

An eHRAF Workbook Activity

Great Discoveries: Pyramids of Giza

Human Relations Area Files
at Yale University



In this activity

Topics We'll Cover

- Learn about the Giza Pyramids
- Read passages in eHRAF Archaeology
- Answer questions about this archaeological discovery
- Find out what makes the Giza Pyramids a "Great Discovery"



PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

The Pyramids of Giza, also known as the Giza Pyramid Complex and the Giza Necropolis, is a world-famous archaeological site on the Giza Plateau in Greater Cairo, Egypt. The site includes the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Pyramid of Khafre, the Pyramid of Menkaure, and the Great Sphinx of Giza. The Great Sphinx is a limestone statue of a reclining sphinx, a mythical creature that comprises a pharaoh’s head with a lion's body.
The pyramids and the sphinx were all built during the Fourth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt.

Did you know?





The Pyramids of Giza are located at the edges of the Western Desert, west of the Nile River, and southwest of the city center of Cairo. The Great Pyramid and the Pyramid of Khafre are the largest pyramids built in ancient Egypt. They were popularized in Hellenistic times, when the Great Pyramid was listed by Antipater of Sidon as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It is by far the oldest of the Seven Wonders and the only one still in existence. Current consensus among Egyptologists is that the head of the Great Sphinx is that of Khafre, pharaoh during the Fourth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom.

To get started, review these videos about the Pyramids of Giza:

- The Evolution of Ancient Egypt's Pyramids – National Geographic
- Why Pharaohs Switched from Pyramids to Underground Tombs – Smithsonian
- The Pyramids of Egypt – How & Why They Were Built
- Mysteries of the Sphinx





Articles about the Pyramids of Giza

Pyramids at Giza – National Geographic

The Egyptian Pyramid – Smithsonian

The Pennsylvania-Yale Giza Project

Giza in Another Dimension – Innovation at Harvard



eHRAF Workbook
Part 1: Tradition Summary



eHRAF Archaeology

Tradition Summaries

A brief overview for traditions in eHRAF Archaeology is provided in the form of **Tradition Summaries**.

The format, general outline, and headings are the same for each summary. You will find a basic overview about the tradition, such as its time period, location, history, environment, and sociopolitical organization.

To find a tradition summary, go to the Browse Traditions **tab and enter the tradition name into the box, then click on** Tradition Summary **below the tradition name to read it.**

Protohistoric Egypt (MR80)

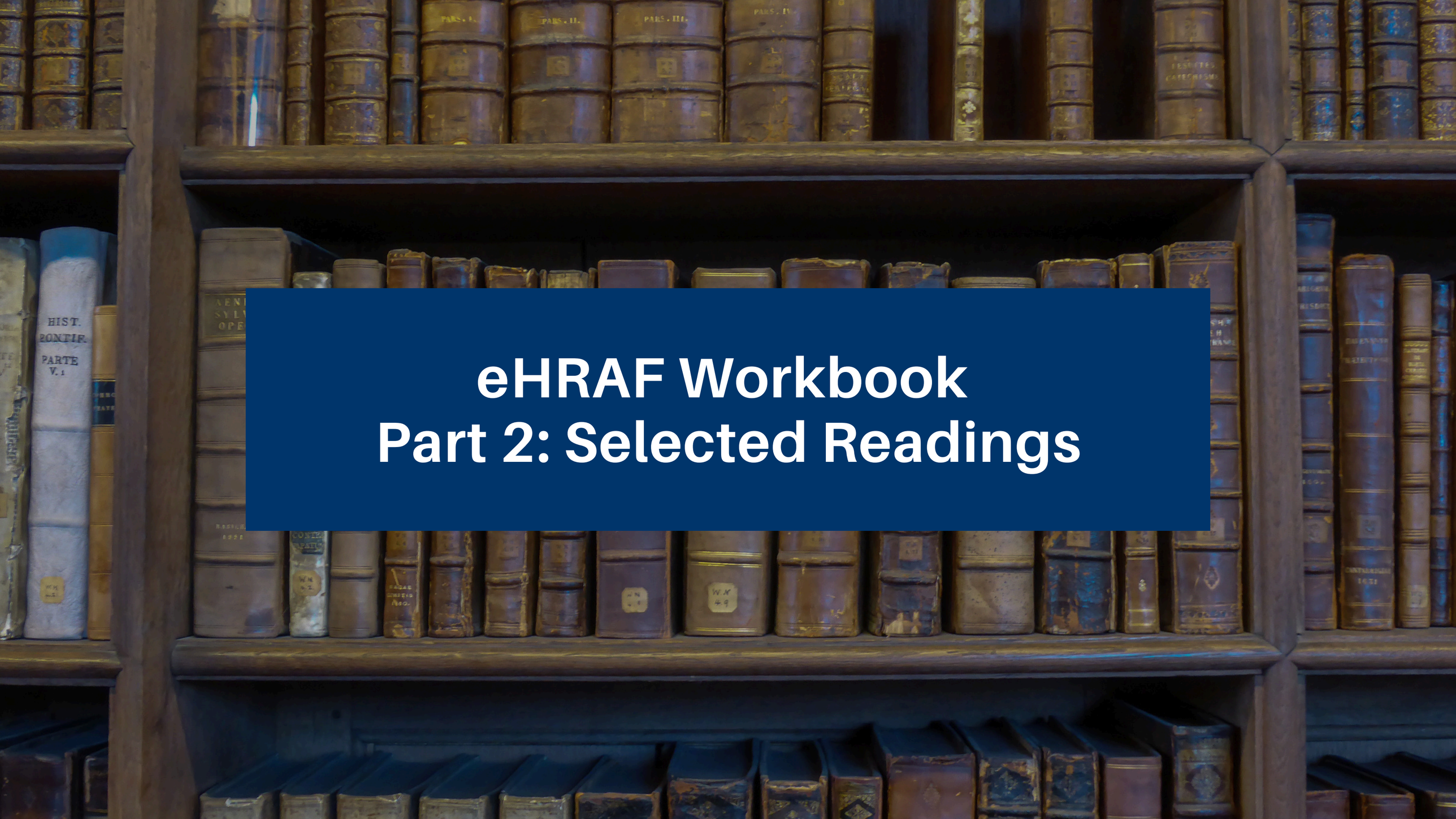
PART 1

Begin by learning more about **Protohistoric Egypt** (**MR80**). First, read the eHRAF Tradition Summary:

🌐 https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/summary

Then, write a brief description of Protohistoric Egypt indicating any significant archaeological elements that stand out to you.





eHRAF Workbook
Part 2: Selected Readings

To read documents or pages in eHRAF:

INSTRUCTIONS

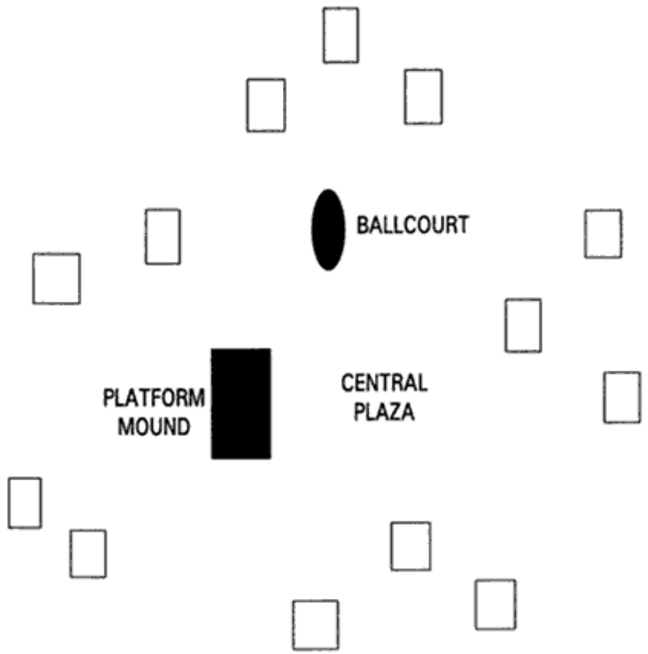
First, follow the permalinks provided in the activities below to get to the relevant documents.

For example:

🌐 **https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/nt76/documents/001**

Then, use the Page List dropdown menu to navigate to the required page(s).

Figure 3.2. Schematic map of a village plan.



102 Maps
128 Organization And Analysis Of Results
344 Public Structures
345 Recreational Structures
361 Settlement Patterns

PREV NEXT

Page List
40

Page Focus

Original Page

Tradition (OWC) Hohokam (

Region North Am

Sub Region Southwest And

Field Date No

Coverage Date 1050-550 BP (AD 950-

Place Coverage Phoenix Basin, Arizona, United S

Section Title(S)

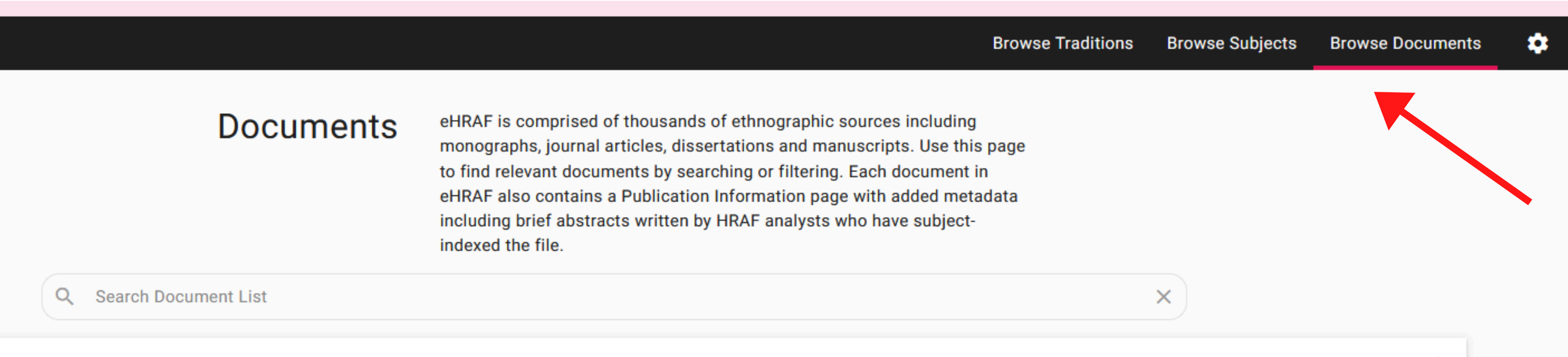
Political Communities • Residential Community

Finding documents without permalinks

INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these steps if you are having trouble with permalinks from off campus while using a proxy or VPN service, or if you have been provided with a HRAF-issued username and password.

- **Sign in via your library proxy or VPN, or using the HRAF-issued credentials.**
- **Go to the Browse Documents tab.**
- **Enter the author's last name into the Filter Index box.**
- **Click on the required title to access the document, then select the page number from the Page List dropdown menu as shown above.**



PART 2

“Egypt to the End of the Old Kingdom.”
(Aldred 1992)

https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/documents/007

Pages:

- 81, 84-85, 87, 90, 92, 95, 98, 101-103, The Giza Pyramids and The Later Buildings

Elephantine in the Old Kingdom.
(El-Dissouky 2004)

https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/documents/004

Page:

- 86, Granite from Elephantine





PART 2

“Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and Second Intermediate Period C. 2686-1552 BC” (Kemp 1983)

https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/documents/008

Pages:

- 76-79, The Royal Family

“Early Dynastic Egypt" (Wilkinson 1999)

https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr70/documents/006

Pages:

- 183-186, Kingship



eHRAF Workbook
Part 3: Advanced Search



Part 3: Advanced Search

Now that you have read selected passages from eHRAF Archaeology, dig deeper with **Advanced Search**. This will enable you to find specific passages in documents that have been indexed by HRAF anthropologists at the paragraph level.

On the following slide, you will find an example of an advanced search. Try this search and then experiment with different subjects and/or keywords.

Part 3:
Advanced Search

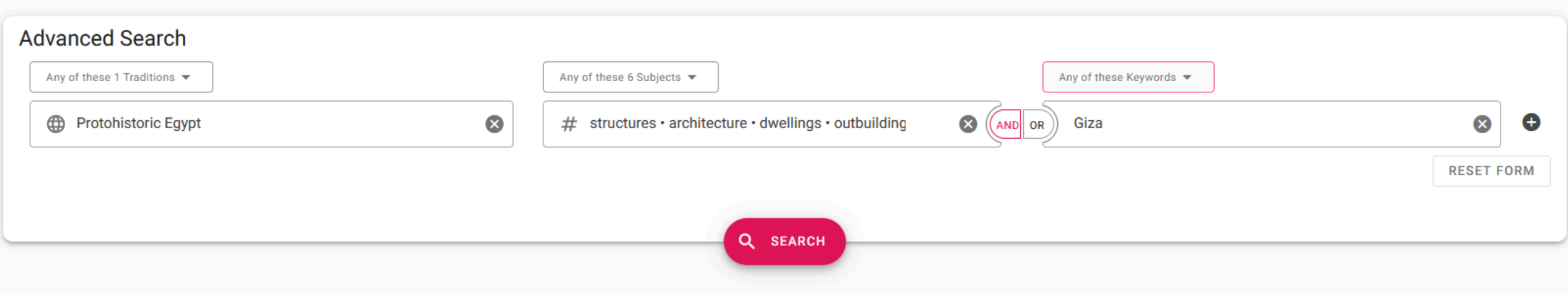
In the Add Traditions column, select the tradition: **Protohistoric Egypt** (**MR80**)

In the Add Subjects column, select the subject category: **Structures** (**340**)

In the Keyword section, type **Giza**.



ADVANCED SEARCH



Add tradition:
Protohistoric Egypt (MR80)

Add subject:
Structures (340)

Add keyword:
Giza

Results for: *traditions:"Protohistoric Egypt" AND (subjects:("structures"...*

Filtered to: Protohistoric Egypt

Found 28 paragraphs in 6 documents across 1 traditions

SEARCH RESULTS

Document	Results	Samples	Published Year	
Aldred, Cyril Egypt to the end of the Old Kingdom	9	——	1992	
Fischer, Henry George Dendera in the third millennium B.C., down to the Theban domination of upper Egypt	9	——	1968	
Cagle, Anthony The spatial structure of Kom el-Hisn: an old kingdom town in the Western Nile Delta, Egypt	3	——	2003	Old Kingdom-Middle Kingdom; circa 4290 Bl
El-Dissouky, Khalid Taha Elephantine in the Old Kingdom	1	——	1969	Old Kir
Brovarski, Edward Abydos in the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period: part I	2	——	1994	Old Kingdom -
Kemp, Barry J. Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and Second Intermediate Period c. 2686-1552 BC	4	——	1983	Old Kingdom through 2nd Intermediate Pe

Results for: *traditions:"Protohistoric Egypt" AND (subjects:("structures"...*

Filtered to: Protohistoric Egypt

Found 28 paragraphs in 6 documents across 1 traditions

SEARCH RESULTS

Document	Results	Samples	Published Year	Time Coverage	Cite
Aldred, Cyril Egypt to the end of the Old Kingdom	9	——	1992	Dynasty III-Dynasty VI	CITE

Protohistoric Egypt

Africa › Northern Africa • Intensive Agriculturalists

(1992) Egypt to the end of the Old Kingdom

Section: The Cultural Background

By: Aldred, Cyril • Page: [p 54] • Published: 1992 • Series: Library of the early civilizations

Similar progress in astronomy was stimulated by the necessity of forecasting the annual rise of the Nile. A Ill. 42 sighting instrument for making observations of the stars 43 Several well-known representations of the 'seated scribe' exist, the best known being this example and the statue of Kay(?) in the Louvre (Ill. 125). They date from Dynasty V and come from tombs at Saqqara and Giza. The deceased sits cross-legged with his scroll of papyrus open upon his lap, his right hand poised ready to write. The body is orange-brown, the hair black and the eyes made of crystal, alabaster and bronze. c. 2470 BC was invented during this period and enabled the correct time for the celebration of calendrical feasts to be accurately determined. In an unscientific society the proper moment for the observation of a religious rite was of vital importance. Astronomy was also employed in providing fixed points by which buildings could be properly aligned according to ideas of dogma. Much of this science flourished at Heliopolis, the centre of a sun-cult, the ritual of which was largely concerned with time-measurement and the study of the sky and the movement of heavenly bodies. The accurate orientation of pyramids and their geometrical precision may have owed much to the influence of architects of Heliopolitan origin. It was during this period that the old agricultural lunar calendar which had existed in Egypt since Predynastic days was 44 Ivory chair legs in the form of bull's legs from the Dynasty I royal tombs at Abydos (cf. Ill. 102). The bull hoof changes to a lion paw in later specimens of furniture supplemented for secular purposes by the introduction of a more accurate calendar based upon twelve months, each of thirty days with five extra feast days, though this system too had to be further improved a little later by the use of a third calendar.

OCMS

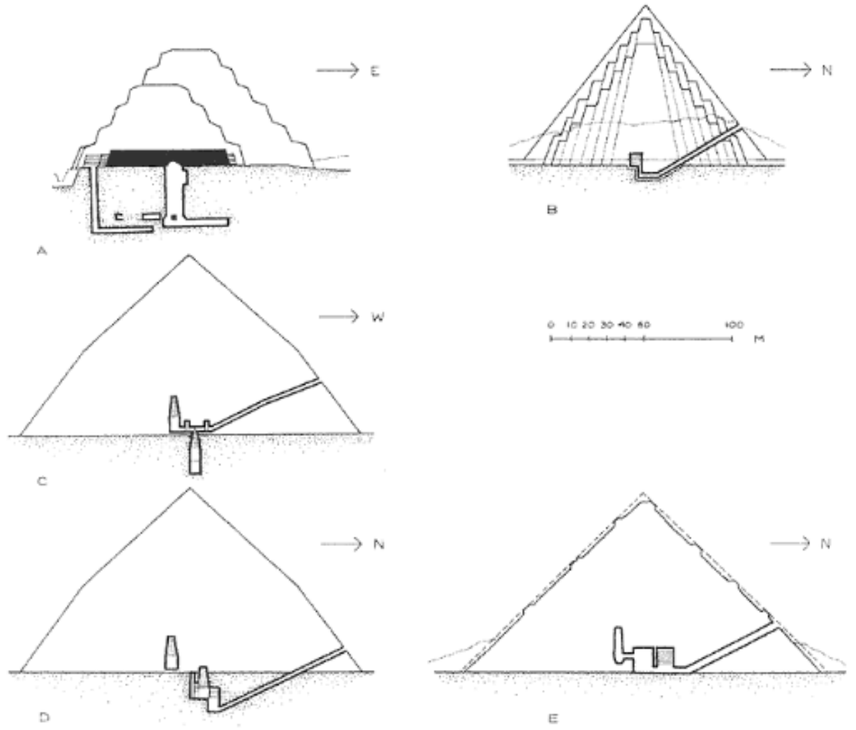
341 Architecture
796 Organized Ceremonial
805 Ordering Of Time
815 Science
821 Ethnometeorology

OWC

MR80 Protohistoric Egypt

FULL CONTEXT NOTEBOOKS CITE

Pharaohs of the Old Kingdom also built pyramids at Abu-Rawash and Abusir (*cf. Ills. 90–93*). The majority of these structures are completely ruined and some are unfinished and do not present the majestic appearance associated with those here illustrated. In many instances their ascription to individual Pharaohs within the Old Kingdom is debatable



76 [continued]

Sections of some of the principal pyramids of Dynasties III and IV drawn to the same scale. A. The Step Pyramid of Djoser, Saqqara; B. The Maidum Pyramid of Huny(?); C. and D. The Bent Pyramid of Sneferu, Dahshur; E. The Northern Pyramid of Sneferu, Dahshur; F. The Great Pyramid of Kheops, Giza; G. The Pyramid of Khephren, Giza; H. The Pyramid of Mykerinus, Giza. The Pharaohs of the Old Kingdom also built pyramids at Abu-Rawash and Abusir (*cf. Ills. 90–93*). The majority of these structures are completely ruined and some are unfinished and do not present the majestic appearance associated with those here illustrated. In many instances their ascription to individual Pharaohs within the Old Kingdom is debatable



FULL CONTEXT

Original Page 81
Tradition (OWC) Protohistoric Egypt (MR80)
Region Africa
Sub Region Northern Africa
Field Date Not Specified
Coverage Date Dynasty III-Dynasty VI
Place Coverage Egypt
Section Title(s) The Saqqara And Dahshur Pyramids

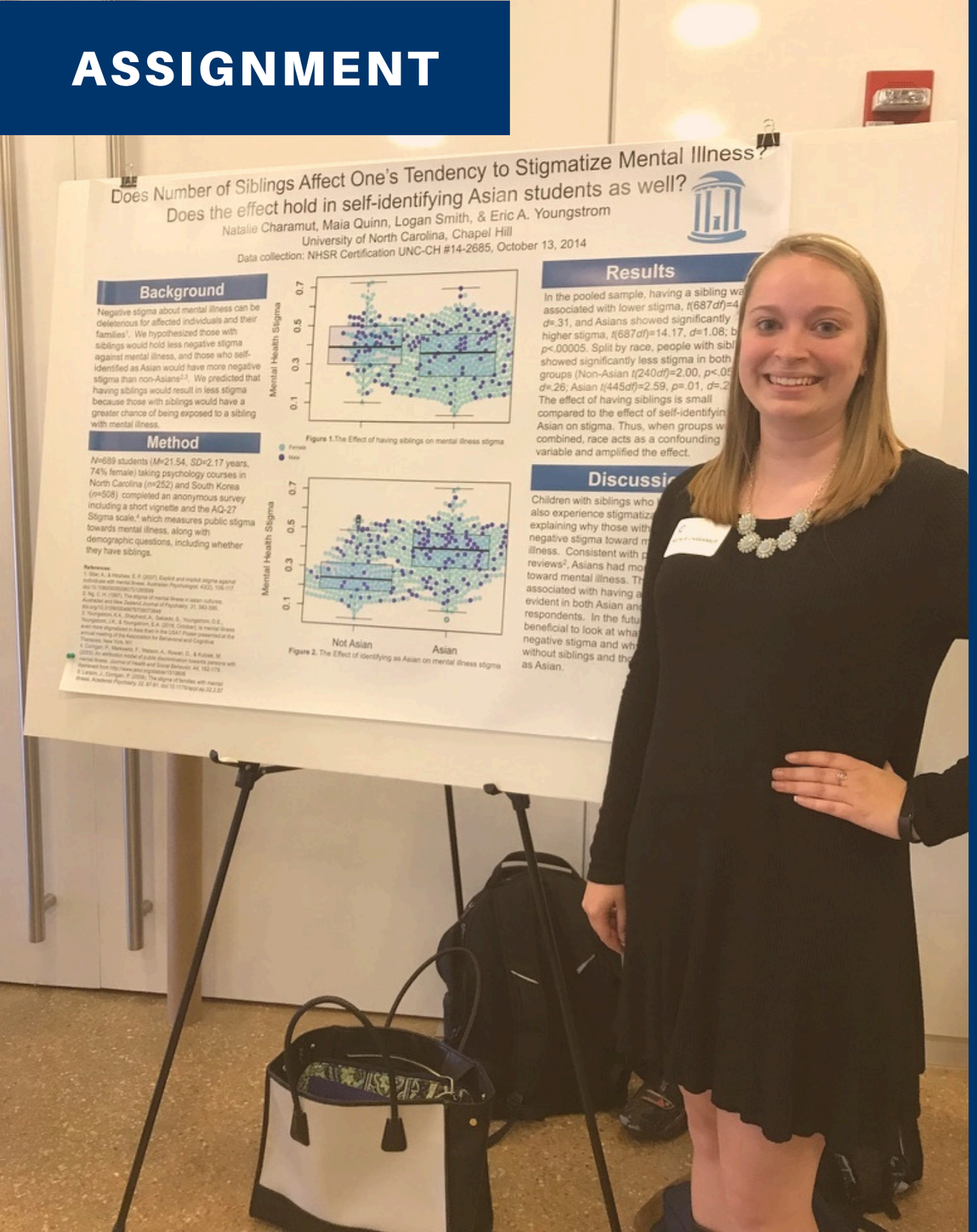
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CITE

eHRAF Workbook
Part 4: Assignment

ASSIGNMENT



The purpose of this assignment is to present a report summarizing your findings about this great discovery.

This can be done in the form of a group project or an individual paper.

Groups can divide the questions that follow, with each student contributing information about a specific question.

Consider making a slideshow presentation to illustrate your findings.

ASSIGNMENT

Your final report describing the Pyramids of Giza should have 6 sections which correspond to these 6 types of questions:

- **Who?**
- **What?**
- **Where?**
- **When?**
- **How?**
- **Why?**



QUESTION 1

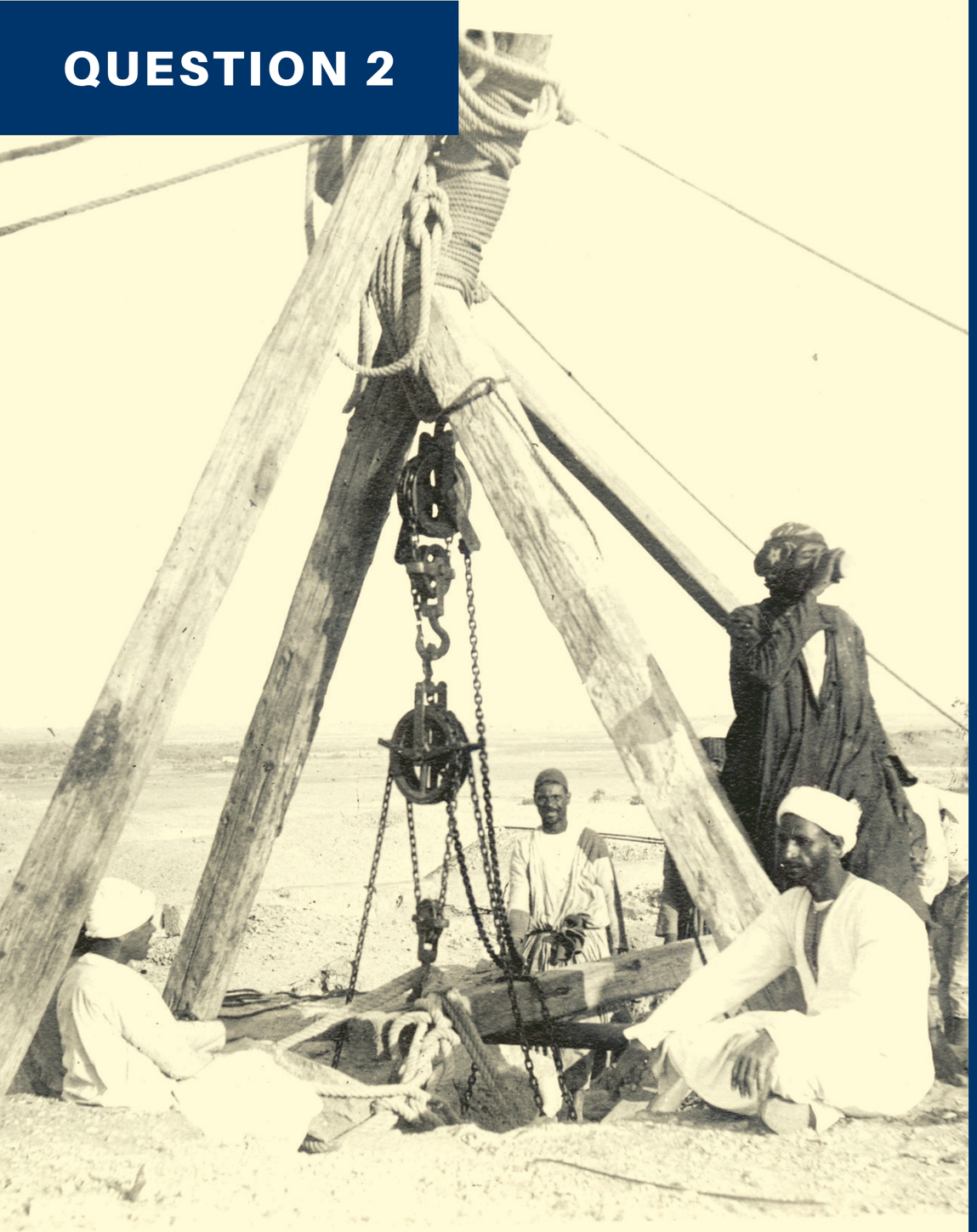


Who?

Who are the main archaeologists associated with this discovery? Describe their biographical information, education and training, publications, etc.

Who are the people studied? Describe how people lived during this time at this place, such as: social stratification, division of labor, gender roles, economic life, food and subsistence, religious practices.

QUESTION 2



What?

What did the archaeologists discover?

Provide a general description of the archaeological site.

Describe the material culture, structures, artifacts, etc.

Include relevant photos and/or interpretive artistic renderings.

QUESTION 3

Where?

Where is the site located?

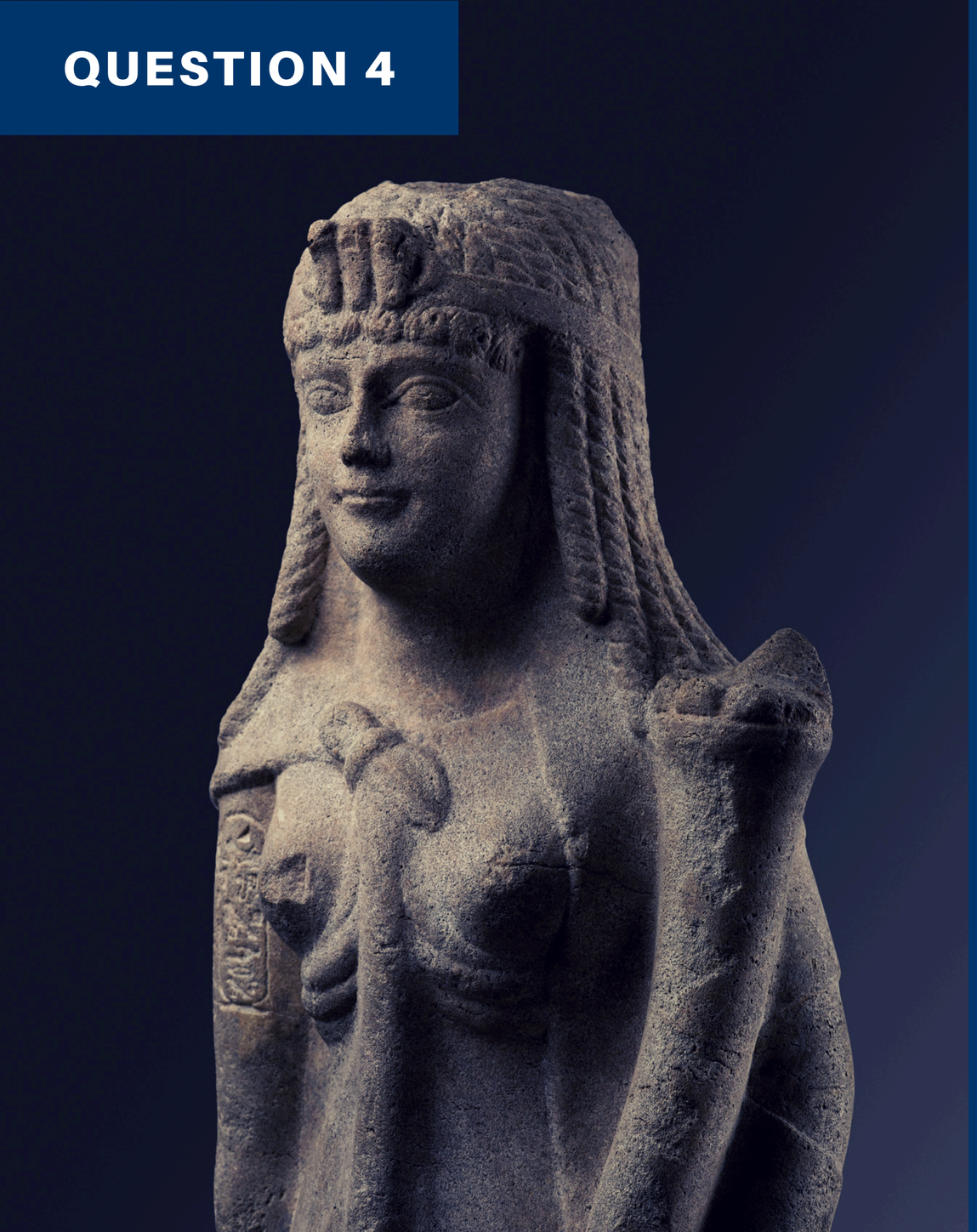
Describe the geography of this discovery, its location in the contemporary world, size, scope, etc.

Does the location have strategic importance?

How did the physical environment and natural resources shape cultural practices?



QUESTION 4



When?

When were the discoveries made?

When in human history do archaeologists believe that this site can be dated to?

Describe the relative time period, what preceded it, and what followed it. What does this represent in terms of cultural evolution and progress?

How?

How did archaeologists excavate, analyze, and interpret this site?

Tell us about the scientific methods used for excavation and analysis of the materials founds.

What technologies were utilized by the people who lived during this archaeological time period?

How did they construct buildings and make artifacts (lithics, pottery, etc.)?

QUESTION 5



QUESTION 6



Why?

Why is this archaeological site considered a “great discovery”?

Describe how this site is important in terms of its place in human history.

Why should this great discovery be preserved and who should be responsible for preservation?

References

Aldred, Cyril. 1992. “Egypt to the End of the Old Kingdom.” In Library of the Early Civilizations, 143. New York, N.Y.: Thames and Hudson. https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/documents/007.

El-Dissouky, Khalid Taha. 2004. Elephantine in the Old Kingdom. Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI Dissertation Services. https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/documents/004.

Kemp, Barry J. 1983. “Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and Second Intermediate Period C. 2686-1552 BC.” In Ancient Egypt: A Social History / B.G. Trigger ... [et Al, 71–182, 371–99. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire]: Cambridge University Press. https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr80/documents/008.

Wilkinson, Toby A. H. 1999. Early Dynastic Egypt. London: Routledge. https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/mr70/documents/006.

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Great Sphinx of Giza and Khafre’s Pyramid, Giza Plateau, Cairo by Hajor, CC BY-SA 1.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Panorama of the Great Sphinx of Giza, Khafre's Pyramid and Pyramid of Cheops by kallerna, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Limestone false door from the tomb of the Overseer of Officials, Weri. Giza, Old Kingdom, 6th Dynasty. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford by SpeakingArch, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Egyptian hieroglyphs by Hosni bin Park, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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View of Giza Pyramid site from terrace of Mamlouk Pyramids Hotel by Caoimheen3, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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U.S. paratroopers and partner nations jump of Giza pyramids by U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Grace Nechanicky, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 26
Pair statue of Nefu and Khenetemsetju; Egyptian, Old Kingdom, Dynasty 5, reign of Niuserra to Una, 2455–2350 B.C.; found at Giza, Egypt by Marcus Cyron, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Slide 27
The removal of the pink granite sarcophagus from the tomb of Prince Duaenra, son of Pharaoh Khufu, in the western Necropolis at Giza, conducted by the Italian Archaeological Mission, Schiaparelli excavations by Museo Egizio, CC0 1.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Great Sphinx of Giza, Giza, Egypt by Diego Delso, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Statue of a Ptolemaic Queen, perhaps Cleopatra by Metropolitan Museum of Art, CC0 1.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Step Pyramid Complex of Djoser by Prof. Mortel, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Great Discoveries: Pyramids of Giza

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