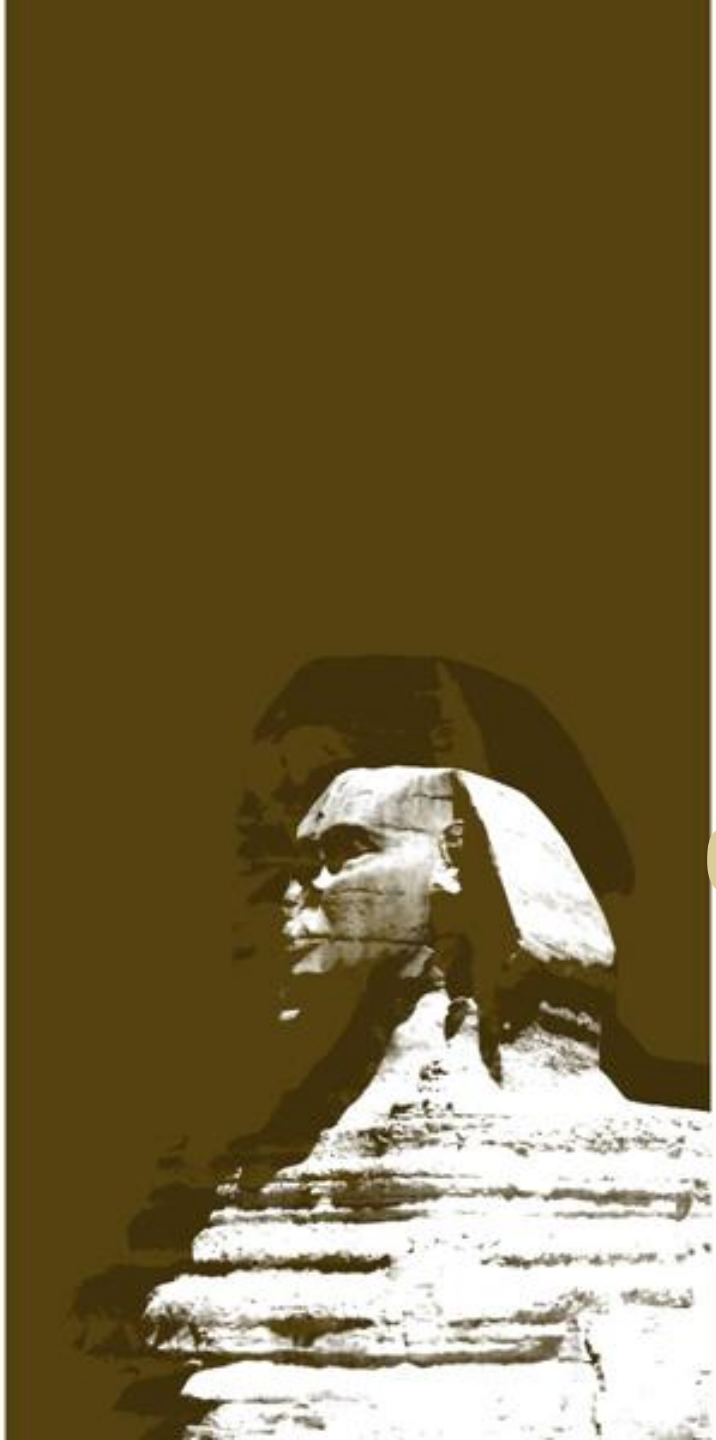
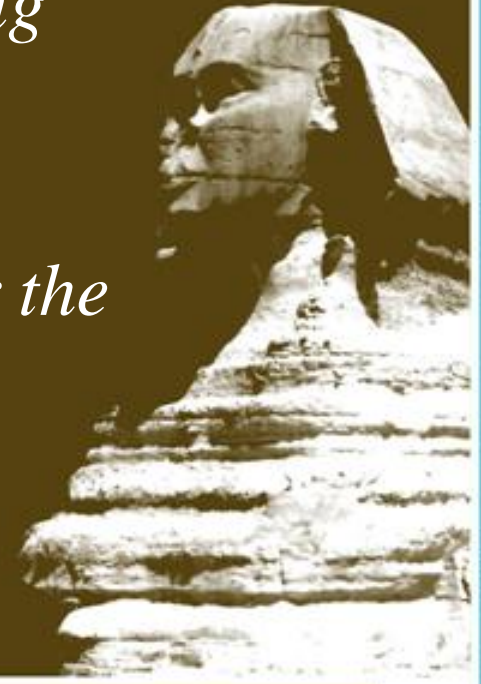


The Old Kingdom



Life in the Old Kingdom

- *Around 2700 BC the third dynasty, or **Old Kingdom**, came to power in Egypt.*
- *During the next 500 years, the Egyptians developed a political system based on the belief that the pharaoh was both a king and a god.*
- *The most famous pharaoh of the Old Kingdom was **Khufu**, in whose honor the largest of the pyramids was built.*



The Pharaoh

- *Although the pharaoh owned everything, he was also held personally responsible if anything went wrong.*
- *He was expected to make trade profitable and prevent war.*
- *To manage these duties, he appointed government officials, mostly from his family.*



Egyptian Society

Pharaoh

The pharaoh ruled Egypt as a god.



Nobles

Officials and priests helped run the government and temples.



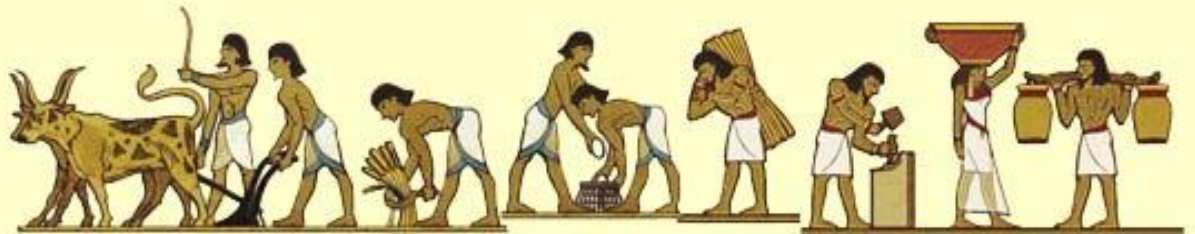
Scribes and Craftspeople

Scribes and craftspeople wrote and produced goods.



Farmers, Servants, and Slaves

Most Egyptians were farmers, servants, or slaves.



Social Classes

- *Social classes developed, with the pharaoh at the top and nobles from rich and powerful families making up the upper class.*
- *The middle class included some government officials, scribes, and rich craftspeople.*
- *Most people, including farmers, belonged to the lower class. Lower-class people were often used by the pharaoh as labor*

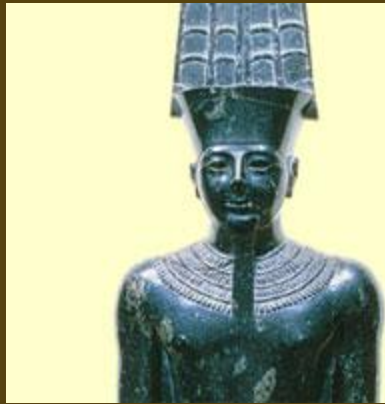


Trade Developed

- *Trade also developed during the Old Kingdom.*
- *Traders sailed on the Mediterranean and south on the Nile and the Red Sea to **acquire** gold, copper, ivory, slaves, wood, incense, and myrrh.*



Egyptian Gods



Re, or Amon-Re, the sun god



Isis, the goddess of magic



Osiris, the god of the underworld

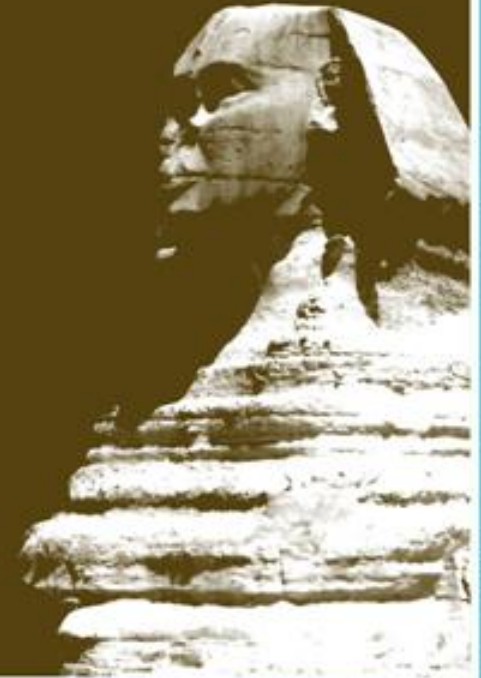


Horus, a sky god and the god of the pharaohs



Religion

- *The Old Kingdom formalized a religious structure that everyone was expected to follow.*
- *Over time, certain cities built temples and were associated with particular gods.*



Afterlife

- *Much of Egyptian religion focused on the **afterlife**.*
- *Each person's ka (KAH), or life force, existed after death, but remained linked to the body.*
 - *To keep the ka from suffering, the Egyptians developed a **method** called **embalming** to preserve bodies.*
- *Royalty and other members of the **elite** had their bodies preserved as **mummies**, specially treated bodies wrapped in cloth.*



Mummies and the Afterlife



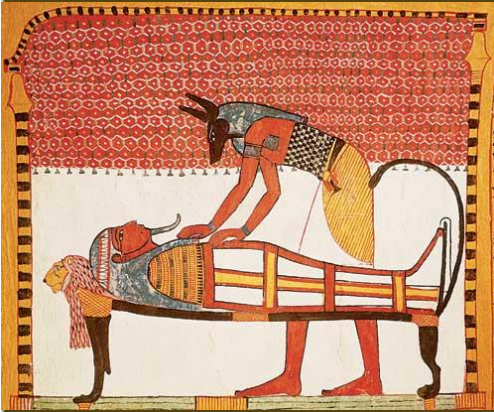
Osiris, god of the underworld, waited to judge the dead person's soul.

The god Anubis weighed the dead person's heart against the feather of truth. If they weighed the same amount, the person was allowed into the underworld.

Mummies and the afterlife. In this painting there is a god sitting at the left in the chair. There is a line of people in front of him. Osiris, god of the underworld, waited to judge the dead person's soul. Some of the people have the bodies of people, but they have the heads animals. There are Egyptian symbols on the walls behind them. The god Anubis weighed the dead person's heart against the feather of truth. If they weighed the same amount, the person was allowed into the underworld. Credit: © Musee du

Osiris, god of the

Mummies



1. Only the god Anubis was allowed to perform the first steps in preparing a mummy.



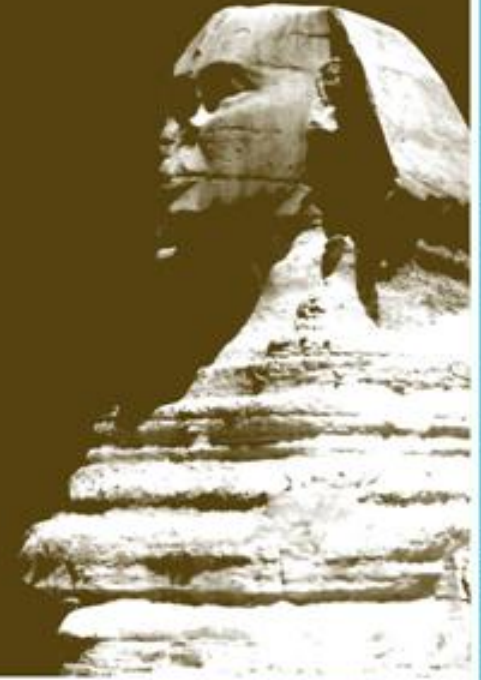
2. The body's organs were preserved in special jars and kept next to the mummy.



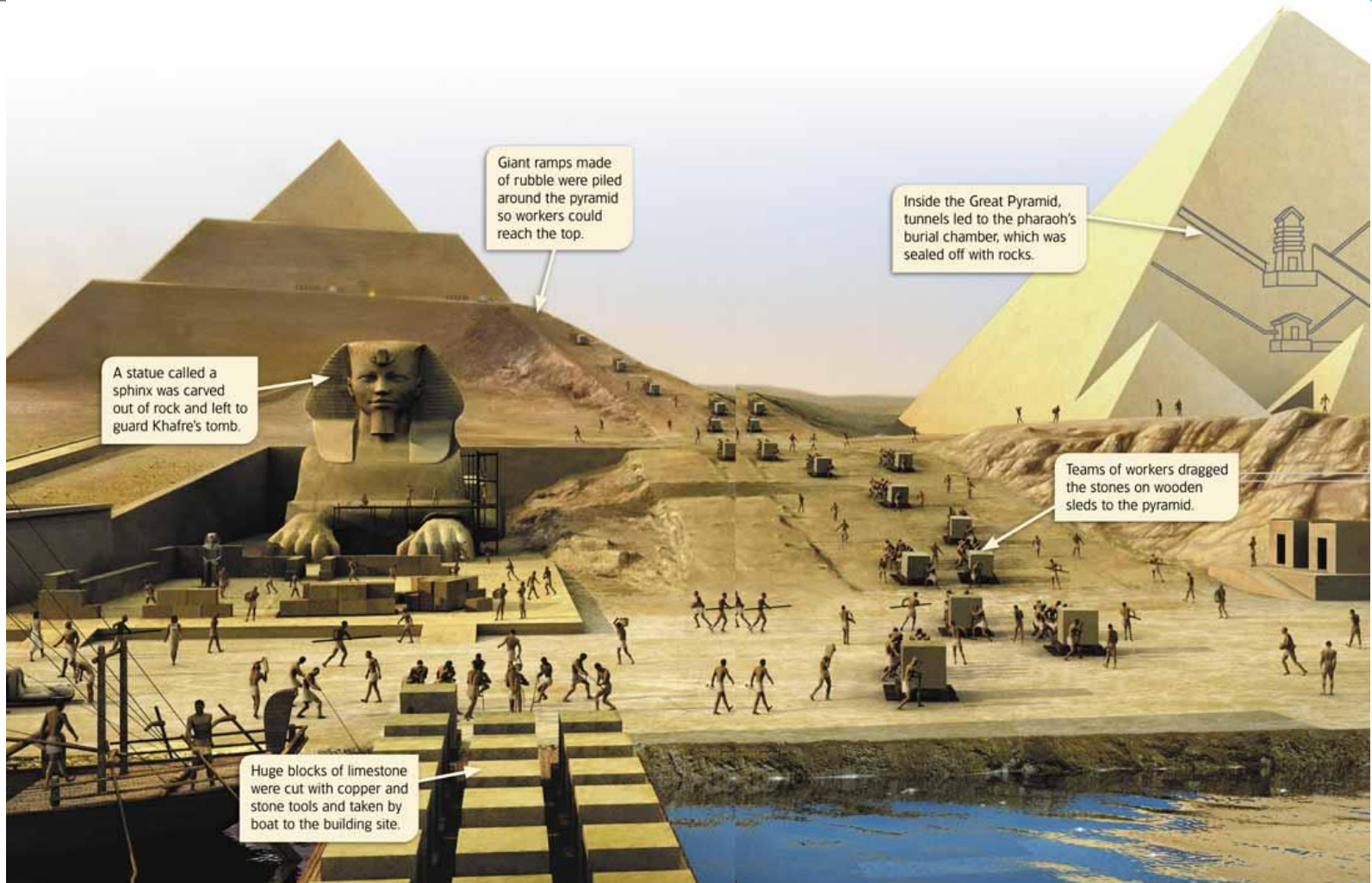
3. The body was preserved as a mummy and kept in a case called a sarcophagus.

ANALYZING VISUALS

How did gods participate in the afterlife?



Building the Pyramids



More than 4,000 years ago, workers near Giza, Egypt, built three massive pyramids as tombs for their rulers. The amount of work this job required is hard to imagine. Tens of thousands of people must have worked for decades to build these gigantic structures. In this illustration, men work to build the pharaoh Khafre's pyramid.

The Pyramids

- *Pyramids, spectacular stone monuments, were built to house dead rulers.*
- *Many pyramids are still standing today, amazing reminders of Egyptian engineering.*

