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**“Gods and Pyramids”**  
**The People’s University, Lecture I**  
**January 5, 2023**

**Egyptian Historical Periods:**

**Predynastic Period: 5300-3100 BC**

Badarian Period: c. 4400=3800 BC

Naqada I: c. 4000-3200 BC

Naqada II: 3500-3200 BC

Naqada III: 3200-3000 BC

Dynasty 0: 3300-3100 BC

Scorpion

Iri-hor

Ka

**Early Dynastic Period: c. 2929-2575 BC**

1<sup>st</sup> dynasty:

Narmer c. 3100 BC

Aha: c. 3085 BC

Djer c. 3040 BC

Djet c. 2990 BC

Merneith c. 2965 BC

Den c. 2960 BC

Anedjb c. 2965 BC

Semerkhet c. 2900 BC

Qaa c. 2890 BC

2<sup>nd</sup> Dynasty:

Hetepsekhemwy c. 2890 BC

Nebra c. 2865 BC

Nynetjer

Weneg

Sened

Peribsen c. 2700 BC

Khasekhemwy c. 2686 BC

## **Old Kingdom: 2575-2181 BC**

3<sup>rd</sup> Dynasty:

2686 -2613 BC

Nebka: 2686-2667 BC

Djoser 2667 – 2648 BC

Sekhemkhet 2648-2640 BC

Khaba 2640-2637 BC

Hunti 2637-2613 BC

4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty:

Snefru 2613-2589 BC

Khufu 2589 2566

Djedefra 2566-2558 BC

Khafra 2558-2532 BC

Menkaura 2532-2503 BC

Khentkawes I c. 2503 BC

Shepseskaf 2503-2498 BC

5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty

Userkaf 2494 -2487 BC

Sahura 2487 – 2475 BC

Neferirkara 2475 – 2455 BC

Khentkawes II c. 2455 BC

Shepsekara 2455 -2446 BC

Raneferef 2448-2445 BC

Niuserra 2445-2421 BC

Menkauhor 2421 -2414 BC

Djedkara 2414-2375 BC

Unas 2375-2345 BC

6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty

Teti 2345 -2323 BC

Userkara 2323 -2321 BC

Pepy I 2321 -2287 BC

Merenra 2287-2287 BC

Pepy II 2278 – 2278-2184 BC

Nemtyemsaf 2184 BC

Neikikrety 2184 – 2181 BC

**First Intermediate Period: 2134-2040 BC**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Dynasties: 2181-2125 BC

Numerous kings including

Neferakauhor

Ibi

11<sup>th</sup> Dynasty (Herakleopolis) 2160-2165 BC

Khety I

Khety II

Merikara

11<sup>th</sup> Dynasty (Thebes) 2125-2055 BC

Montuhotep I

Intef I 2125 -2112 BC

Intef II 2112-2063 BC

Intef III 2063-2055 BC

11<sup>th</sup> Dynasty (all Egypt)

Montuhotep II 2055-2004 BC

Montuhotep III 2004-1992 BC

Montuhotep IV 1992-1985 BC'

**Middle Kingdom: 2040-1640 BC**

Second Intermediate Period: 1630-1532 BC

The New Kingdom: 1550-1070 BC

The Late Period: 1070 – 323 BC

Hellenistic Egypt: 323 BC-31 BC

**Key Terms:**

Upper Egypt  
Lower Egypt  
Deshret  
Kemet  
Gebelein Man  
Scorpion Macehead  
Narmer Palette  
White and Red Crowns  
Horus  
The Crook and the Flail  
Smiting Pose

Princess Neferetiabet (Beautiful One of the East)

Stela  
Mastaba  
Step Pyramid  
Bent Pyramid

Unas  
Pyramid Texts  
Herodotus  
Canopic Jars  
Shabti  
Coffin Texts  
Osiris  
Book of the Dead

Statistics on age of death at the Naqada I-III cemetery at Naga ed-Deir  
 (from <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums-static/digitalegypt/age/nagaeddeir.html>)

0-5	0	2	75	77
5-10	1	0	30	31
10-15	2	5	21	28
15-20	14	14	18	46
20-25	7	9	0	16
25-30	3	8	0	11
30-35	8	7	1	16
35-40	7	4	1	12
40-45	3	3	0	6
45-50	5	4	0	9
50-55	3	5	1	9
55-60	2	2	0	4
>60	0	1	0	1
total	55	64	147	266

# Ancient History Sourcebook:

## Herodotus: Mummification, from *The Histories*

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The mode of embalming, according to the most perfect process, is the following:- They take first a crooked piece of iron, and with it draw out the brain through the nostrils, thus getting rid of a portion, while the skull is cleared of the rest by rinsing with drugs; next they make a cut along the flank with a sharp Ethiopian stone, and take out the whole contents of the abdomen, which they then cleanse, washing it thoroughly with palm wine, and again frequently with an infusion of pounded aromatics. After this they fill the cavity with the purest bruised myrrh, with cassia, and every other sort of spicery except frankincense, and sew up the opening. Then the body is placed in natrum for seventy days, and covered entirely over. After the expiration of that space of time, which must not be exceeded, the body is washed, and wrapped round, from head to foot, with bandages of fine linen cloth, smeared over with gum, which is used generally by the Egyptians in the place of glue, and in this state it is given back to the relations, who enclose it in a wooden case which they have had made for the purpose, shaped into the figure of a man. Then fastening the case, they place it in a sepulchral chamber, upright against the wall. Such is the most costly way of embalming the dead.

If persons wish to avoid expense, and choose the second process, the following is the method pursued:- Syringes are filled with oil made from the cedar-tree, which is then, without any incision or disembowelling, injected into the abdomen. The passage by which it might be likely to return is stopped, and the body laid in natrum the prescribed number of days. At the end of the time the cedar-oil is allowed to make its escape; and such is its power that it brings with it the whole stomach and intestines in a liquid state. The natrum meanwhile has dissolved the flesh, and so nothing is left of the dead body but the skin and the bones. It is returned in this condition to the relatives, without any further trouble being bestowed upon it.

The third method of embalming, which is practised in the case of the poorer classes, is to clear out the intestines with a clyster, and let the body lie in natrum the seventy days, after which it is at once given to those who come to fetch it away.

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This text is part of the [Internet Ancient History Sourcebook](#). The Sourcebook is a collection of public domain and copy-permitted texts related to medieval and Byzantine history.

### Further Reading:

<https://pyramidtextsonline.com/plan.html>

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums-static/digitalegypt/Welcome.html>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/virtual-autopsy-discover-how-ancient-egyptian-gebelein-man-died>

Mark Lehner, *The Complete Pyramids*

Miriam Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature: The Old and Middle Kingdoms Volume I*

Toby Wilkinson, *The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt*