



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

The influence of geography on ancient Egyptian beliefs:

Cyclic natural phenomena :

1. SUNRISE / SUNSET
2. MOON CYCLE
3. FLOOD / RECEDING WATERS
4. LIFE AND DEATH

RESURRECTION

Axis of the Nile unites Upper and lower Egypt.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

RESURECTION



THE BODY

ANUBIS

MAAT

THOT

THE SOUL

HORUS

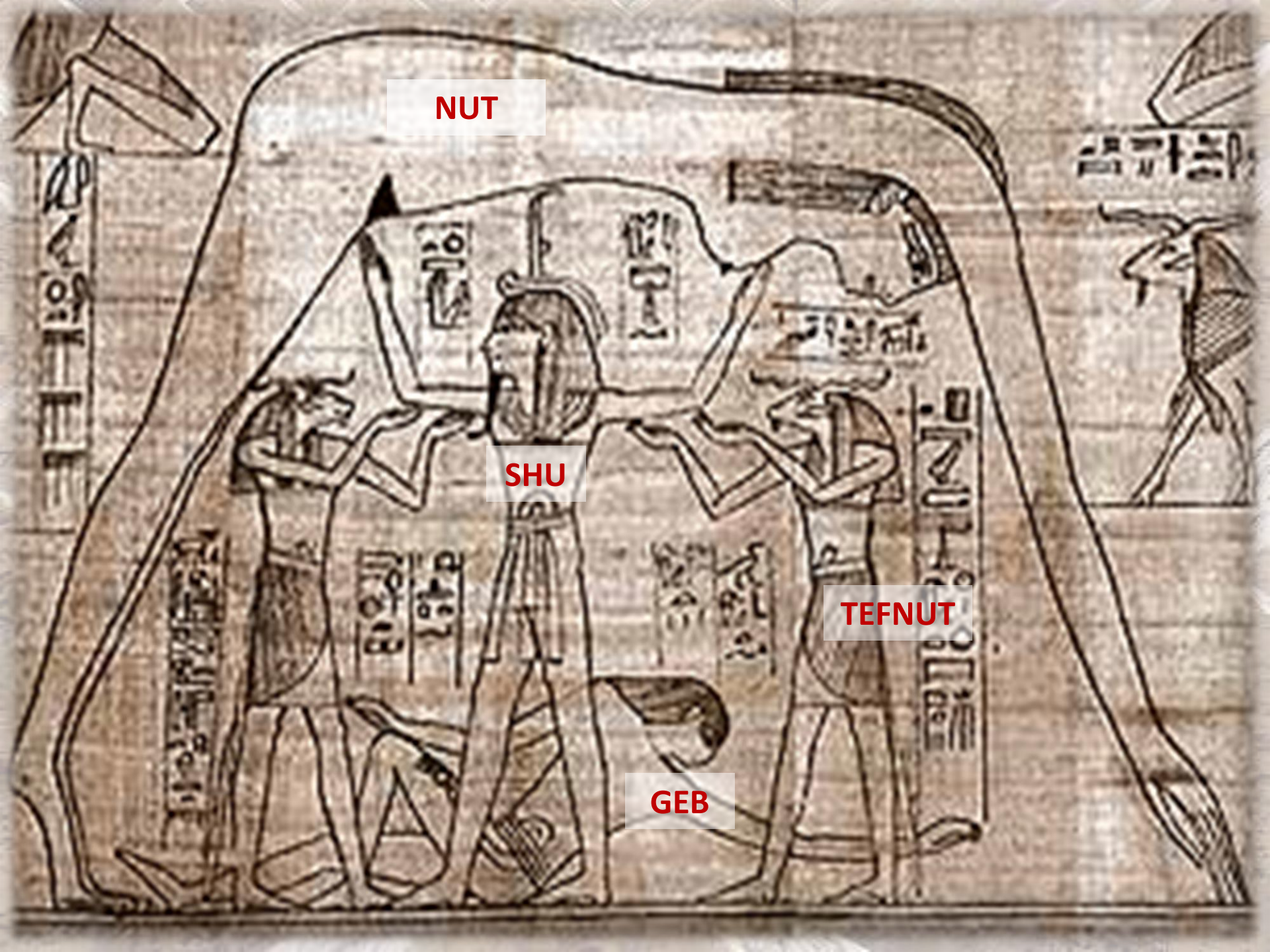
OSIRIS

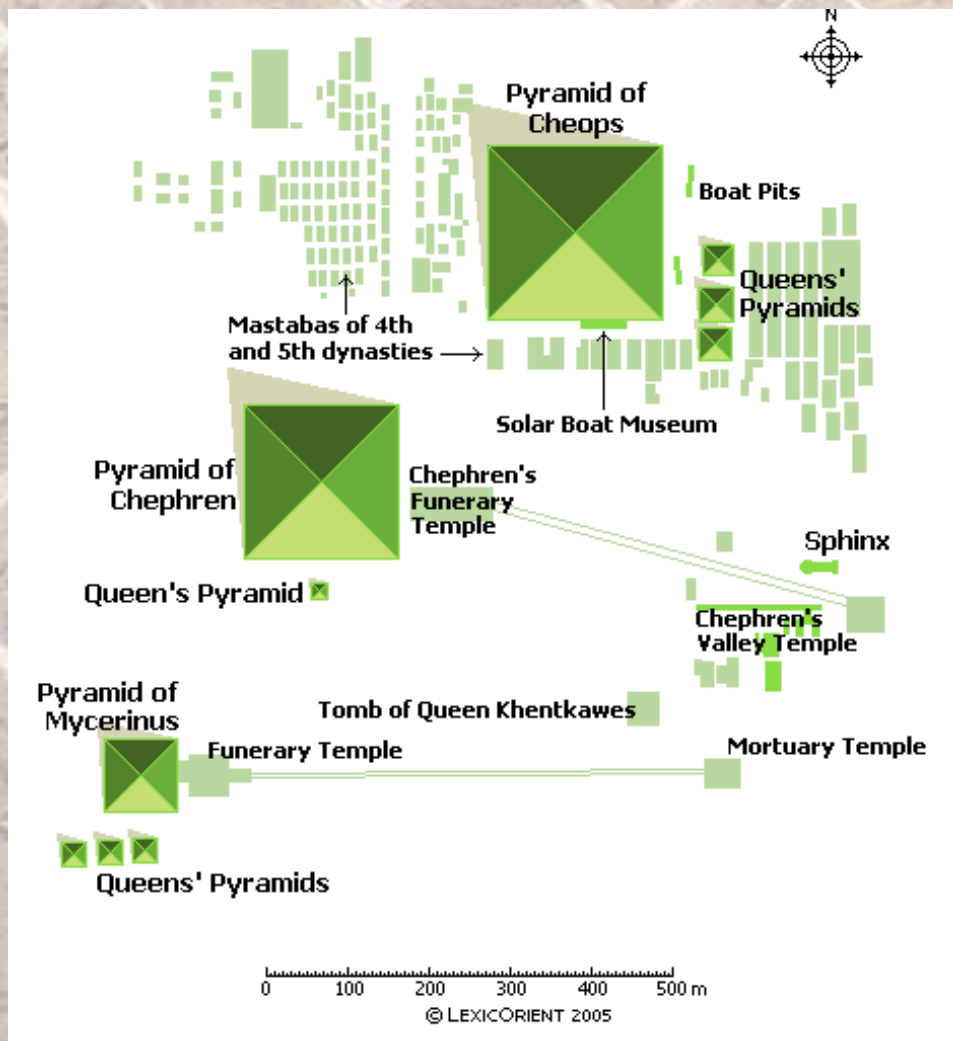
NUT

SHU

TEFNUT

GEB









ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

8. One of the most striking features of ancient Egyptian gods is the way they were represented



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS



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- **MUMMIFICATION**

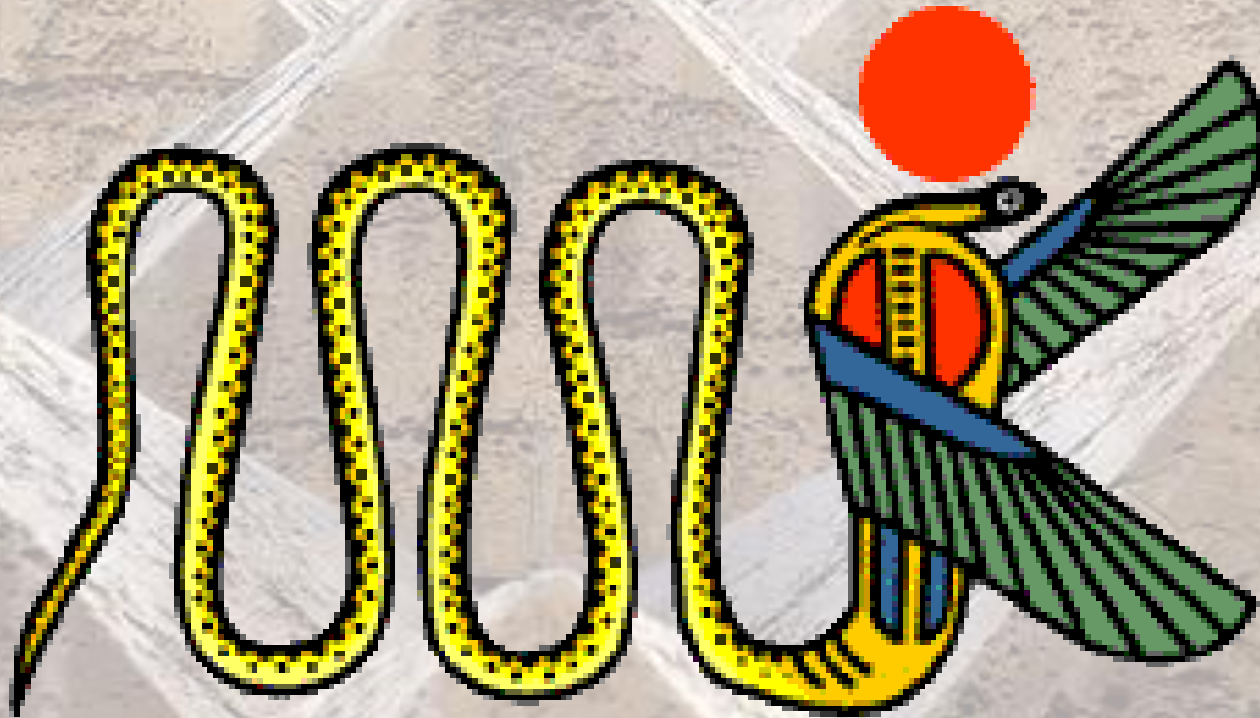




ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

Local gods

- | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|-------------|
| – | NEKHBET | Vulture | UPPER EGYPT |
| – | WADJET | COBRA | LOWER EGYPT |



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

Local gods

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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

KINGSHIP AND DIVINITY

- Living king is a symbol of HORUS
- Dead king is a symbol of OSIRIS

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------|
| – HUMAN | | DIVINE |
| – UPPER EGYPT | | LOWER EGYPT |
| – LIGHT | | DARKNESS |
| – GREEN VALLEY | | DESERT SIDES |
| – EARTH | | SKY & HEAVEN |

Not POLARITIES
But
UNITIES of Two's

KINGSHIP AND DIVINITY

Denderah temple:

Cleopatra Isis crown

Cesarion Amun crown

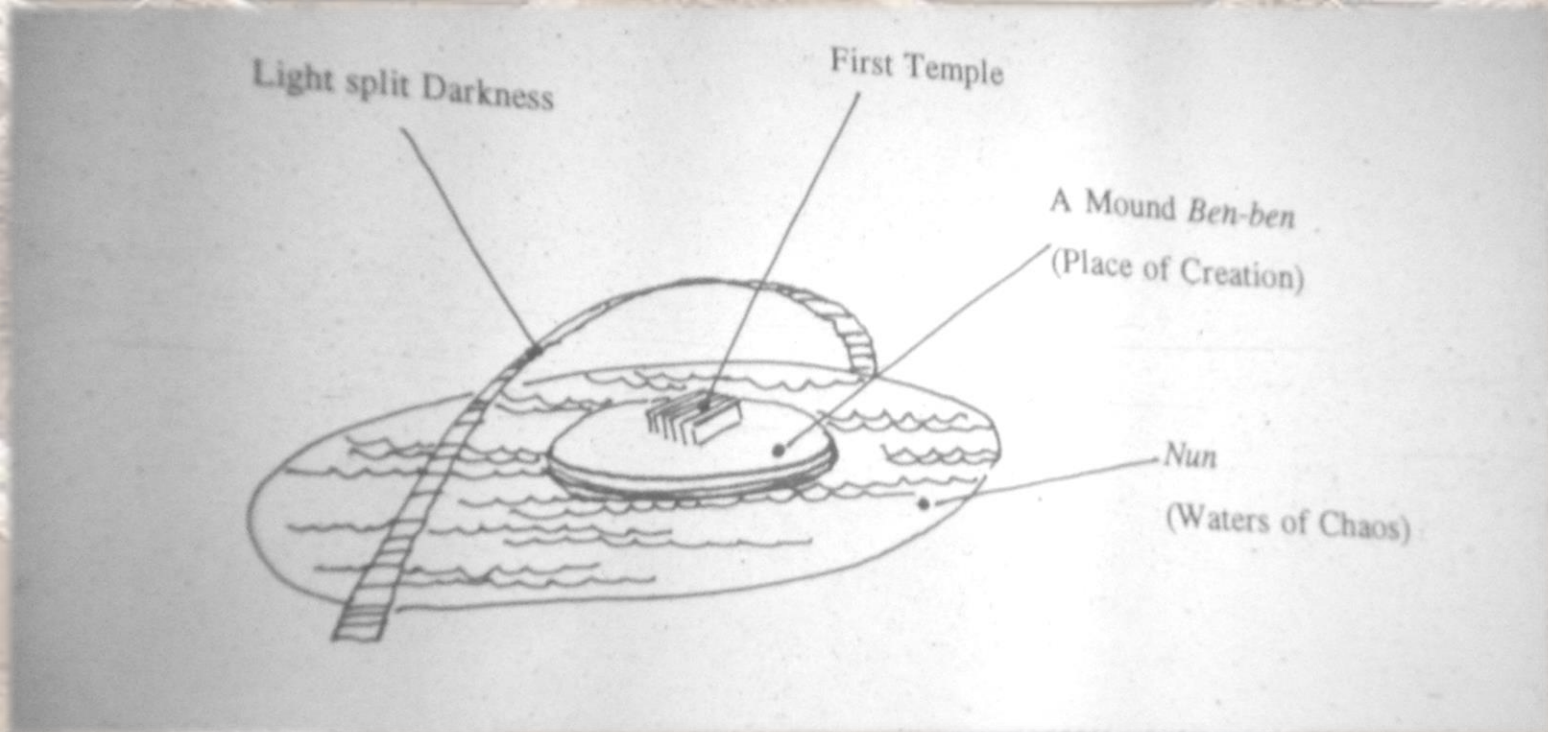




MYTHS

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1- CREATION MYTH



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

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1- CREATION MYTH



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2- OSIRIS MYTH

- OSIRIS and ISIS ruled the Earth.
- SETH kills OSIRIS , cuts him into 14 parts and throws them in the Nile.
- ISIS searches Egypt and collects his body parts.
- ANUBIS makes OSIRIS into the first mummy and brings him briefly back to life to conceive a child.
- Pregnant ISIS hides in the Delta Papyrus thicket on an island.
- HORUS fights SETH and wins, becomes the prototype of the living king / God on earth.
- OSIRIS is resurrected and becomes the prototype of the God of the Underworld.

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2- OSIRIS MYTH



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

2- OSIRIS MYTH



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4- Myth of Solar Cycle

- NUT gave birth to RE the Sun God as a sphere.
- RE journeyed in solar baroques of gold along the star studded heavens.
- MESEKTET was the morning baroque, MANDET was the night Braque.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

5- Myth OF THE CREATION OF MAN

- The God KHNUM created man from clay of the Nile flood.
- He formed his body and duplicate
- This act of creation was on the island of Elephantine.



The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of golden-yellow pyramids, similar to the Great Pyramids of Giza, set against a light tan background. The pyramids are arranged in a staggered, overlapping grid. On the left and right sides of the slide, there are vertical borders. Each border consists of a series of rectangular panels, each containing a relief carving of an ancient Egyptian figure, likely a deity or a royal figure, in a traditional pose. The overall aesthetic is that of an ancient Egyptian temple or tomb interior.

**ANCIENT EGYPTIAN
ARCHITECTURE**

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TIMELINE:

- PRE DYNASTIC
- OLD KINGDOM
- MIDDLE KINGDOM
- NEW EMPIRE

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TIMELINE:

The Old Kingdom

"the age of the pyramids"

3rd – 7th Dynasty



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Introduction

During the old Kingdom, the pharaoh and his court lived in **Memphis**

When they died they were buried at the **Necropolis at Saqqara**

The earthly dwelling of the ancient Egyptians was seen as temporary and the **tomb as a permanent dwelling**

Houses were built of temporary materials to last for a life time

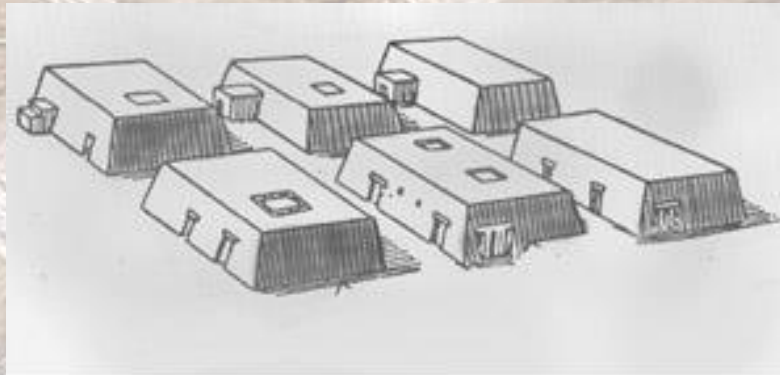
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Introduction

- **Tombs** were most outstanding architectural element of the period
- Tombs also serve as the **focus for the worship** of the dead
- The Tomb evolved during the old kingdom from the **Mastaba**, through the **stepped** pyramid to the renown **ancient Egyptian pyramid**
- We will examine each of these next

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Mastaba



View of a group of Mastaba

Source: Adapted from Trachtenberg & Hyman (1996)

The earliest method of burial in ancient Egypt was in shallow pits in the desert

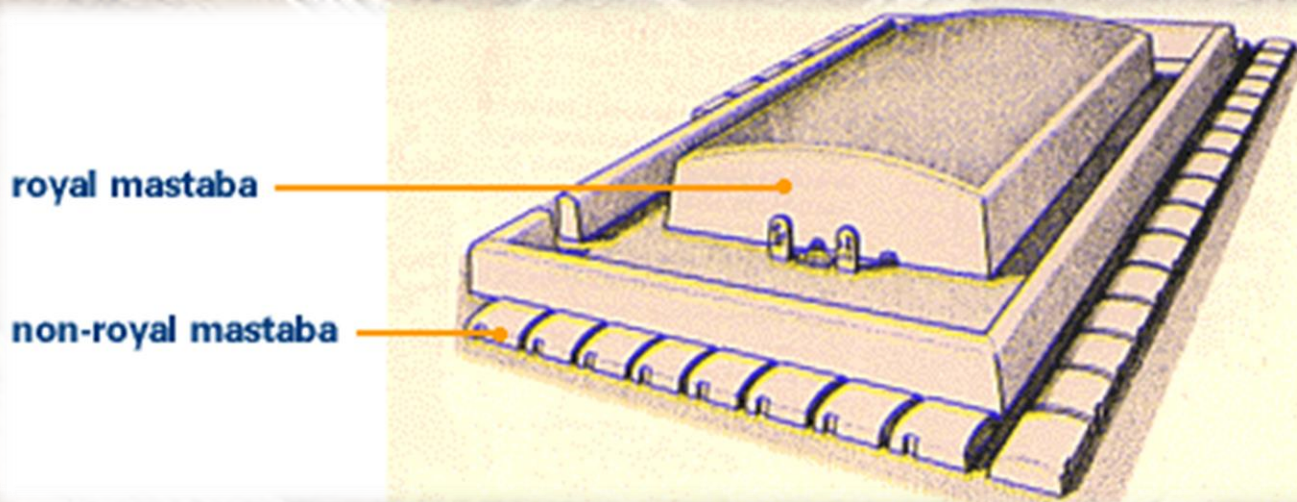
The desert dried the bodies and preserved them

When animals preyed on bodies, the people dug deeper

In the end they built a bench-like structure over graves to create first burial structure called **Mastaba**

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA: shape of Ben-Ben



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

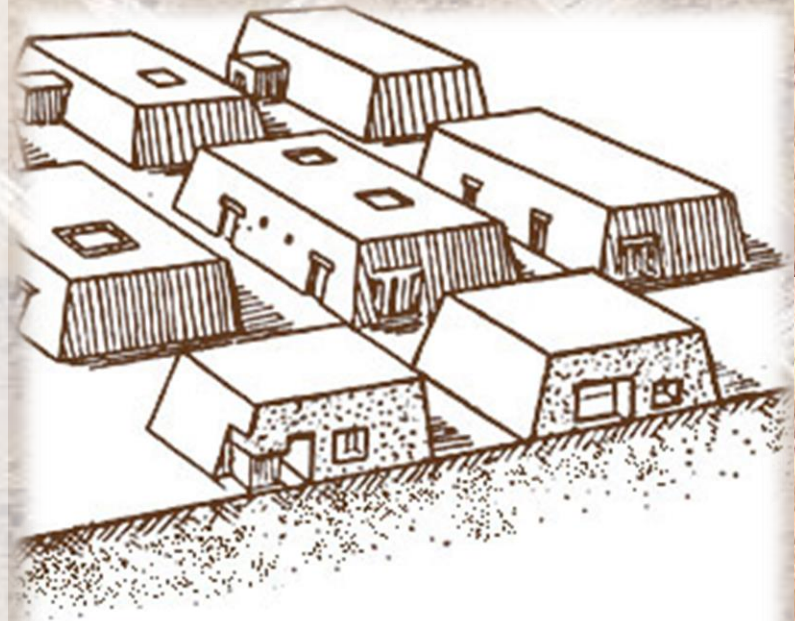
MASTABA: shape of Ben-Ben

- The Mastaba was rectangular
- Flat or curved roofed structures
- Sloping sides with angle of about 75 degree
- It consists of three parts:
 1. The outer chamber (A chapel)
 2. The Serdab.
 3. Aburial chamber :The chamber containing the sarcophagus.

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MASTABA:

- The Serdab and Chapel are located above ground
- The serdab is a room where the statue of the dead person is kept
- The statue acts as a substitute for body in case it is destroyed



Section of a Mastaba showing Chape & Serdab
Source: adapted from Trachtenberg & Hyman (1996)

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MASTABA: at Abydos

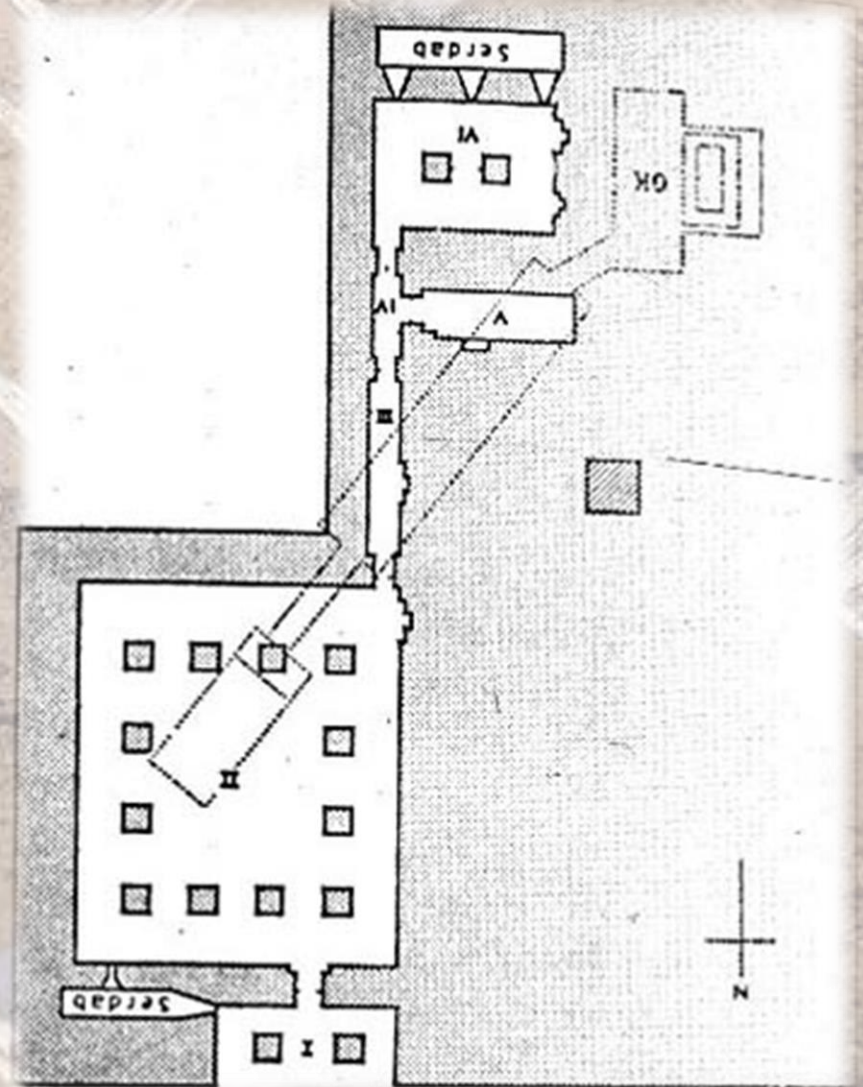


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MASTABA:

The Mastaba of Thi, Sakkara,

- Well preserved and restored,
- dates from the fifth dynasty, and
- Was erected to thi, who held the position of royal architect and superintendent of pyramids.
- It consists of a small vestibule, beyond which is a large court, where offerings to the deceased were made, and from which a mummy shaft led to the tomb chamber.
- The masonry is accurately jointed, and the bas-reliefs are some of the finest and most interesting in egypt .



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA OF THI
AT SAKKARA:
DYN 5

اسرة ثاس
TOMB OF TI
BYN V
C. 2400 B.C.

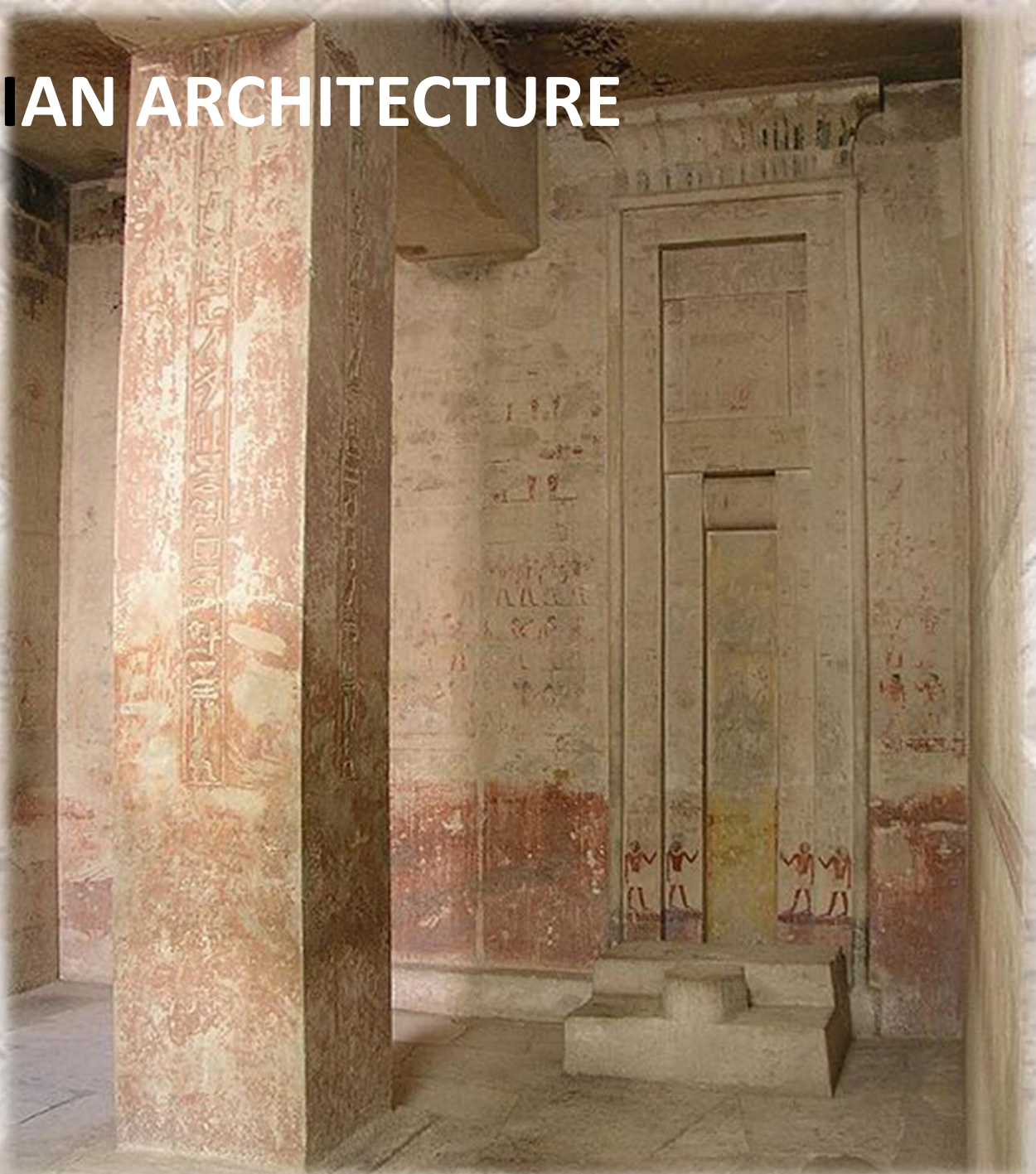


ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA OF THI
AT SAKKARA:
DYN 5

KA door



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA OF THI
AT SAKKARA:
DYN 5

relief



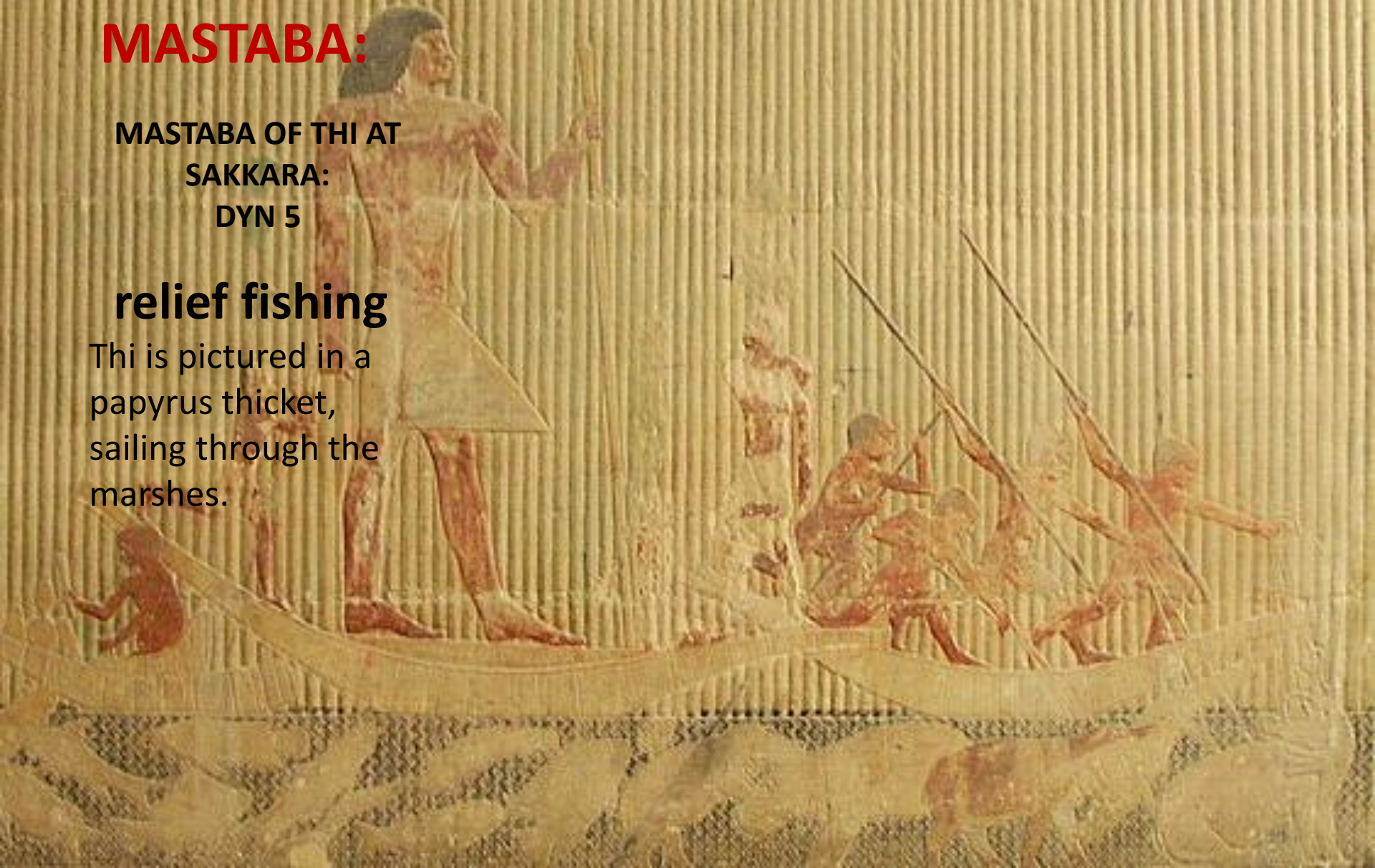
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA OF THI AT
SAKKARA:
DYN 5

relief fishing

Thi is pictured in a papyrus thicket, sailing through the marshes.



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

The background image is a detailed relief from the Mastaba of Thi at Sakkara, Egypt. It is divided into two horizontal registers. The upper register shows two large, muscular male figures standing on either side of a long, rectangular table or workbench. They appear to be engaged in a task, possibly measuring or preparing materials. To their right, another figure is shown kneeling and working on a similar structure. The lower register depicts a group of workers in various stages of construction. Some are carrying large, circular objects (possibly bricks or tiles) on their heads or backs. Others are using long poles or tools. The relief is carved in a reddish-brown pigment on a light-colored stone surface, with hieroglyphs interspersed between the figures.

MASTABA:

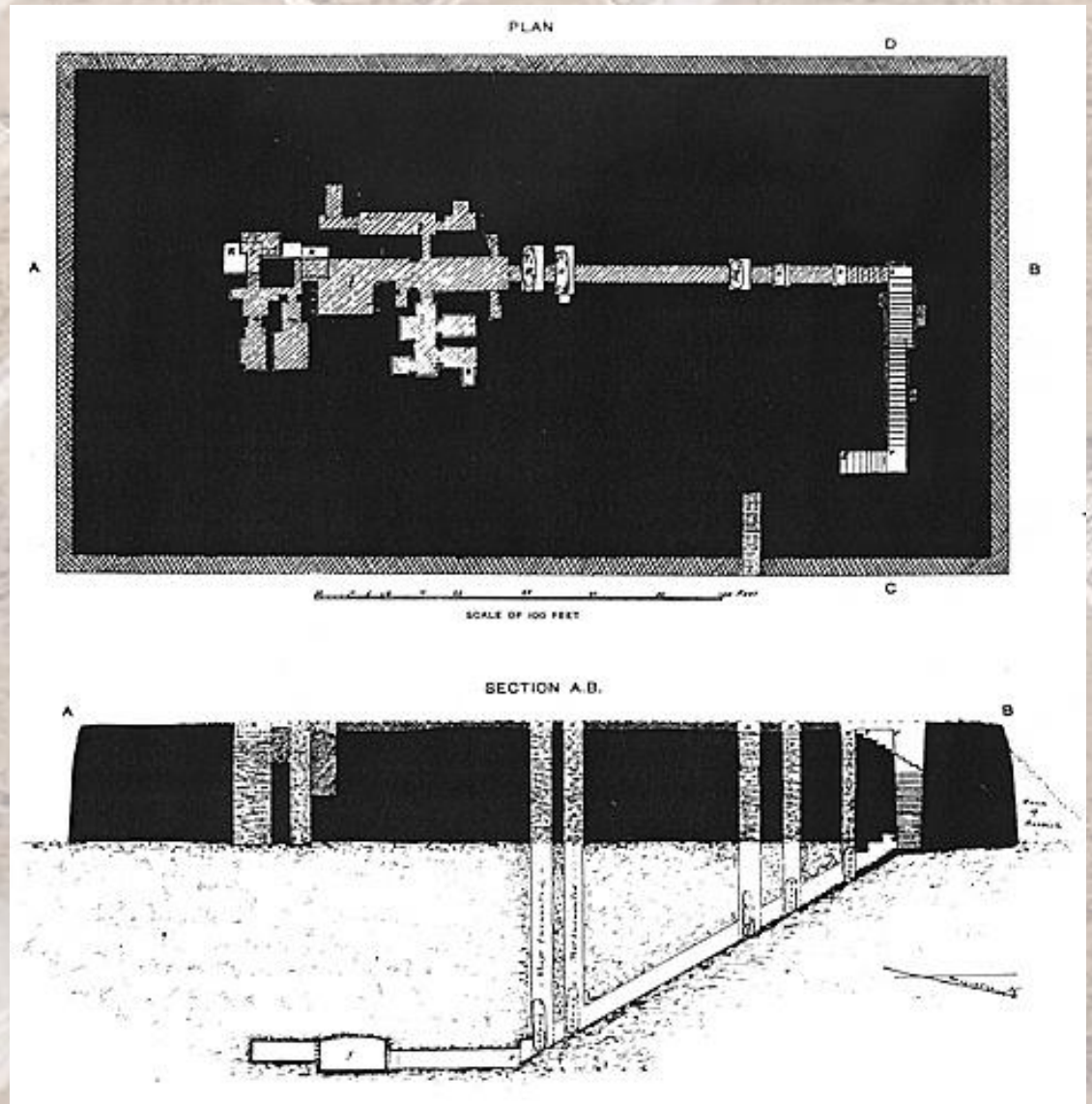
MASTABA OF THI AT
SAKKARA:
DYN 5

relief workers

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA AT BEIT KHALLAF:
DYN 3



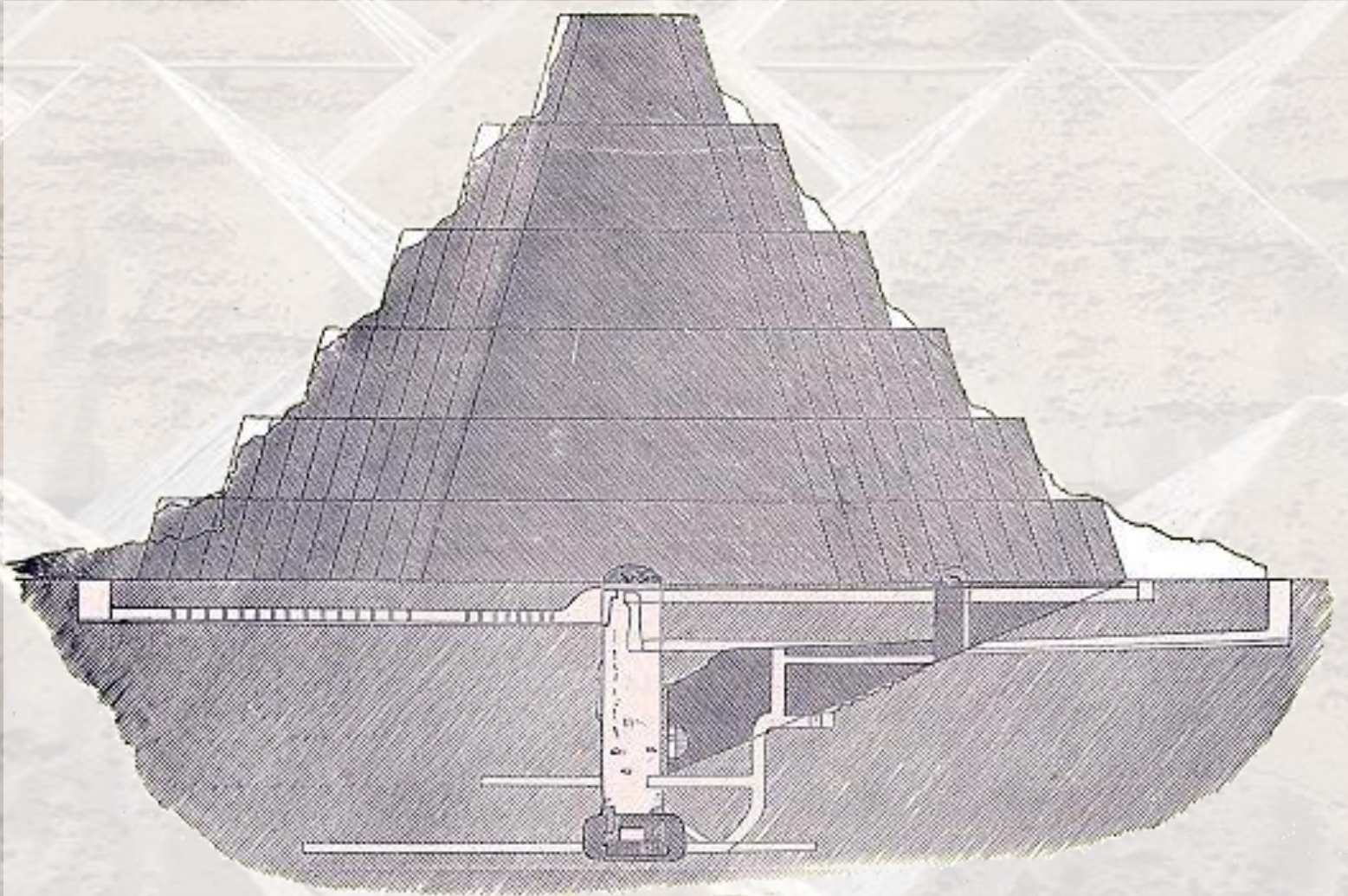
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Stepped pyramid

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid



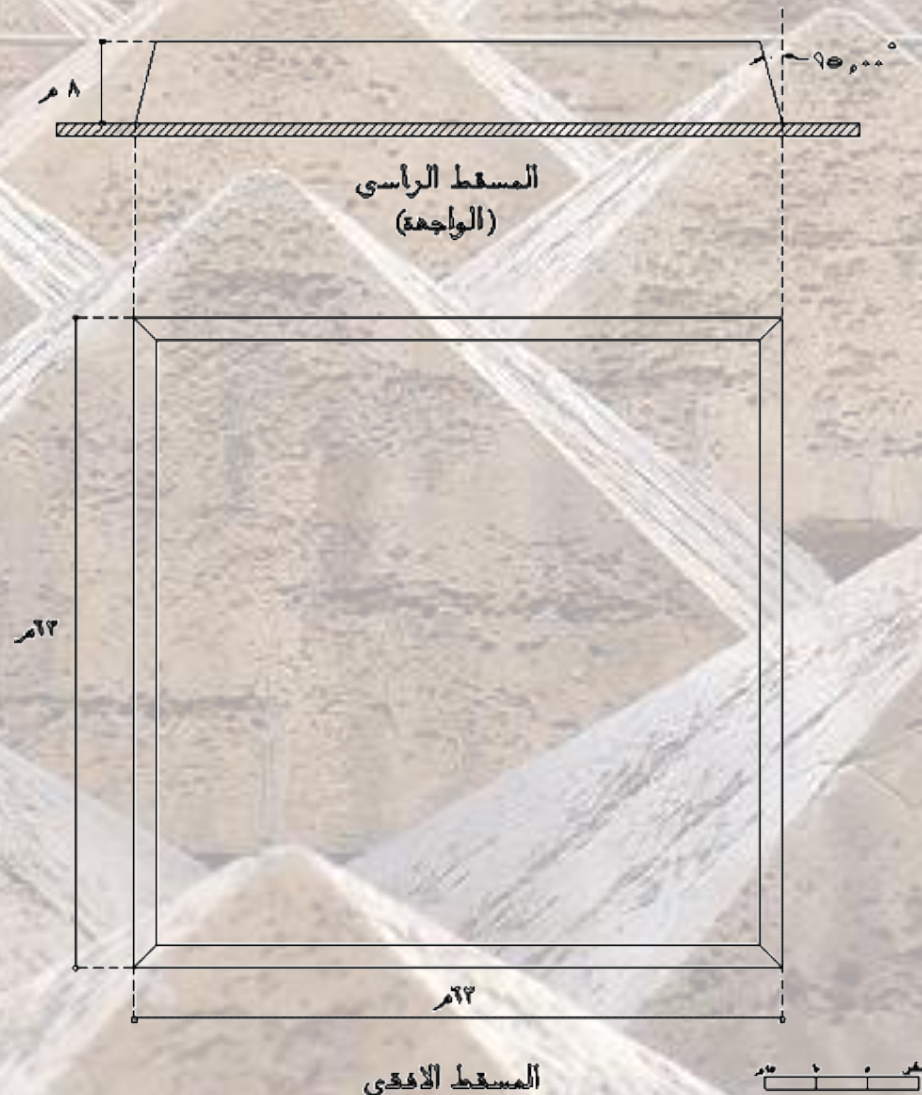
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Stepped pyramid

- King Zoser was the powerful pharaoh of the third dynasty of the old kingdom
- The stepped pyramid was built for king Zoser by Imhotep
- It was built as a funeral complex in the necropolis at Saqqara
- Imhotep initially conceived of the tomb as a large Mastaba of stone

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid

- **Dissatisfaction** with the result led to the stacking of mastaba one on top of another
- The result was the stepped pyramid with **six sloping setbacks**
- The **stepped pyramid** is the **intermediate step** between mastaba and geometric pyramid

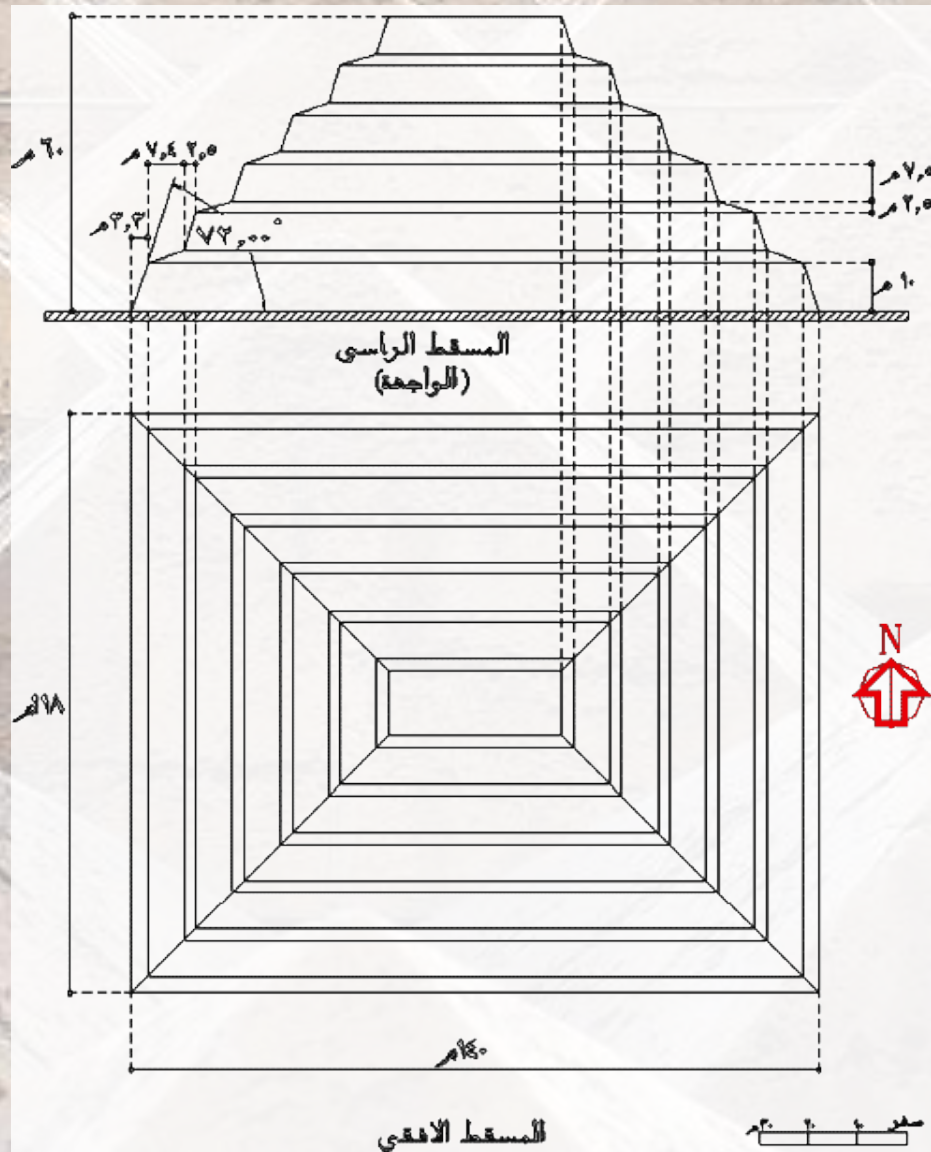


Stepped Pyramid of Zoser

Source: <http://egyptphoto.ncf.ca>

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid



- Stepped pyramid was 200 feet high with 6 giant steps
- The burial chamber is entered from the north side and is 92 feet down

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid

- After the stepped pyramids, there were several attempts at building a pure geometric pyramid
- Among the prominent attempts were the pyramid at Medum and two pyramids built by Snefru at Dashur



Early Kingdom Tomb

Attempts at Pyramid Building

- Pharaoh Snefru made two attempts at pyramid construction
- His first pyramid, the Bent pyramid at Dashur had a square plan with a height of 102 meters
- The pyramid had a change of angle midway, leading to its being called the bent pyramid

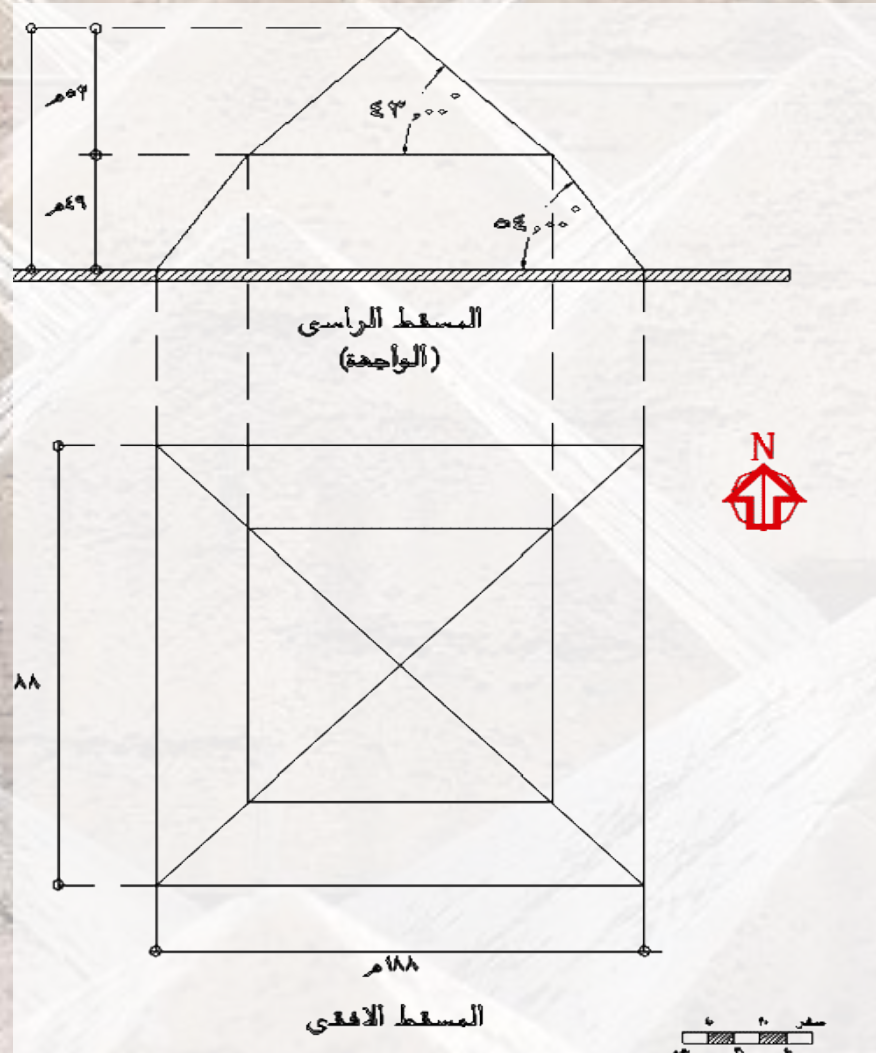


Snefru's Bent Pyramid

Source: <http://egyptphoto.ncf.ca>

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Snefrou pyramid



Early Kingdom Tomb

Attempts at Pyramid Building

- Snefru's second pyramid, the north pyramid, is the place he was buried
- It had a low pitch of 43 degrees instead of 52 degrees making it look stunted
- A true pyramid has an incline angle of 52 degrees



Snefru's North Pyramid

Source: <http://egyptphoto.ncf.ca>

Early Kingdom Tomb

The Pyramids at Giza

- The construction of a true geometrical pyramid was achieved during the reign of Cheops, son of Snefru
- This was located at Giza
- This pyramid is called the Great Pyramid because of its size
- The pyramid is 482 ft high on a plan 760 ft square



The Great Pyramid of Cheops (Kufu) Giza
Source: <http://egyptphoto.ncf.ca>

Early Kingdom Tomb

The Pyramids at Giza

- Two additional pyramids were subsequently built at Giza
- The second largest in the center was built by Chefren, the son of Cheops
- The third and smallest was built by Mykerinus, the son of Chefren
- The three together are referred to as the **pyramids at Giza**



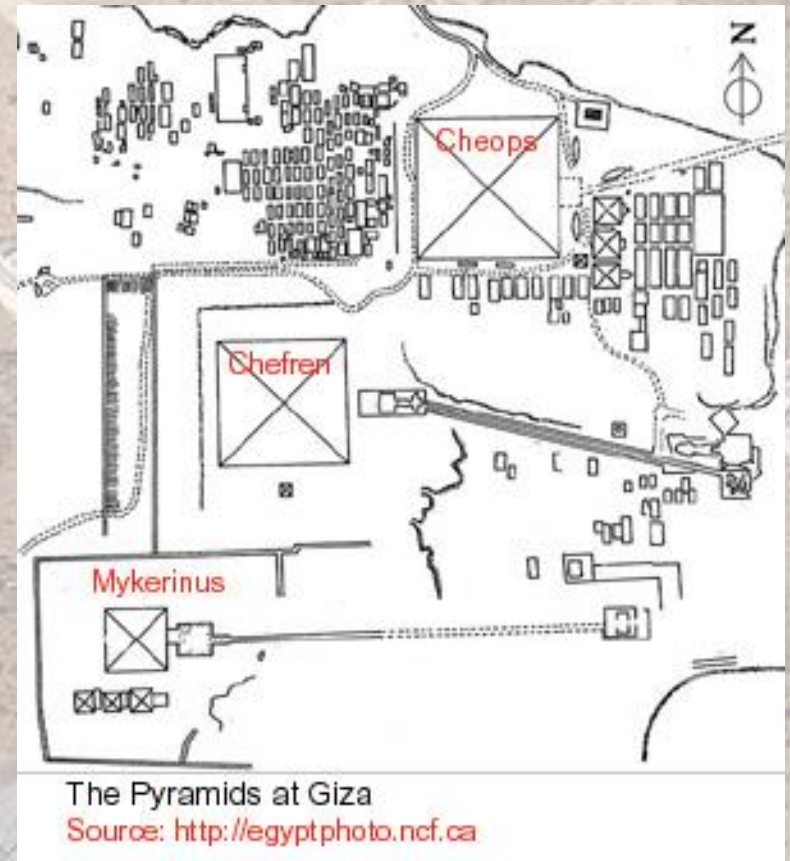
The Pyramids at Giza

Source: <http://egyptphoto.ncf.ca>

Early Kingdom Tomb

The Pyramids at Giza

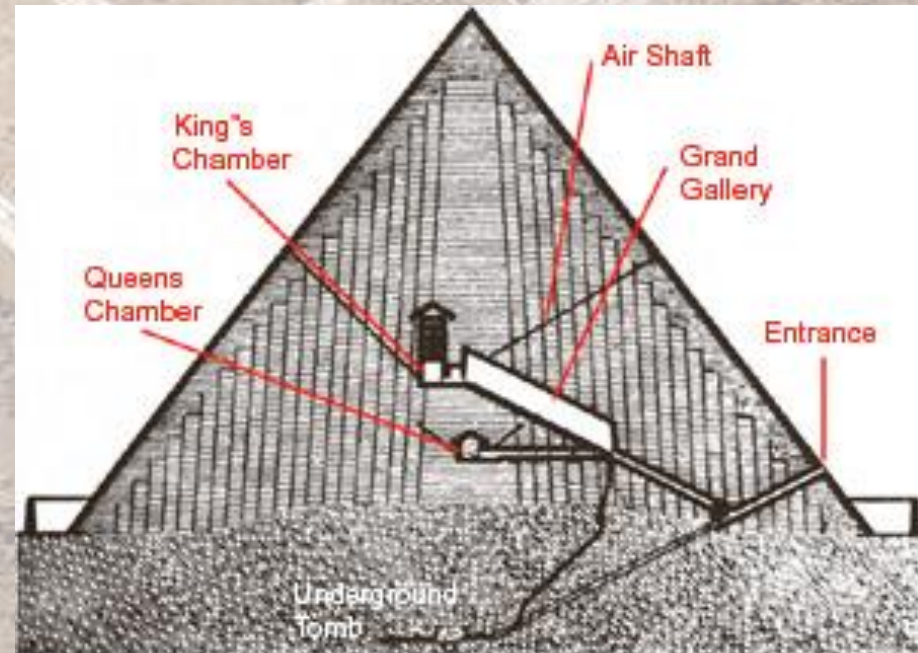
- The three are aligned diagonally along the projection of the diagonal of the great pyramid
- The small pyramids close to them were built for their Queens



Early Kingdom Tomb

The Great Pyramid Cheops

- The great pyramid has a unique internal arrangement
- First it has a chamber built below the base of the pyramid
- Another chamber was built above it known as the queen's chamber
- A larger burial chamber known as the king's chamber was built at the center of the pyramid

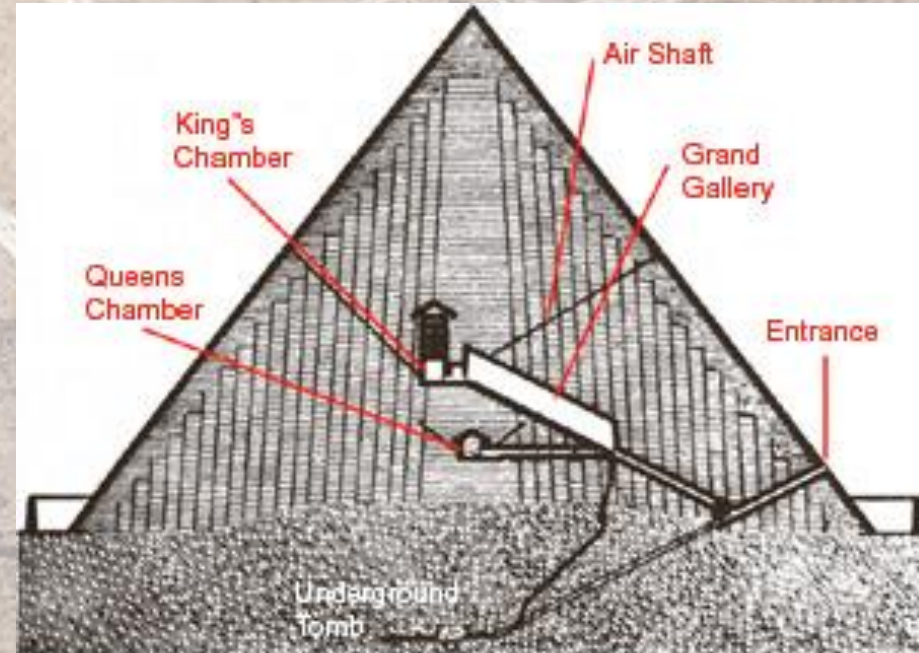


Section of The Great Pyramid of Cheops
Source: adapted from Tractenberg & Hyman (1986)

Early Kingdom Tomb

The Great Pyramid Cheops

- This is the chamber where the king was buried in his Sarcophagus
- The king's chamber was 35 ft by 17ft in plan and 19ft high
- Both the king and queen chamber are connected to the entrance on the north side
- Two air shafts also connect the king's chamber to outside for ventilation
- Once a king is buried, the burial chamber was sealed forever



Section of The Great Pyramid of Cheops

Source: adapted from Tractenberg & Hyman (1986)

Early Kingdom Tomb Pyramid

- The pyramids were designed as part of a funeral complex for the burial of a pharaoh
- Chefred's complex is the best preserved example
- The complex consist of three interconnected units:
 - A valley temple by the river Nile where the pharaoh's body was embalmed
 - A pyramid mortuary temple for rituals
 - A long narrow causeway connecting the two



A: Pyramid Funeral Complex

B: View of Giza



THANK YOU!