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*Includes 3 replaceable "LR44 1.5v button cell batteries. See page 32 of manual on how to replace batteries.
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Websters Dictionary defines a pyramid as an ancient massive structure found especially in Egypt having typically a square ground plan, outside walls in the form of triangles that meet in a point at the top, and inner sepulchral or burial chambers.

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These enormous structures are among the largest ever built in the entire world. They are built of massive blocks of limestone and granite. Each block weighs approximately 2½ tons (5000 lbs.) and some blocks weigh up to nine tons (18,000 lbs). In addition to the huge and famous pyramids, there are reports that there are up to 100 or more other pyramid structures in Egypt. These are much smaller and some just look like mounds because they are not well preserved and have deteriorated over the thousands of years since they were built. Most archaeologists agree that these pyramids were built as burial chambers and monuments for the pharaohs or kings of that time. These were the most powerful men in Egypt. The people of Egypt considered the pharaohs to be living "Gods."
WHERE ARE THESE PYRAMIDS LOCATED?

In the Northern most territory of the continent Africa, the mighty Sahara Desert, the greatest desert in the world, stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the east where it meets the greatest of all rivers, the Nile. It is here where the sand and rock give way to lush green land and fertile soil provided by the Nile that flows up from the South and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. It is in this valley that one of the longest lasting ancient civilizations grew and prospered over 5000 years ago. Here is also where the first pyramids were built approximately 4600 years ago.

The pyramids were built in areas we now call pyramid fields. Some of the most important pyramid fields are at Giza, Saqqara, Dahshur and Meidum. The pyramids at Giza are by far the largest and most famous of all Egyptian Pyramids.

One of the more well known pyramids is the Great Step Pyramid of King Djoser at Saqqara. This great pyramid is believed to be the first built in Egypt. It was designed by an architect and inventor known as Imhotep. He was asked to build a huge building by King Djoser that would be his burial tomb and resting place for his body and spirit. It would also be a monument to his greatness. They believed his body would rest in a chamber made of solid rock and his spirit would move up the steps of the pyramid and ascend into heaven, to the never setting stars that circle above. This was a reference to the circumpolar stars that never fall below the horizon in that part of the world. They believed their spirit would live forever like these stars that never set. They also believed that the spirit would return to the place where its body lies, so inside the pyramid is an underground palace of twisting halls and chambers filled with treasures ornately decorated for the king to enjoy.

Built around this Great Pyramid was an entire palace city of stone. This was filled with plazas, platforms, statues, columns and other buildings built of solid stone. No living man could enter but it was believed the kings spirit would pass through these stones into whatever
building he wanted, whenever he wanted. There were also temples built here so that priests could come and make offerings to the king’s spirit.

![Sketch of original Great Step Pyramid floor plan.](image)

Additional tombs with false doors were built into the tomb to mislead and detour potential tomb robbers. Inside there are 3½ miles (5.6 km) of halls, deep underground.

When Unhotep built the step pyramid it started out as just a flat square building, huge but nothing special by any stretch of the imagination. He then added extensions to either side before deciding to even things out and make a four step pyramid. He wasn’t done though, he added more extensions and built it higher ending up with a six step pyramid with a base measuring 350 feet by 400 feet (105m x 122m). It would cover more than two football fields and be as high as a 20 story building!

![Photo of Great Step Pyramid Palace Grounds as it is now.](image)

Several other step pyramids were started for other kings but were never completed because they died before they were finished.

---

**WHY BUILD A PYRAMID?**

Egyptians believed long ago that there existed only the waters of chaos. From the waters a mound appeared - The Creator - God - Atum.

From Atum came air, from the air came the sky and earth and from these the first God-King of Egypt, Osiris. This was their idea of creation.

King Osiris was said to have an evil brother named Set. Set killed Osiris and chopped his body into pieces and threw them into the Nile River. Osiris’ wife Isis found the pieces and reassembled them to make the first mummy. Egyptians believed that Osiris was magically restored and now ruled the dead in the other world. Osiris’ son Horus, the Falcon Headed God, defeated Set and took over as ruler of Egypt.

The Egyptians believed that their Kings were human forms of these Gods, Horus the Falcon and Osiris the Mummy. It was also believed that the King was protected by Horus and possessed his powers. When the King died and was mummified it was believed that he became one with Osiris the Mummy God. The pyramid was a holy resting place. A place where the real world and spiritual world came together. They believed that the spirit of the dead King protected the world of the living.
The Egyptians believed that a person had more than one spirit. They had names for these different spirits, Ba, Ka and Akh.

The **Ba** was the person's personality or what made them individual. The Ba was symbolized by a hawk with the person's head.

The **Ka** was the person's life force which is passed down through generations. It's also the person's spiritual power. The Ka was the spirit that gave the King the power to protect all of Egypt. When a person died these spirits died with them. The mummification process and all the ceremonies that went with it were to bring the Ba and the Ka back to life. With this the dead person was thought to be brought back to life in a spirit form that lived in the "Other World".

The **Akh** was the ghost of the person brought back to life.

The Kings mummy was not just being preserved from decay but was thought to be restored to another life in spirit form. The Kings' spirits were maintained through religious ceremonies and offerings of food so that his spiritual power would protect Egypt.

King Djoser was the first to have all this ceremony revolve around the **pyramid**.

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**PREPARING FOR THE TOMB - MUMMIFICATION**

Egyptians dreaded the thought of ceasing to exist. They believed in magic and from this belief developed a funerary cult which they thought guaranteed living forever.

The embalmers took the body to a special place and cut open the left side to remove the liver and lungs. They dried these out and stored them in jars called canopic jars.

They also removed the brain by scooping it out with a hook through the nose. (YUK!) This might be why the mummies depicted in movies were always so upset! The one organ that they did leave in the body was the heart. They then covered the body in crystals of Natron, this kept the body from decaying. They then packed it with dry leaves or saw dust and wrapped it in linen bandages.

*"Natron was a compound made of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate. This was used to dry out the corpse. After 40 days in this compound the body would be dry and no further decay would take place. It would then be ready to wrap in linen strips. Based on the mummies that have been unwrapped over the years this stuff works pretty good."*
THE EIGHT STEP PYRAMID AT MEIDUM

Approximately 35 years after the death of King Djoser, the greatest pyramid building ruler would come to power, King Sneferu. Besides Djoser's Step Pyramid, Sneferu's eight step pyramid at Meidum would be the only other Great Step Pyramid built. Sneferu's step pyramid started out as a seven step pyramid but this was not big enough for him. It was covered over and made higher to include an eighth step. Later it would be covered over to make it a smooth sided pyramid. Some think later it partially collapsed. The top and the smoothness are now gone and a steep tower is left with part of the eighth step and part of the seventh step of the pyramid exposed.

You don't become known as a great pyramid builder by building just one pyramid. King Sneferu would build two more great pyramids. These are located at Dahshur.

THE BENT PYRAMID OF KING SNEFERU AT DAHSUR

The original plan for the bent pyramid at Dahshur was for it to be higher and larger than the step pyramid at Meidum. During construction when the pyramid was less than half complete cracks started to appear in the structure. The weight of this massive pyramid was too much for the stones at the base. They changed the plan to make the pyramid shorter. This required them to change the angles of the sides. This is where the pyramid gets its name “Bent Pyramid”. Although not as big as the original plan, the changes made it possible to complete and save this pyramid from what would have been certain collapse.

Photo of Bent Pyramid today
THE RED PYRAMID OF SNEFERU AT DAHSHUR

King Sneferu would pick a new chief builder, his son Prince Kanofer. Prince Kanofer found the reason for the problems with the bent pyramid. It is built on softer rock and when the rock buckled under the weight of the pyramid, the pyramid began to crack.

A new pyramid would be built by Prince Kanofer at Dahshur for King Sneferu. This pyramid is much larger and carved out of granite. He chose granite because it is a much harder stone and would not crack as easily as the limestone. Because the color of the granite is red, this pyramid would become known as the Red Pyramid. It is located north of the Bent Pyramid in Dahshur, in the same pyramid field.

Photo of Red Pyramid today

This would be the first true pyramid. Prince Kanofer never got to build his own pyramid because he died before his father. His brother Prince Khufu would become the next King and he would make his mark as a great pyramid builder as well.

THE GREAT PYRAMID OF KING KHUFU AT GIZA

King Khufu would want the largest pyramid ever built. His cousin, Prince Hemon would be his builder and he would not let him down. For 4½ thousand years people have been amazed by this pyramid. It is known as one of the ancient wonders of the world. The size and accuracy of the construction has amazed archaeologists even to this very day.

△ When it was finished the sides measured 756 feet (230m) long.
△ There is only an 8 inch (20cm) difference between the longest and the shortest side (that's less than the width of this page!)
△ The pyramid was 481 feet (147m) tall when it was finished. Today it is only 450 feet high because it has lost some stones from the top.
△ It took 2.3 million stones to complete.
△ Those stones averaged 2.5 tons (5000 lbs) each.
This makes it one of the heaviest man made structures on the planet, weighing in at 11,500,000,000 lbs. That's 11½ billion!
△ Each of these limestone blocks was carved out of a nearby quarry by hand.

Photo of King Khufu's Great Pyramid at Giza

Statue of King Khufu

THE INTERIOR OF THE GREAT PYRAMID

Not only is the Great Pyramid larger than all the others, but the interior construction is much different. In most pyramids, the burial chamber for the King is built far underground. In the Great Pyramid, the chamber is built high up in the interior of the pyramid.
The pyramid started with an opening around 50 feet (15m) above the ground. The entrance was narrow and had a very short ceiling. From here, the passage descended down like other pyramids to a chamber deep underground. This is called the “descending corridor”. But this underground chamber it lead to was not finished.

Another corridor was made that went up into the pyramid (“ascending corridor”). This was a very small passageway slightly more than 3 feet (1m) high and 3 feet (1m) wide. It then leveled out and lead to what is called the “Queens Chamber” even though no queen is buried there.

The builder then went back to where the corridor ascended and continued to build up making what is known as the “Grand Gallery”. This part of the passageway was 28 feet (9m) high and 153 feet (47m) long. This lead to the “Kings Chamber”. This is where King Khufu would be laid to rest.

Many have thought that the descending corridor to the first burial chamber was built there to fool potential tomb robbers.

When Prince Henen built the kings chamber he must have been concerned about it possibly collapsing under all the weight above it. Above the flat ceiling in the Kings Chamber he made five additional small chambers, each with its own granite (much harder stone) ceiling. Each of these slabs weighed between 20 and 80 tons (40,000-160,000 lbs). The highest chamber had a peaked ceiling made of granite slab. This was a good plan because even today the Kings Chamber is still intact, 4500 years later.

There are four additional shafts in the pyramid, two shafts on the south side, one from the Kings Chamber, and one from the Queens Chamber that point to the constellation Orion in the sky. The two shafts on the northside, again one from each of the King and Queens Chamber, points to the North Star.

After King Khufu’s death, priests mummified his body and performed the necessary ceremonies. They then took his body to the North Entrance of the Great Pyramid and carried it down the descending corridor, up the ascending corridor, and finally through the Grand Gallery to the Kings Chamber. The King was then placed in a stone coffin that was built when the pyramid was constructed.

The pyramid was then sealed. Slabs of granite stored in the Grand Gallery were slid into place to seal the ascending corridor. To escape, the workers had to climb down an air shaft to the descending corridor and then climb up and out.

Other workers then placed a huge stone slab in the ceiling of the descending corridor to block the entrance to the ascending corridor. This hid the entrance. They then closed the entrance hole. It was thought that no one would ever be able to enter, tomb robbers in particular. Unfortunately they were wrong.
King Khafre was the son of King Khufu. When it came time to build his pyramid he was posed with a problem. Should he build his pyramid larger than his father's? This would be disrespectful to his father, but the people of the land expect a Great King to watch over the land and keep it safe. If he built it smaller, the people may think he is not so great and not able to keep them safe. His brother Ankhaf, King Khafre's pyramid builder, came up with a solution. He would build a smaller pyramid on higher ground. When you look at this pyramid today it looks larger than the Great Pyramid because it sits on higher ground; but in actuality it is shorter in height and its base is not as big.

In addition to his great pyramid, there is another monument to King Khafre at Giza. The Great Sphinx bares his image. The sphinx is a huge statue over 240 feet (73m) long and over 60 feet (18m) high. It is the body of a lion lying down with the head of King Khafre. The lion was an ancient symbol of kingship and the sun, a supernatural guardian of the people.

The sphinx was made from a higher section of the plateau. The limestone was dug out all around this area for the pyramids. This raised section was left because the poor quality of stone was not good enough for pyramid building. Now because of this, the Great Sphinx has eroded a great deal over the thousands of years. One main feature missing on the sphinx is the nose. At first you would think it was lost to erosion but story has it, someone drilled holes around the nose about 600 years ago and pried it off. No one really knows why.
PYRAMID OF KING MENKAURE AT GIZA

There were two kings after Khafre but both died before their pyramids were completed. The next pyramid to be built was for King Menkaure. This would be the last pyramid built on the Giza Plateau. It is also much smaller than the others and marked an end to building huge pyramids like those of Sneferu, Khufu and Khafre. Menkaure’s pyramid is only about 1/10th the size of Khufus. However there is one stone at the corner of Menkaure’s mortuary temple that is the greatest of all stones at Giza. It weighs over 200 tons, that’s close to one half million pounds. Next to Menkaure’s pyramid there are three smaller queen pyramids.

Pyramid building continued after Menkaure but most were the same size as his or smaller. Today there are over 100 known pyramids in Egypt. Most are small and in poor shape due to weather and time that have taken a toll on them. Many appear as just mounds of rubble.

Interior Floor Plan of Menkaure’s Pyramid
THE PYRAMID COMPLEX

When pyramids were built for kings, much more than just the pyramid was part of the construction. They built pyramid complexes. These complexes usually included the following:

**The Pyramid Itself:** This was the main monument for the king.

![Pyramid Image](image1.jpg)

**The Wall:** A wall was built around the complex, as high as 30 feet (10m).

![Wall Image](image2.jpg)

**The Underground Tomb of the King:** Deep beneath the pyramid is the tomb or final resting place where the king’s mummified body is buried. This often included several chambers and hallways, some filled with treasures and paintings.

![Tomb Image](image3.jpg)

**A Satellite Pyramid:** Found a short distance from the main pyramid this was thought to be a pyramid for the king’s **Ka**, his life force.

![Satellite Pyramid Image](image4.jpg)

**The Mortuary Temple:** This was built against the east side of the pyramid to face the rising sun. This is where most of the ceremonies took place for the king. There was usually a central courtyard, chapels and other rooms with statues of the king.

![Mortuary Temple Image](image5.jpg)

**Boat Pits:** Pits near the pyramid were dug in a boat shape. It is thought that they buried the boat that the king’s body was brought to the tomb in, sailing down the Nile to the pyramid complex.

![Boat Pits Image](image6.jpg)

Sketch showing an example of the floor plan of a pyramid.
HOW TO BUILD A PYRAMID THE OLD FASHIONED WAY

Building a pyramid is not all that complex if you build a small one. However, if you are going to build one over 400 feet high with stones that weigh 2 1/2 tons, it gets a little tricky. It gets more tricky when you don’t have cranes and earth movers. Oh, and those 2 1/2 ton stones, have to be chiseled out of the ground by hand.

Here is what you have to work with: ropes, wooden tools, other rocks, copper saws with no teeth and lots of elbow grease (human muscle).

The stones to make the pyramid were made of limestone and granite. Limestone is a great building material because it is strong enough to hold heavy loads but soft enough to be cut by other harder stones. The workers used harder stones to cut and chip these huge limestone blocks from the ground or quarries. They also used copper saws with no teeth. The saw made the groove and the sand and water they used did the cutting. This could take several hours or even days to get one stone. So if over 2 million of these were needed, thousands of workers and a lot of time were required.

The limestone was close to and all around the building site. The problem with the granite is that it was a great distance from where the pyramid was being built. This meant dragging the blocks to the Nile River where they were loaded on barges and sailed 600 miles up to the construction site and again dragged into place.

The way they dragged the blocks was to put them on huge logs called a sledge. Then these huge logs were rolled over other the logs underneath. The last rolling log was then moved to the front and they continued to roll the block along. (The wheel had been invented but they didn’t know about it yet, word traveled slow, like the blocks).

Sketch of sledge (side view)

Sketch of sledge (3/4 view)

O.k. you have dragged these huge blocks a great distance. Now, how do you get them 400 feet in the air?

Ramps: Most Egyptologists believe that the workers dragged these huge stones up ramps. There is still much debate about how the ramps were constructed and configured either spiraling, or zig zagging up the pyramid.

Sledge: The sledge could have been used, using the system shown in the sketch above.
SETTING UP YOUR PYRAMID

Lay pyramid out on a table or other flat surface. Turn so that the side with the round hieroglyphic decoder is facing you. Place decoder wheel over center of circle. Press locking button into place to hold wheel as shown. Remove decoder wheel decal from decal sheet and place on top of decoder wheel. Line decal up so viewing slot is not covered up.

PAINTING YOUR ACCESSORIES

PILLARS: Your pillars have been molded in a gold color but you can decorate them how you want using the paints included. After all it is your pyramid!

STATUE: Use paints included to decorate your statue; it is also molded in a gold color. Use photo on box as a guide or paint how you want.

SARCOPHAGUS: Your sarcophagus is also molded in a gold color. Use paints provided to decorate as you like.

CANOPIC JARS: Use paints included to decorate your canopic jars. Use photo on box as an example or paint as you like.

TOMB: Use paints included to decorate your tomb as you wish.

MUMMY: Use paints to decorate as you wish or leave as is.

ADDING DECALS TO YOUR ACCESSORIES

Use colored decals from the decal sheet to further decorate your accessories. Decode the hieroglyphics using the decoder wheel on each decal for clues to where they go.

Translating Hieroglyphics: Each picture in these hieroglyphics corresponds to a letter in the alphabet. Turn the wheel to point to the picture and it shows you the letter it corresponds to. Some pictures correspond to more than one letter. Pick the one that works best or has the correct sound. Each letter of the hieroglyphic alphabet is also located on the decal sheet provided. Use these letters as you wish to decorate your pyramid or accessories as well.
Hieroglyphics is also known as picture writing. This is the way that ancient Egyptians communicated in writing. They did not have letters to make words so they used pictures to represent sounds and made words with these pictures. These pictures were first used to record the kings many treasures. This language grew until there were more than 700 pictures that represented different consonants and vowel sounds. To translate hieroglyphs, letters from our alphabet with similar sounds have been matched up with corresponding pictures.

To translate hieroglyphics you must first know which direction to read. The ancient Egyptians often wrote left to right, right to left or even top to bottom. To determine which way to read the hieroglyphs, look at the pictures of the animals. If they are facing left you read left to right. If they are facing right, you read right to left. If they are lined up one under another, read top to bottom.

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**Personalize Your Mummy:**
Using the Hieroglyph decals provided you can put your name on your pyramid using hieroglyphics. Another idea is to make up your own Ancient Egyptian king name and put this on your pyramid in hieroglyphs.

**Name Your Mummy:**
The mummy in your kit has no name and he needs one. Come up with a name for your mummy and use the hieroglyphs to put his or her name on the sarcophagus.

**Activating Mummy Sound:**
In the bottom of your sarcophagus is the sound module for your mummy. Turn it over and remove the plastic tab that separates the batteries. This module is light and motion activated. Place this back in the sarcophagus. Now when you open the lid, you hear creepy, scary mummy sounds. To quiet the mummy, you can put the plastic tab back in to separate the batteries. Do you want to scare your friends? Just have them open the sarcophagus!

**Sending And Sharing Messages In Hieroglyphics:**
Share the code with a friend and send and receive your own picture messages.

**Making Your Own Hieroglyphics:**
You can make your own secret language by coming up with your own pictures that represent the letters of the alphabet. Remember to keep them simple so it doesn’t take thousands of years to write a message! Share your new hieroglyphics with a friend so you can communicate in your own language!

**Hiding Treasures In Your Pyramid:**
When kings were laid to rest in their pyramids, many treasures were left with them. These were sealed in chambers that the Egyptians thought only the kings spirit could get to. You can hide treasures in your pyramid too. Included in your kit is a small “vault” that includes a key. Put a small treasure in your vault and hide it in your pyramid. Hide it good! You don’t want “tomb robbers” to get it!

**Making More Pyramids:**
The back of this booklet includes a template that you can use to make more pyramids out of posterboard. Follow the instructions and make as many pyramids as you want.
Set Up A Pyramid Field:

Just like the Ancient Egyptians you too can set up a pyramid field. Use the pyramid from your kit as the center piece and make more pyramids from the plans on the next page and set up your own pyramid field. Now you can refer to this field by your hometown. Instead of talking about the pyramid field of Giza, you can talk about the pyramid field of Milwaukee!

Replacing Batteries:

**WARNING:**
- Do not mix alkaline, standard (carbon-zinc) and rechargeable batteries (nickel-hydrate).
- Do not mix old and new batteries.
- Non-rechargeable batteries are not to be recharged.
- Rechargeable batteries are to be removed from the appliance before being charged. (if removable)
- Rechargeable batteries are only to be charged under adult supervision. (if removable)
- Exhausted batteries are to be removed.
- The supply terminals are not to be short-circuited.
- Only batteries of the same or equivalent type as recommended are to be used.
- Batteries are to be inserted with correct polarity.
- Do not dispose of batteries in a fire. The batteries may leak or explode.

Instructions:
1. Remove screw from battery compartment cover on bottom of the sarcophagus insert.
2. Remove cover.
3. Place batteries in as shown in compartment.
4. Replace cover

Includes 3 LR44 1.5v button cell batteries

**IMPORTANT:** To make several pyramids, make additional copies of this page.

To make a pyramid, you will need to transfer the diagram onto a sheet of posterboard or cardboard. If you don’t have any, use a file folder or cereal box. Follow these instructions:

1. Cut out this page.
2. Use white paste to stick the page onto your sheet of posterboard.
3. Carefully cut out the pyramid along the solid outline with scissors.
4. With a ruler and an ordinary table knife and your fingers, score along the dotted lines.
5. Fold at all the scored lines.
6. Paste tabs T and Side B of the pyramid, so that the folded edge of the tab aligns with Side A.
7. Repeat with Tab T and Side B of the base.
8. Repeat with Tab C and Side C of the base.
9. Now paste Tab D along triangular side (not on the base of the pyramid). Your pyramid is now complete!

TIP: If you want to make smaller or larger pyramids, enlarge or reduce this page when you copy it.