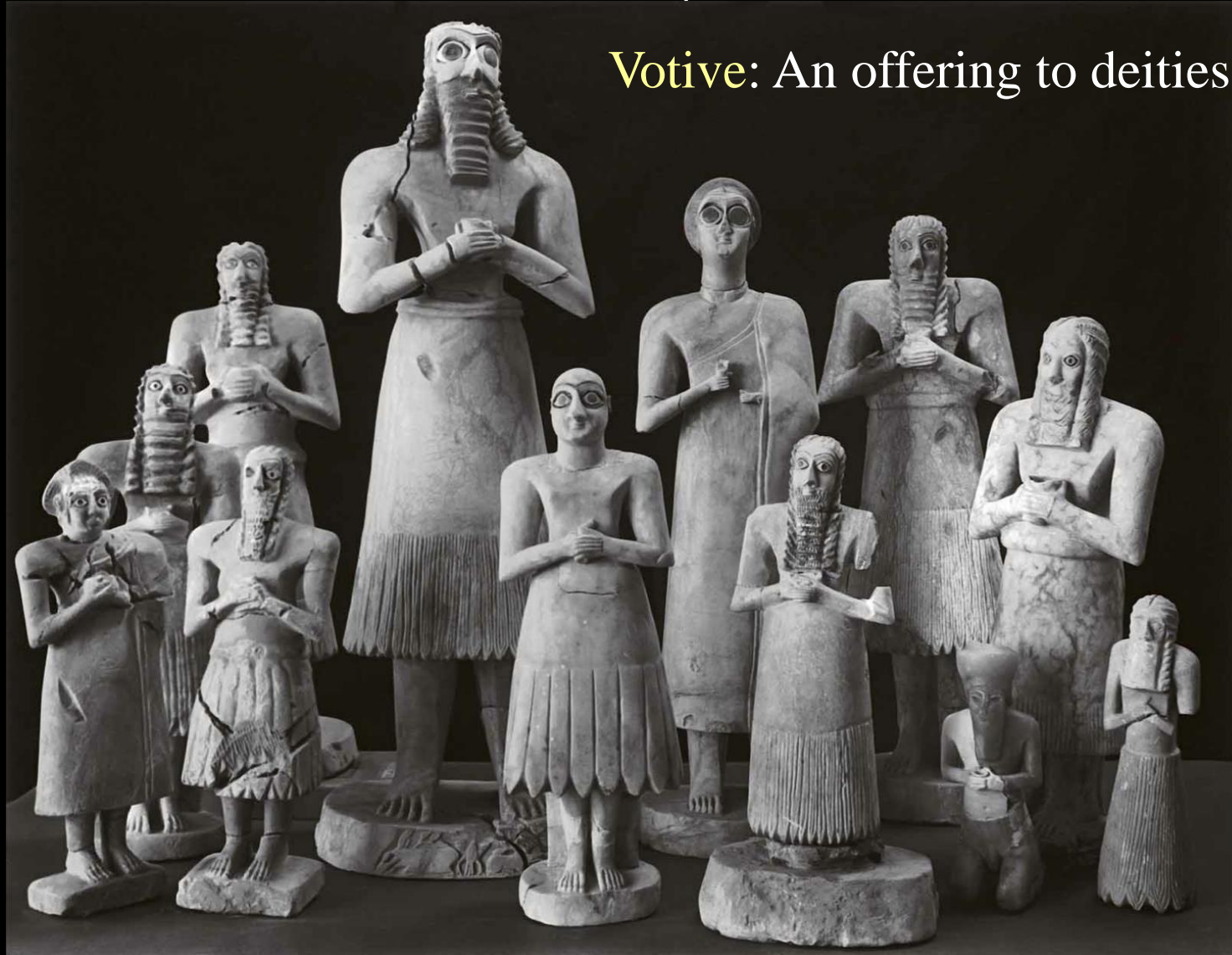


Registers:
Horizontal
bands of
narrative.



Sumerian

2-5: Statues from the Abu Temple, alabaster, c. 2700-2500 BCE. Inset, Foundation figure, copper, 2500 BCE (Mia 74.23)



Sumerian:

Jewelry of Queen

Pu-ab'i, c. 2600 BCE.

Harp/Lyre from

Royal Tombs of Ur,

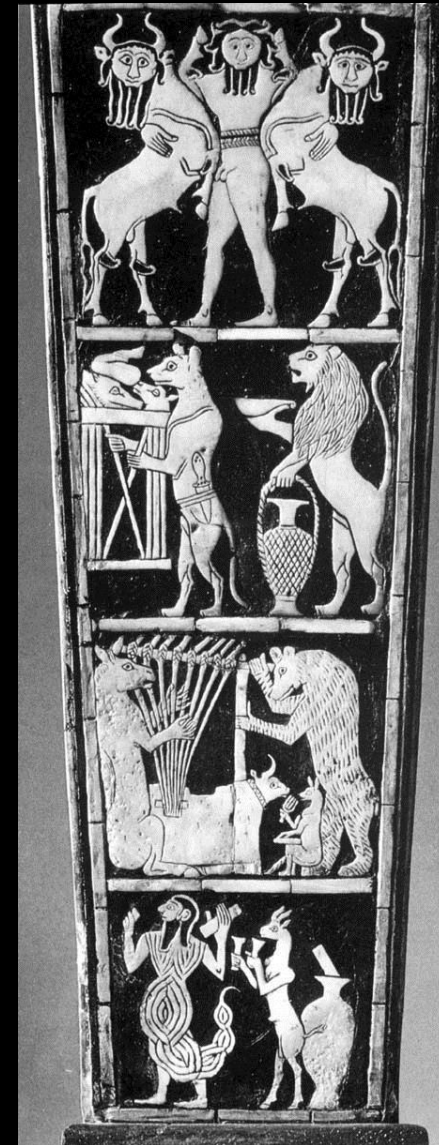
2600-2500 BCE. (See

2-7)

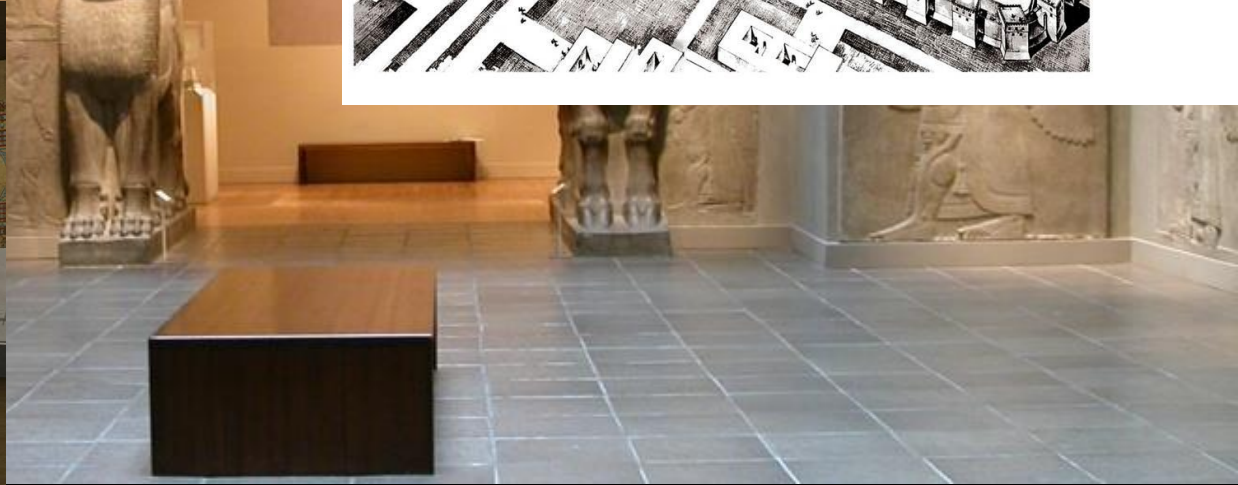
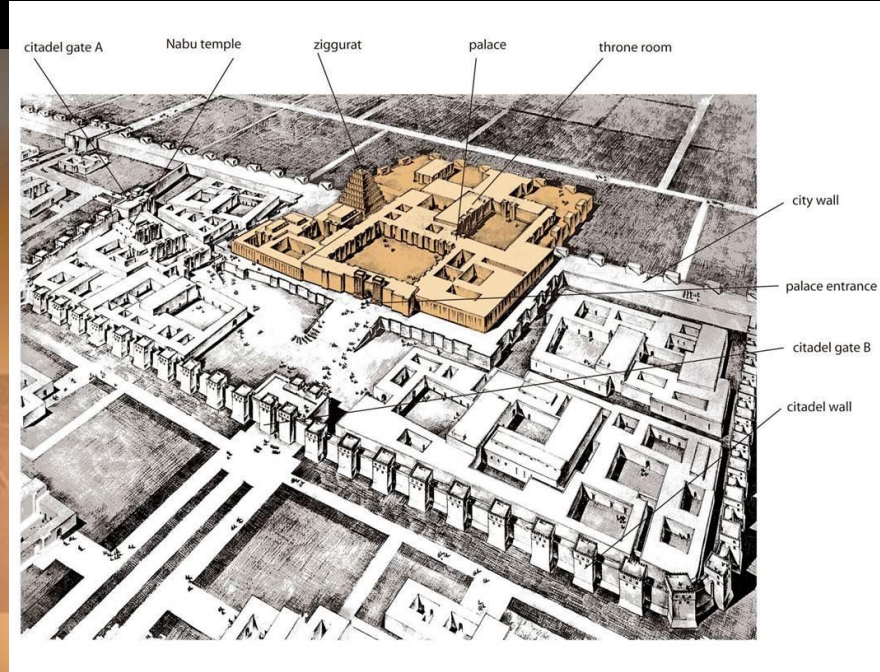


Remember—many objects were made for active use and display! Materials communicate status.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZngHY1nriA&noredirect=1>



Assyrian: Stone reliefs at the Metropolitan Museum, New York. Inset images, reconstructions of interiors and exteriors of palace sites (see 2-18). Assyrians excelled at the architecture of domination!



Assyrian

2-17: *Ashurnasirpal II Hunting Lions*, c. 850 BCE (detail). Alabaster, 39" high.



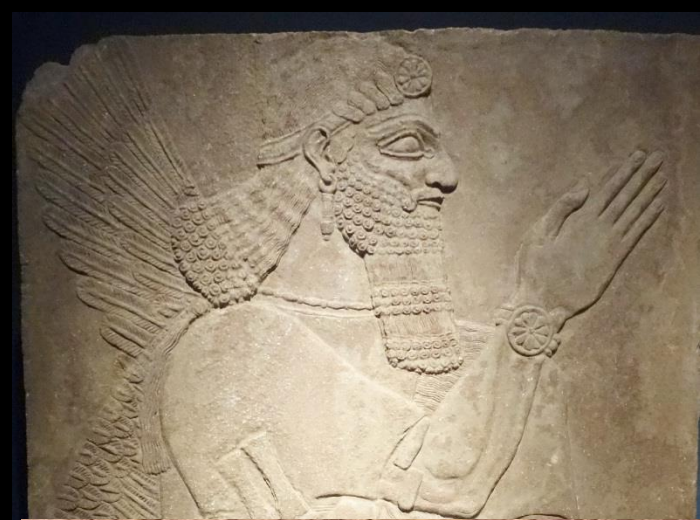


Assyrian:
Assyrian archers pursuing
enemies, c. 875-860 BCE.
(See Stokstad, p. 42)





Assyrian
Left, Winged
genius, limestone.
7.5 feet high! (Mia
41.9) Right,
Winged genius,
Brooklyn Museum.
Both from
Ashurnasirpal II's
Palace at Nimrud, c.
883-859 BCE.
Cuneiform is the
Standard
Inscription.

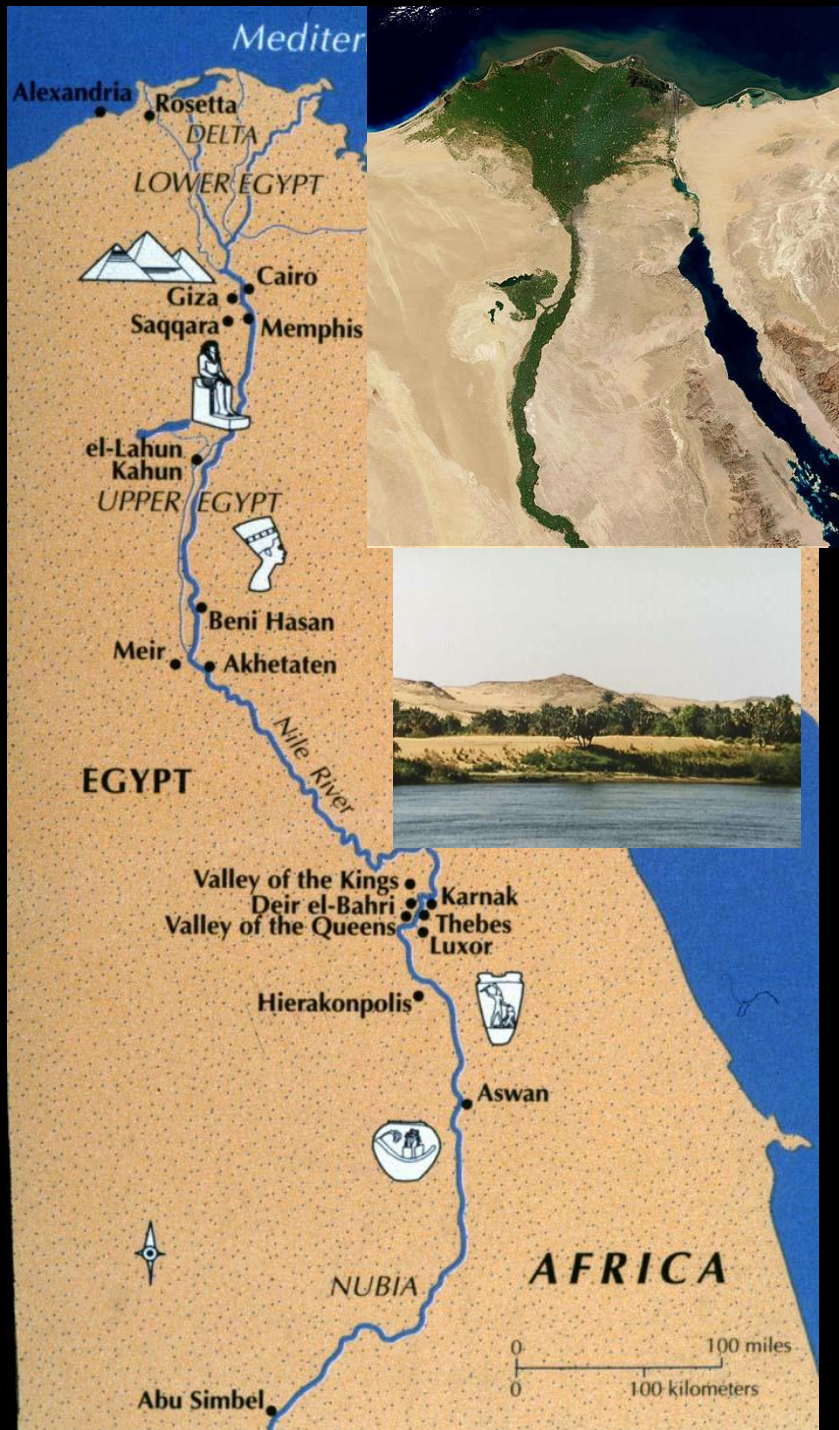


Persian (Luristan), Rhyton
in shape of an animal,
terracotta, 1500 BCE (Mia
76.73.83, not on view).
Bronze horse bit and cheek
plaques, 1000-600 BCE,
Luristan, not on view.



Marlik, *Repoussé Beaker*,
silver, 6 ½", 800 BCE,
(Mia 65.36.2, not on view)
The Marlik were a nomadic
people in the area of
modern Iran. Like other
nomadic cultures, they
created portable status
objects. What is **repoussé**?





Ancient Egypt

Upper Egypt = Southern Egypt

Lower Egypt = Northern Egypt

Old Kingdom (Dynasties 3-6):
2575-2150 BCE

Middle Kingdom (Dynasties 11-12):
1975 to 1640 BCE

New Kingdom (Dynasties 18-20):
1539 to 1075 BCE

The Third Intermediate Period, c.1075-715
BCE

The time periods between the Kingdoms are called "Intermediate Periods." These were periods when Lower and Upper Egypt were not fully united.

The Palette of Narmer

Name of King

c. 2950 BCE. Schist, 25" high.
(see p. 52, Stokstad)

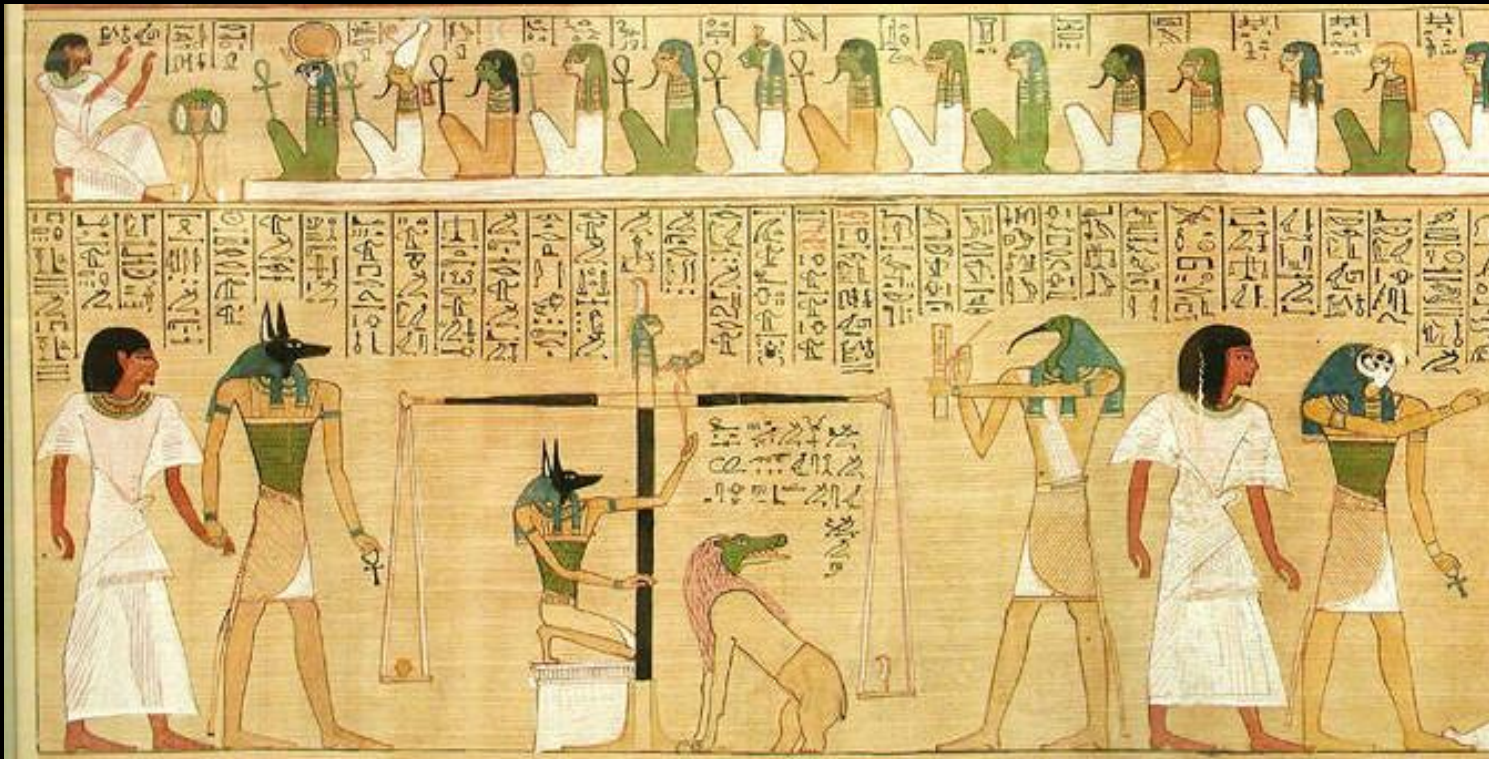


Hieroglyphs

Hieroglyphs: Sacred pictorial writing. Found carved or painted in tombs and written on papyrus rolls.

Phonetically spell words with picture, so the word “belief” would be spelled with the symbol of a “bee” and a “leaf.”

The discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799 eventually allowed hieroglyphs to be decoded.



Egyptian Mummification: Egyptians were obsessed with...LIFE!

Preservation of the body so that the *ka* (the spirit) could live on in the afterlife. In case the mummy disintegrated, a portrait statue often would be included in the tomb as an alternate home for the *ka*.



Egyptians mummified other things as well...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3z djPWzkDkQ>

Canopic jars: Four sons of Horus. In jar form, used to store the organs of the dead. They are seen on the cartonnage of Lady Tashat's mummy in form of 4 sons of Horus.

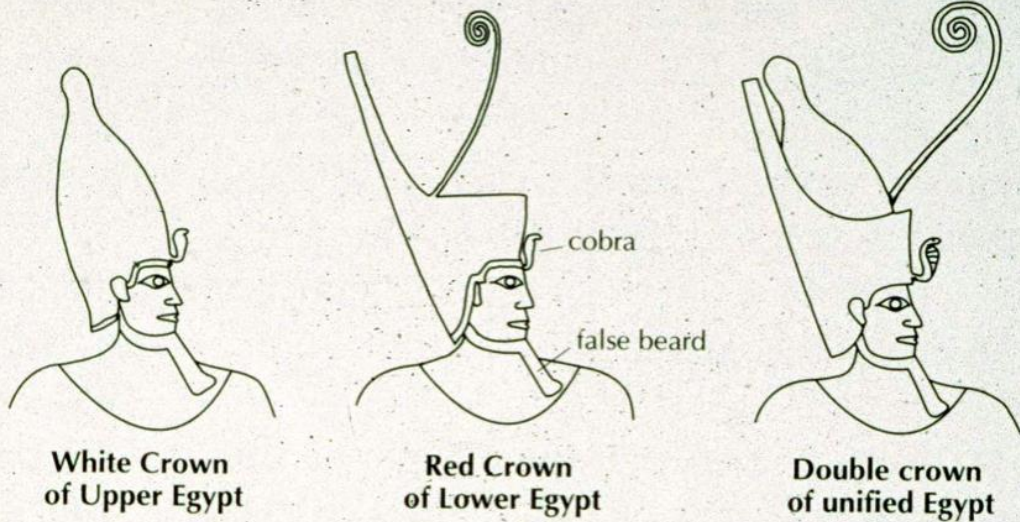


Natron: Natural salt used in mummification process.

Egyptian Religion: Any questions from the reading?



Egyptian Symbols (see Stokstad, p. 51)

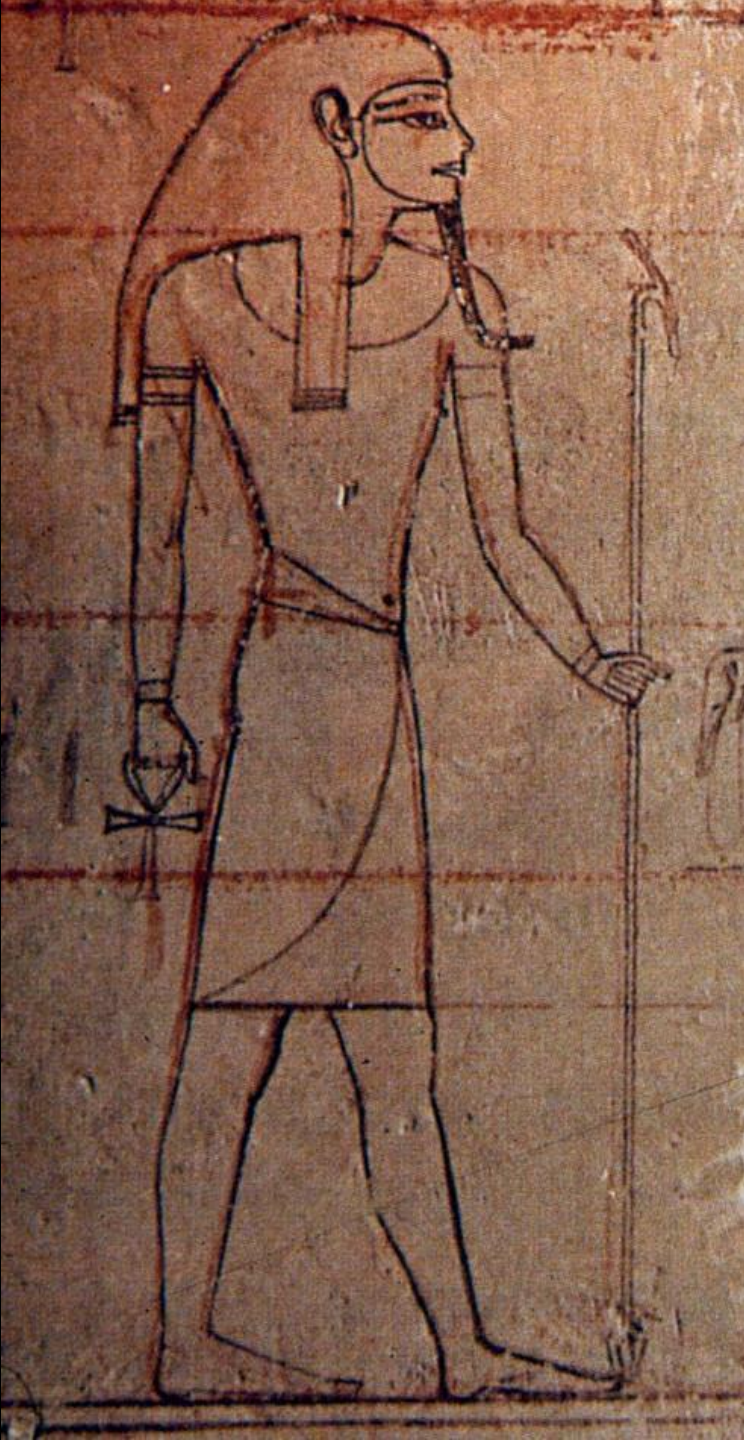


Also a symbol of kingship is the *nemes* headdress, such as seen on King Menkaure.



Kings and gods, such as Osiris, above, also may hold the crook and flail. The Eye of Horus, below, called the *wedjat*, is a symbol for the sun.





Egyptian Canon of Proportions and View of Body

Man is 18 units high between heel and hairline (19th unit is the crown/hair).

Egyptians used this canon and view of the body in painting and in sculpture.

Frontal: Eye and torso

Profile: Legs and face

Video clip:

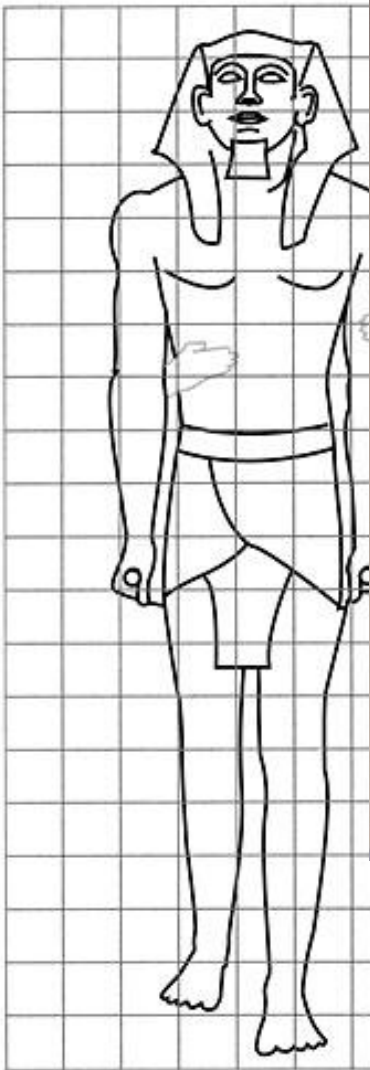
“How Art Made the World: More Human than Human”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eGRoSjp3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eGRoSjp3Ik)

Ik

Old Kingdom Sculpture

3-9: *Menkaure and a Queen*, c. 2490 BCE



Standing pose:
Standing, one foot advanced.

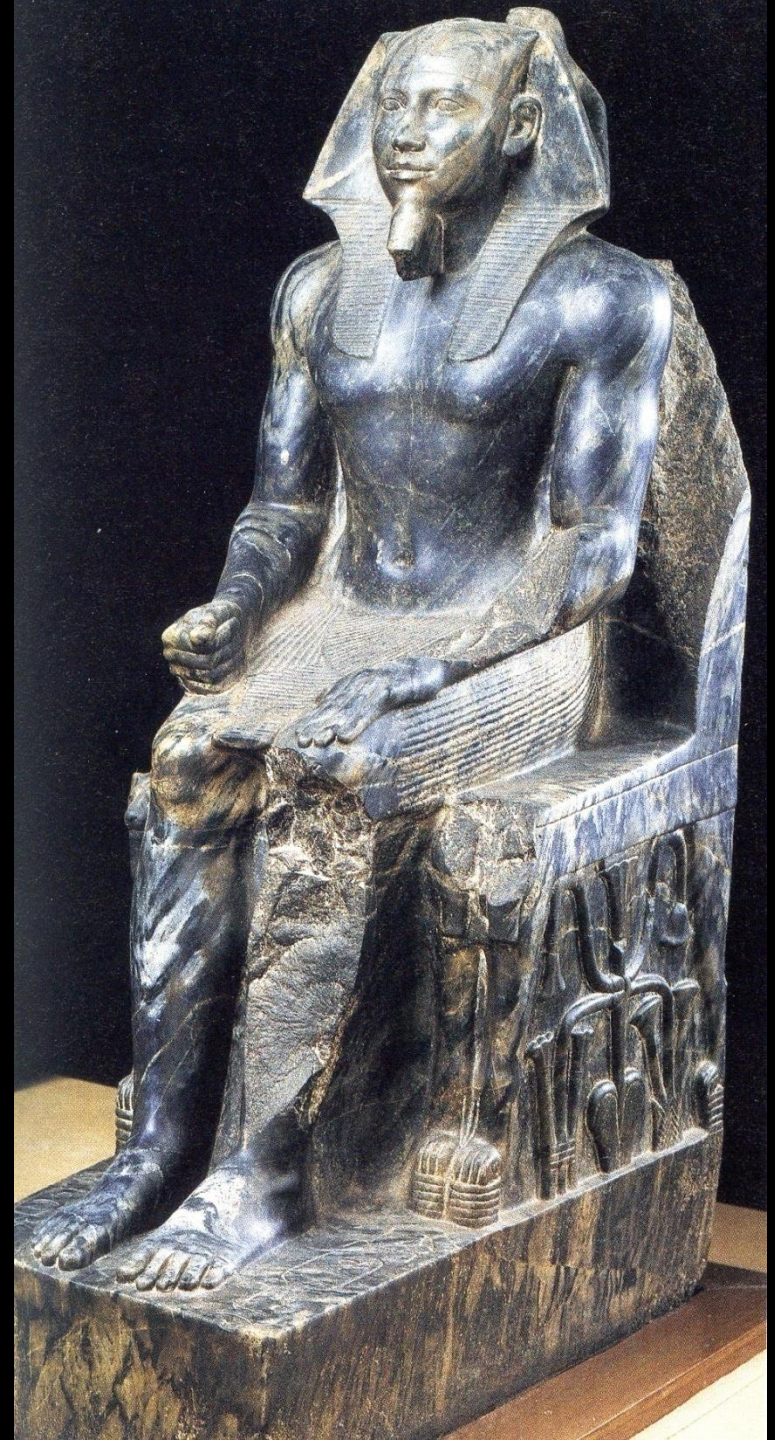
This pose continued to be used throughout Egyptian history!

Inset, Striding Figure, 300-300 BCE, 58.14.



Old Kingdom Sculpture
3-8: Khafre, c. 2520 BCE

Seated pose: one hand in fist,
one hand flat on knee.

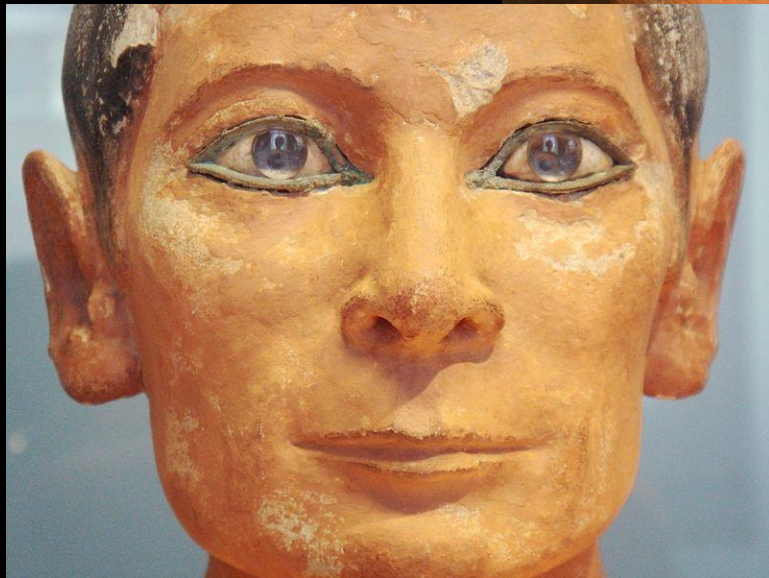
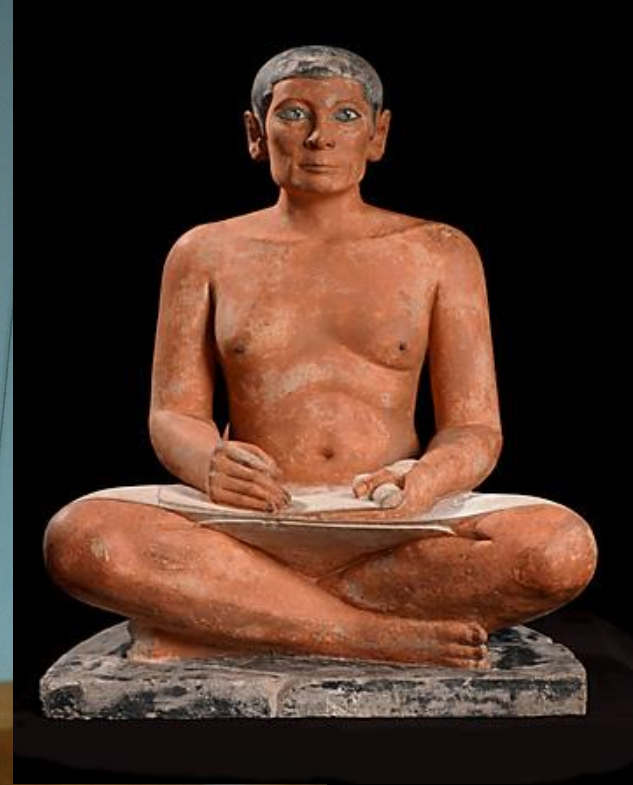


Old Kingdom Sculpture

3-10: Seated Scribe
from c. 2400 BCE

Scribe pose: Seated
on ground in lotus or
cross legged position.

So what kind of life
did a scribe lead?

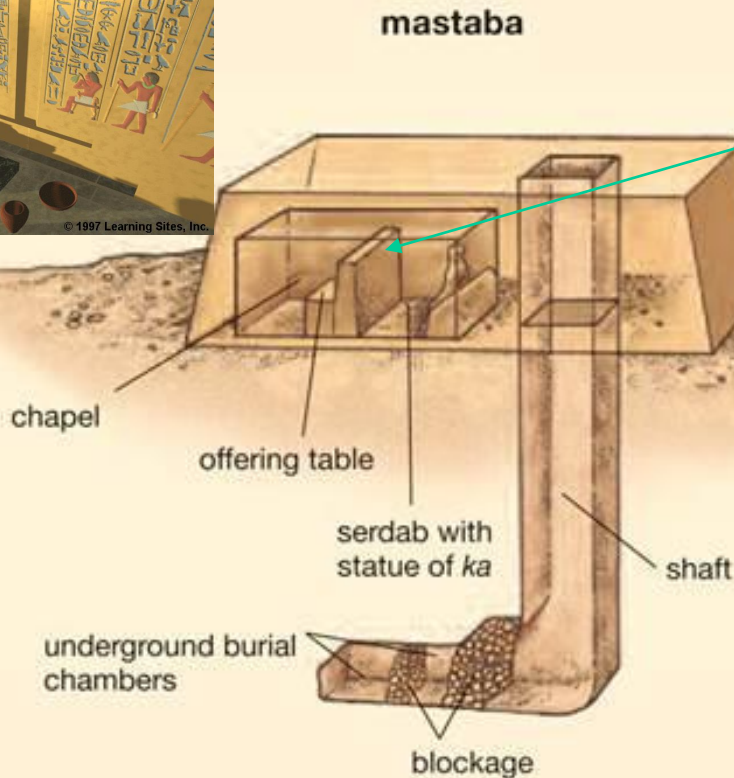


Terms to know...

Mastaba: Flat-topped one-story building with slanted walls erected over an underground burial chamber.

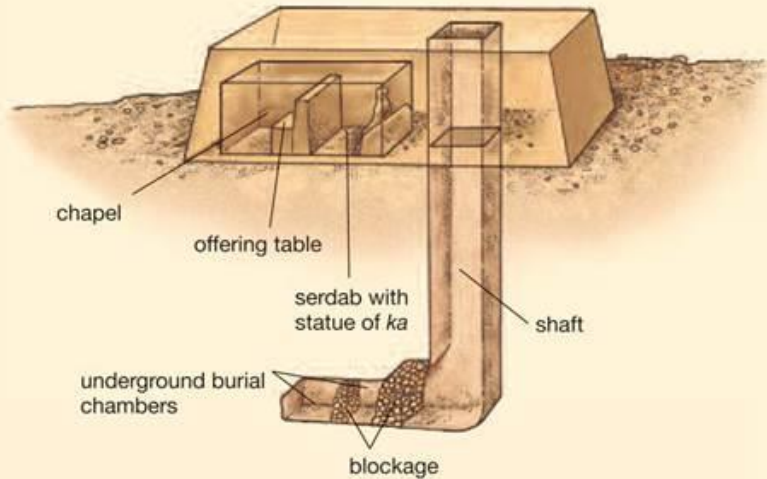
Serdab: Egyptian word for small sealed room housing the *ka* statue of the deceased.

Ka: The Egyptian word for spirit or essence of a person.

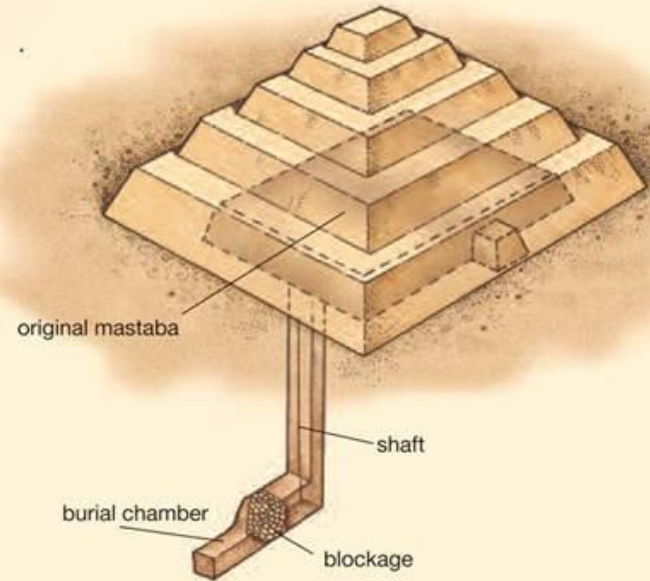


False door of Iryenakhet, limestone, c. 2400 BCE. (Mia 52.22)

mastaba



stepped pyramid



Step Pyramid of Djoser, Saqqara, c. 2630–2575 BCE

Great Pyramid of Khufu (not Khafre!)

Total blocks of stone: over 2,300,000

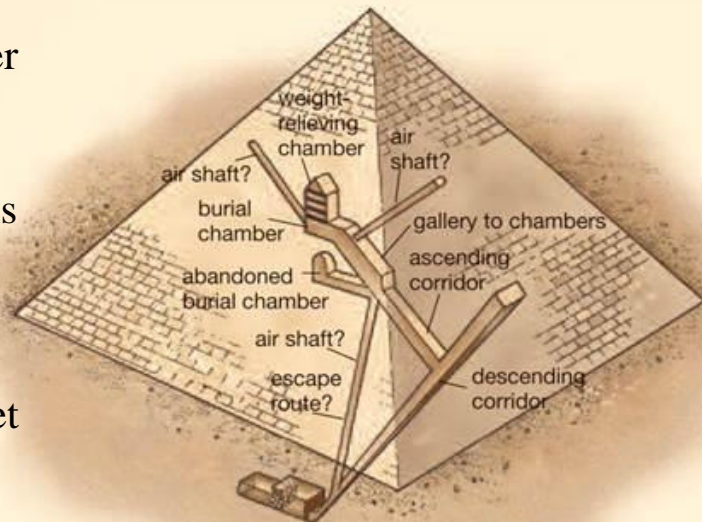
Average weight of individual blocks: 2.5 tons

Base: 7 city blocks

Total weight: 6.5 million tons

Height: Originally 481 feet

pyramid

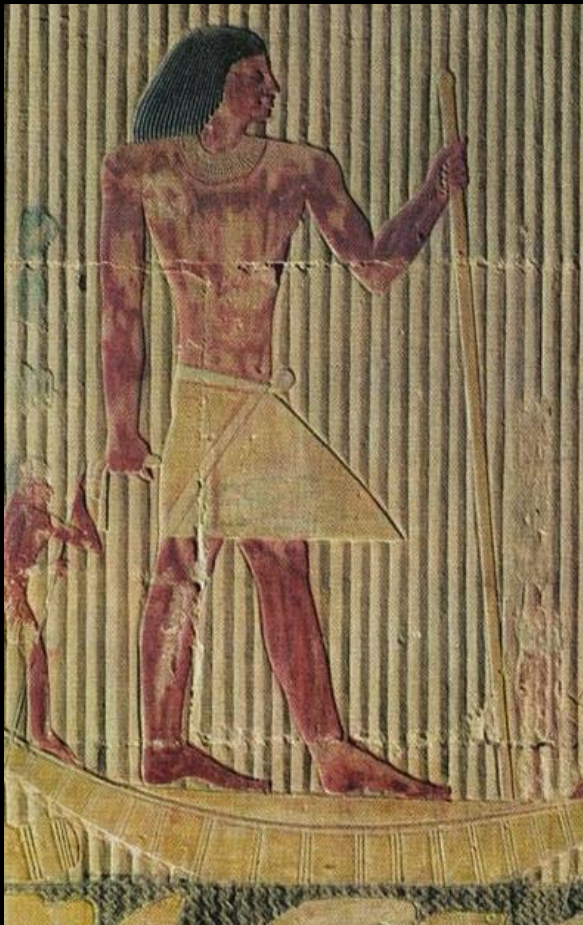


Pyramid of Khafre, Giza, c. 2600 BCE

Evolution of the Pyramid

1-29: Egyptian
Tomb Decoration:
Ti Watching a
Hippopotamus Hunt
c. 2510 to 2460
BCE





False door of Iryenakhet, 2400 BCE, Limestone, 52.22. What are key similarities between Ti and Iryenakhet? Any differences?

Middle Kingdom: Dynasties 11 and 12
1975 to 1640 BCE. Tomb Decoration:
Beni-Hasan, c. 1890 BCE (3-14 and 3-15)
Tomb of Khnumhotep, picking figs!



Middle Kingdom
Jewelry

Pectoral of Senusret II from the tomb Princess Sithathoryunet, c. 1880-1874 BCE. (Inset, Scarab, Mia 16.246, not on view)



Horus (falcon)

Ankh

Scarab

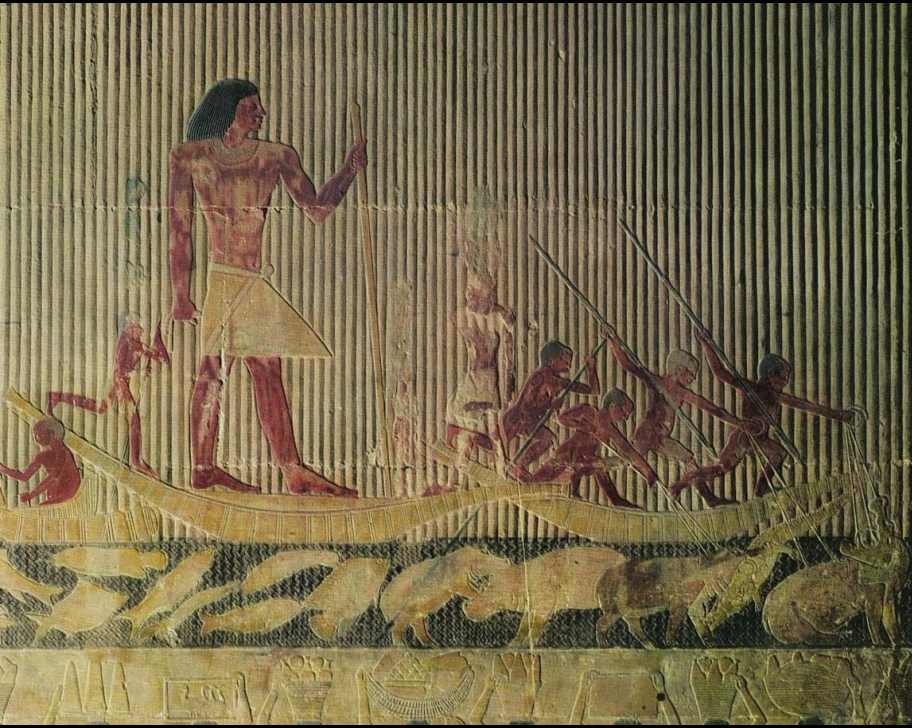
Cartouche

“May the sun
god give eternal
life to Senusret
II”

Middle Kingdom Jewelry

Broad collar, 2040-1783 BCE. **Faience** (kiln-fired glass paste), (Mia 27.42.4). The green/blue color indicates the regenerative powers of the Nile. What god may be referenced with the falcon head ends?





↑
A



↑
B

Compare these two images. What is similar? Different?

Image Comparison

New Kingdom: Hunting scene, Nebamun and his cat hunting birds, c. 1350 BCE



New Kingdom: Nebamun's tomb, musicians and dancers, c. 1350 BCE. Clappers, hippo ivory, 1550-1292 BCE (Mia 2012.64 a,b). Egyptians loved music and entertainment!



New Kingdom: The Amarna Period. (3-26) Akhenaten (Amunhotep IV) and His Family, c. 1350 BCE (in **sun relief**). Akhenaten forces Egypt to change from **polytheism** to **monotheism**. The art from his reign is markedly different in style, perhaps to promote his religious views.



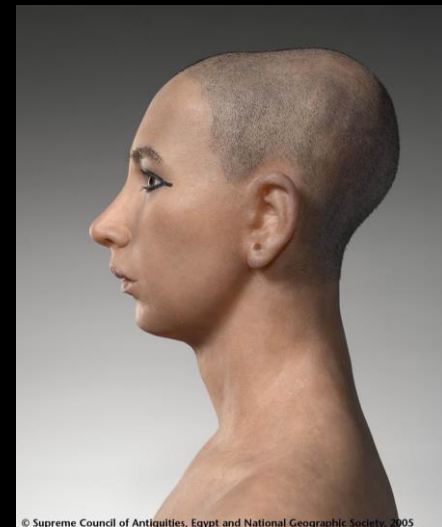
New Kingdom: (3-1)

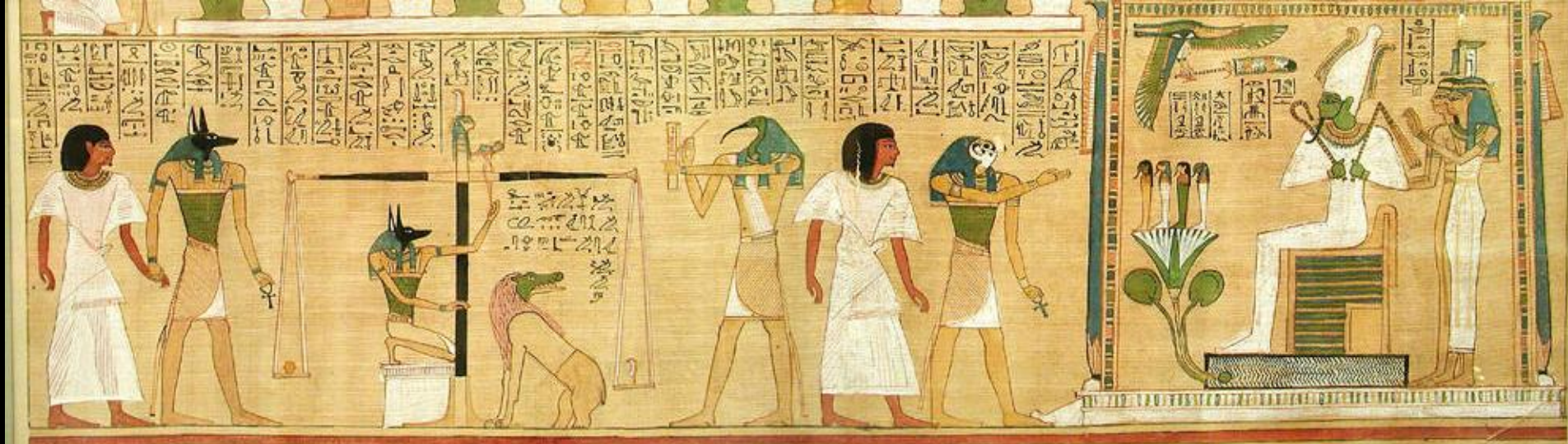
Tutankhamun

1332-1322 BCE

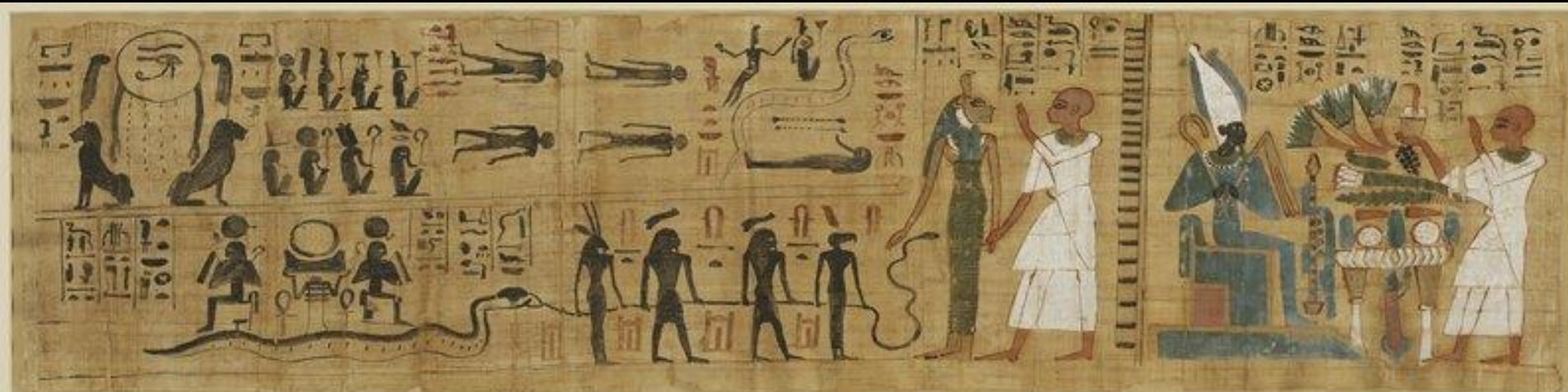
Funerary mask of
Tutankhamun, son
of Akhenaten.

Past traditions are
revived!





Above, New Kingdom, *Weighing of the Heart and Judgment of Osiris*, from Hunefer's *Book of the Dead*, 1285 BCE. (3-35)
Below, Third Intermediate Period, *Funerary papyrus*, 1070-712 BCE. This scroll was commissioned by a priest, Djedkhonsuisfankh, to help secure a prosperous afterlife. (Mia 16.675)



Third Intermediate Period: Coffin and cartonnage of Lady Tashat, 945-712 BCE (Mia 16.414). Study for scenes of the gods Horus, Osiris, Anubis. Note the lining of the eyes with **kohl**.

