ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

The influence of geography on ancient Egyptian beliefs:

Cyclic natural phenomena:
1. SUNRISE / SUNSET
2. MOON CYCLE
3. FLOOD / RECEDED WATERS
4. LIFE AND DEATH

RESURRECTION

Axis of the Nile unites Upper and lower Egypt.
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

RESURRECTION
8. One of the most striking features of ancient Egyptian gods is the way they were represented
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

• MUMMIFICATION
### Local gods

- **NEKH BET**  
  Vulture  
  UPPER EGYPT

- **WADJET**  
  COBRA  
  LOWER EGYPT
Local gods

- NEKH BET  Vulture  UPPER EGYPT
- WADJET  COBRA  LOWER EGYPT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human</th>
<th>Divine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Egypt</td>
<td>Lower Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Darkness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Valley</td>
<td>Desert Sides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Sky &amp; Heaven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not polarities but unities of Two’s.
Denderah temple:

Cleopatra .... Isis crown
Cesarion .... Amun crown
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

1- CREATION MYTH
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

1- CREATION MYTH
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

1- CREATION MYTH
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

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.
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

2- OSIRIS MYTH
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

2- OSIRIS MYTH
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION & THEIR GODS

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
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.
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
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 lifetime.
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

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

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 champer (A chapel)
  2. The Serdab.
  3. Aburial chamber : The chamber containing the sarcophagus.
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

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
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

**MASTABA:** at Abydos
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

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
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA OF THI AT SAKKARA:
DYN 5

KA door
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:
MASSTABA 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

MASTABA:

MASTABA OF THI AT
SAKKARA:
DYN 5

relief workers
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

MASTABA:

MASTABA AT BEIT KHALLAF:
DYN 3
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stepped pyramid
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

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
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.
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

• Pharoah 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
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE

Snefrou pyramid

[Diagram of a pyramid with measurements and annotations]
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.
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
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
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 of Cheops

- This is the chamber where the king was buried in his Sarcophagus
- The king’s chamber was 35 ft by 17 ft in plan and 19 ft 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
Early Kingdom Tomb
Pyramid

• The pyramids were designed as part of a funeral complex for the burial of a pharaoh
• Chefren’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
THANK YOU!