

Ancient Egyptian Art



Middle Kingdom Portraiture

- Journal # How is this image different from Old Kingdom statues?

Middle Kingdom Art

Rock-cut Tombs

- Rock-cut tombs of the MK largely replaced the OK mastabas/pyramids
- Hollowed out of naturally placed rock at remote sites.
- These tombs contained the fundamental units of Egyptian architecture:
 - Portico or vestibule
 - Columned hall
 - Sacred chamber



Rock-cut tombs

Beni Hasan, Egypt

ca. 1,950-1,900 B.C.E.



Rock cut Tombs BH 3-5

Beni Hasan, Egypt, Dynasty XII

ca. 1950-1900 B.C.E.

- *Reserve columns:* Columns are continuous parts of the rock fabric and serve no supporting function
- Tomb wall decorated with paintings just like in the OK with similar subjects.



Rock cut Tombs BH 2

Beni Hasan, Egypt, Dynasty XII

ca. 1950-1900 B.C.E.



Tomb of Meketre, Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,985 B.C.E.





Riverboat

from tomb of Meketre, Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,985 B.C.E.

gessoed and painted wood

50 3/8 in. long



Granary

from tomb of Meketre, Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,985 B.C.E.

gessoed and painted wood

29 1/8 in. long

Statuette of an offering bearer

from tomb of Meketre, Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,985 B.C.E.

gessoed and painted wood

44 1/8 in. high



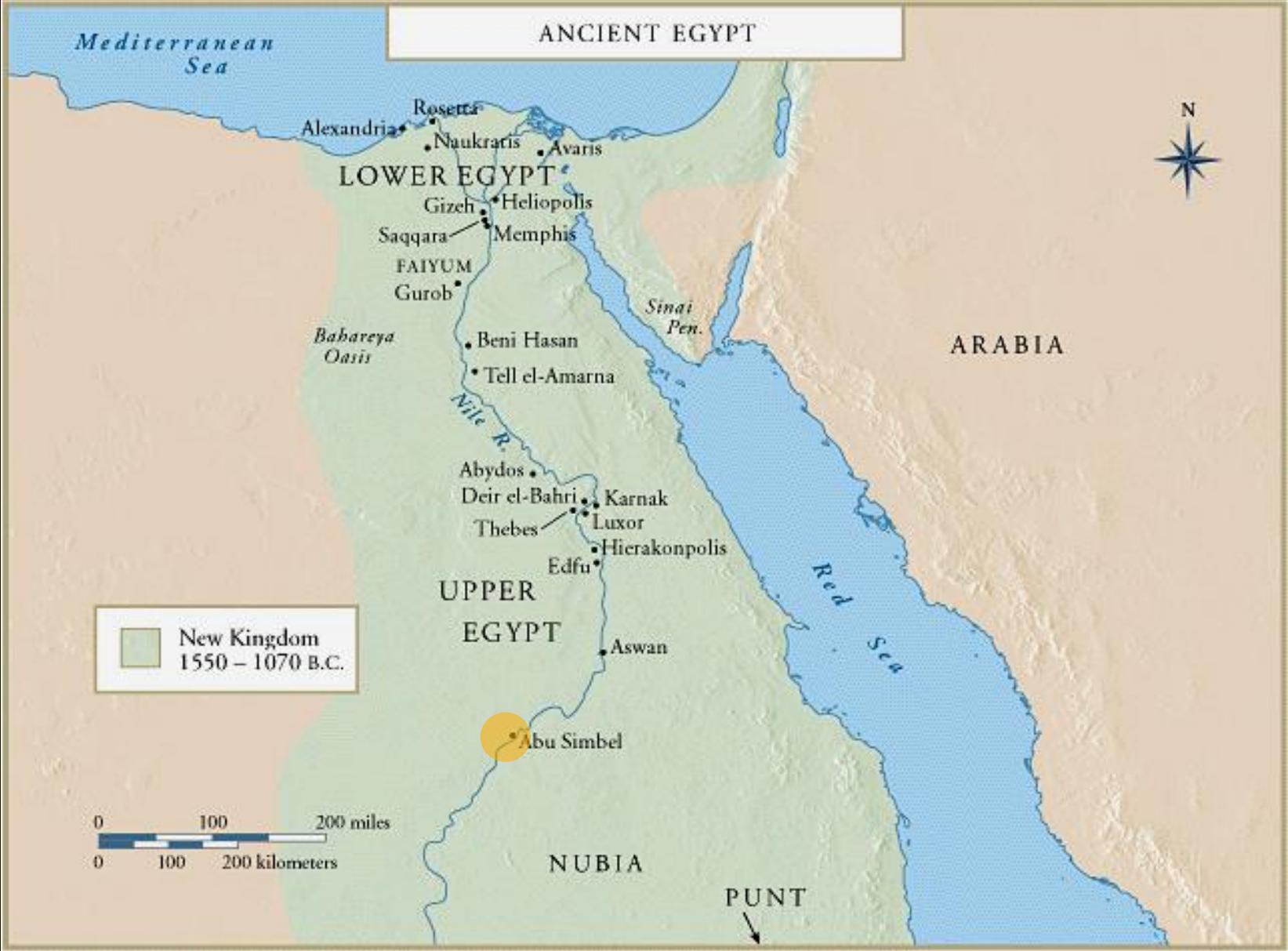






New Kingdom Art

ANCIENT EGYPT



Valley of the Kings

- Rock-cut tombs adapted
 - Tombs approached by long corridors, extending as deep as 500 ft into the hillside
 - Entrance carefully concealed
 - Mortuary temples built along the banks of the Nile some distance from the tombs
 - Temple provided a place for the king to worship his patron god during his life and a mortuary temple after his death
 - Elaborate structure befitting both the king and the god



Senmut

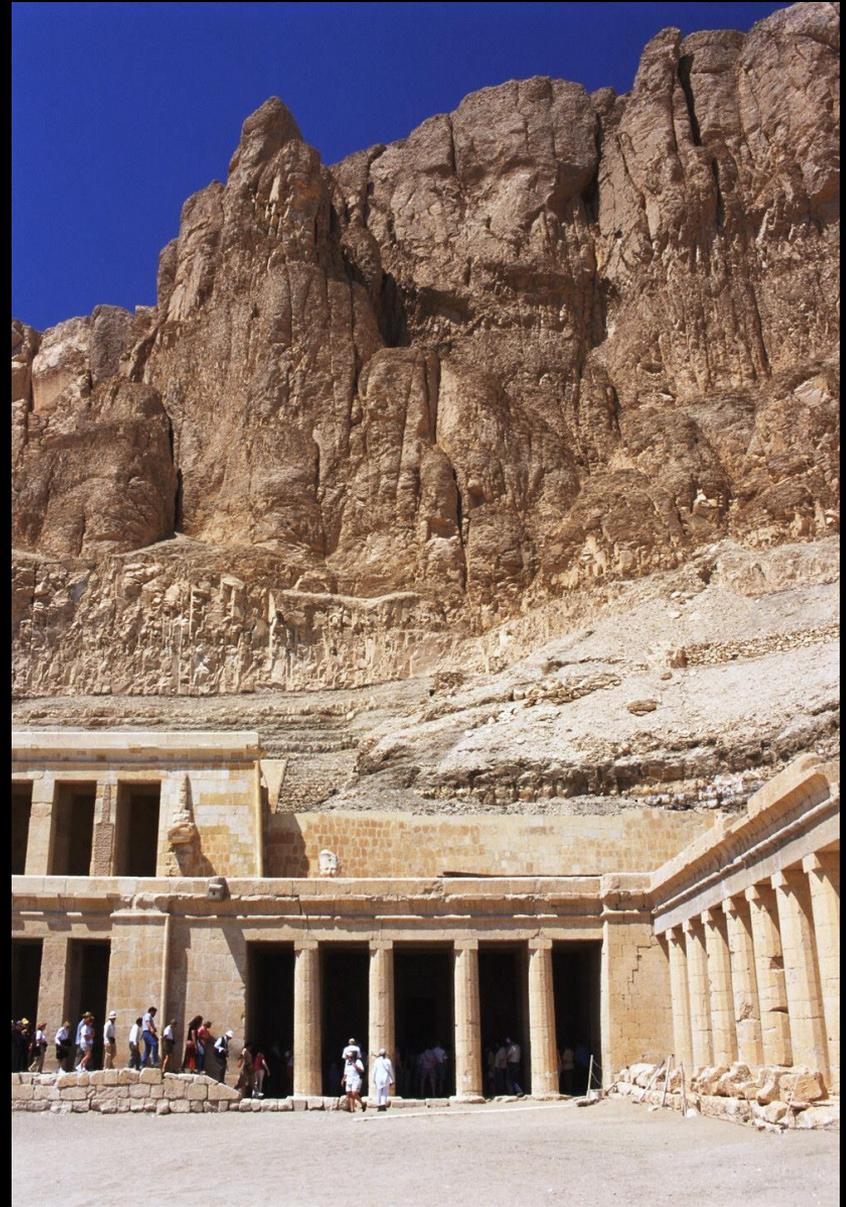
Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut

Deir el-Bahri, Egypt

ca. 1,473-1,458 B.C.E.

Queen Hetshepsut

- Proclaimed herself pharaoh when there were no legitimate male heirs
- She ruled for 2 decades (prosperous time)
- The terraces were filled with gardens
- Once painted low relief sculpture in the temple commemorating her expedition, great deeds, divine birth, and coronation



Statue of Hatshepsut

Deir el-Bahri, Egypt

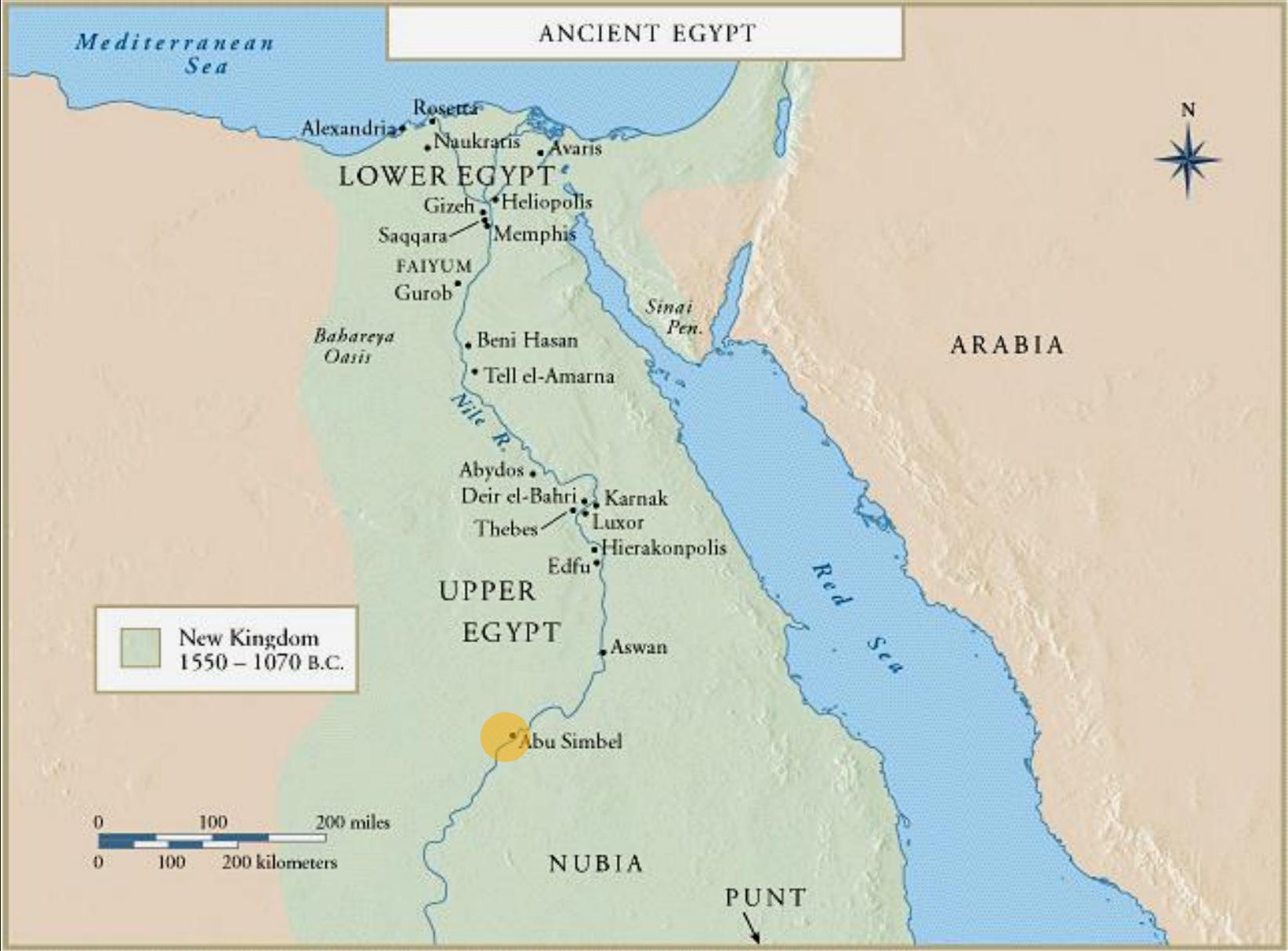
ca. 1,473-1,458 B.C.E.

limestone

76 3/4 in. high



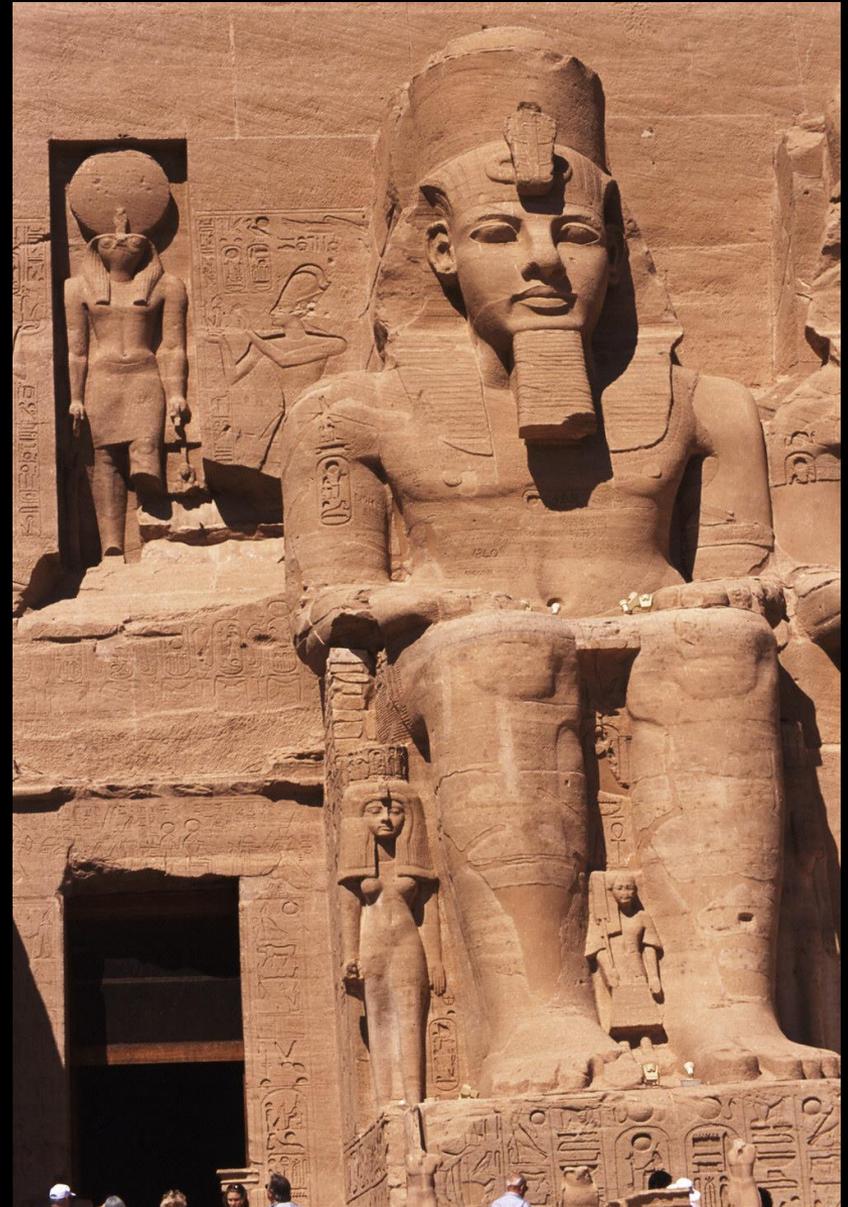
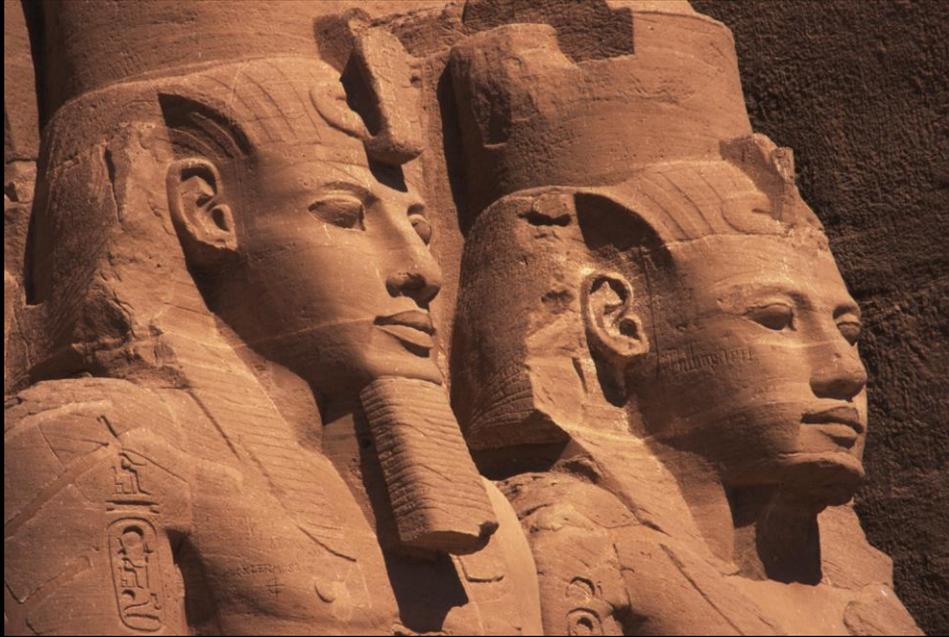
ANCIENT EGYPT





Temple of Ramses II

- 4 colossal statues of the pharaoh greet visitors
- Built to intimidate the Nubians
- Interior sets Ramses among the gods
- Ramses is wearing the combine crown of upper and lower Egypt
- *Caryatid* form: figure-as-column
 - Will appear later in Greek architecture
 - This may be the earliest use

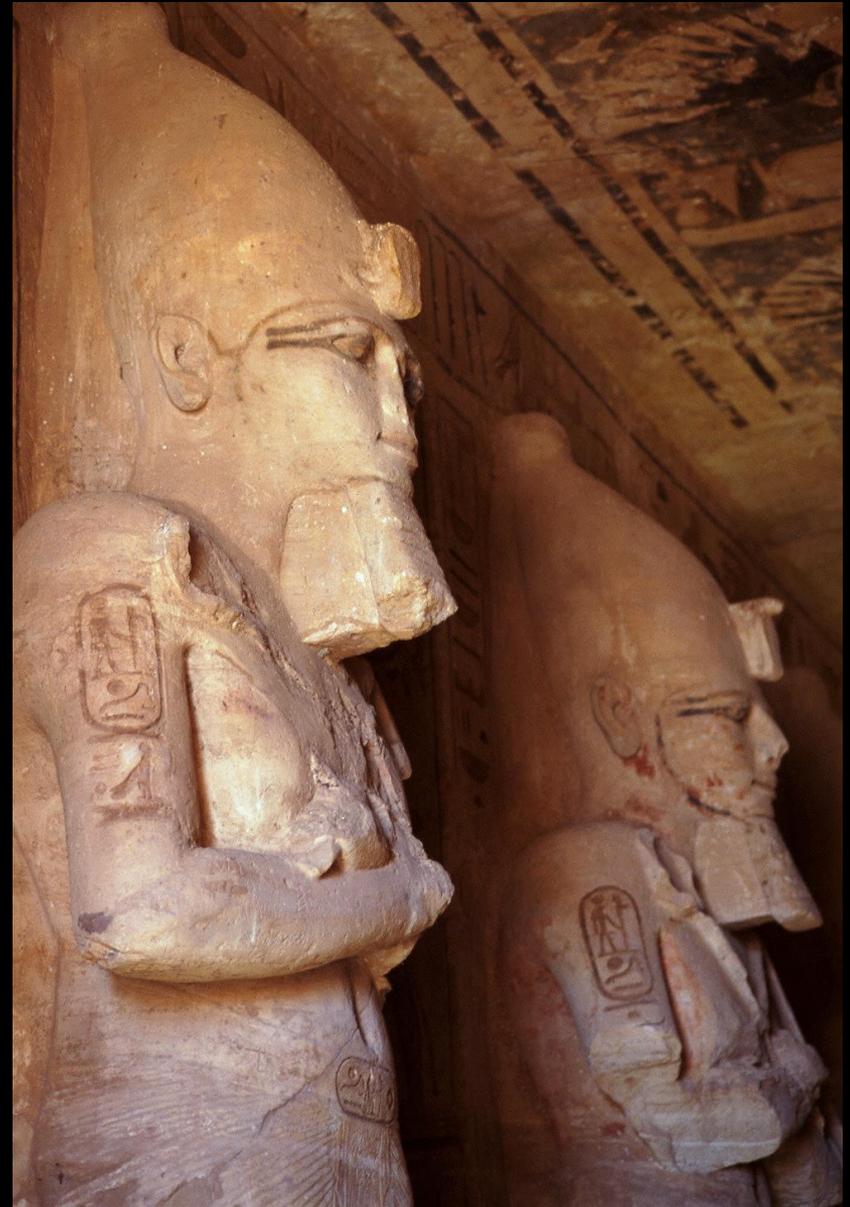


Temple of Ramses II

from Abu Simbel, Egypt

ca. 1290-1224 B.C.E.

colossi approximately 65 ft. high



Temple of Ramses II

from Abu Simbel, Egypt

ca. 1290-1224 B.C.E.

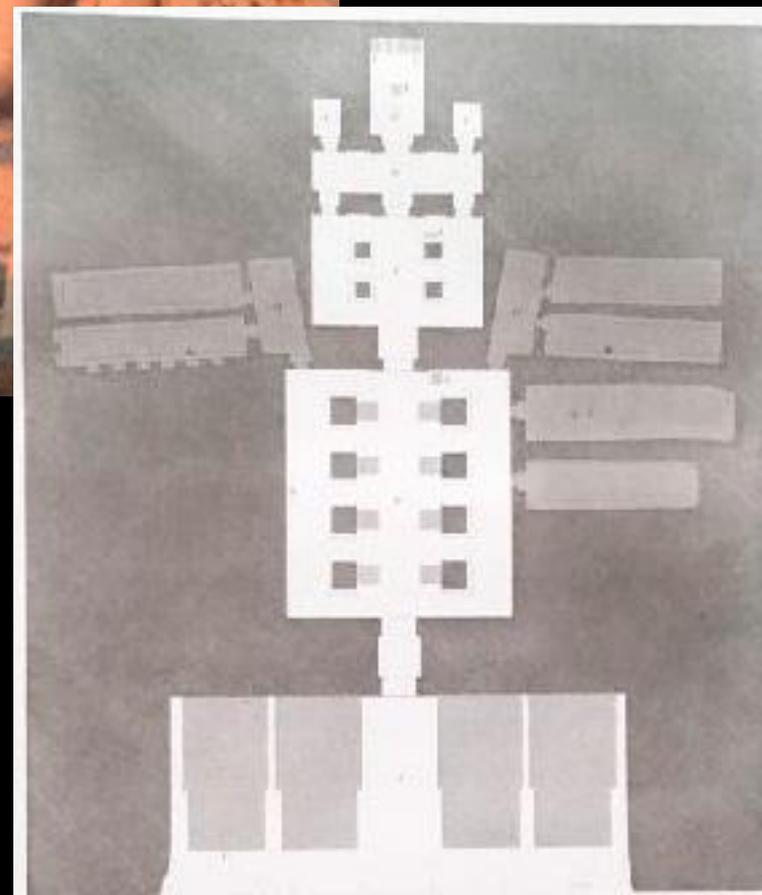
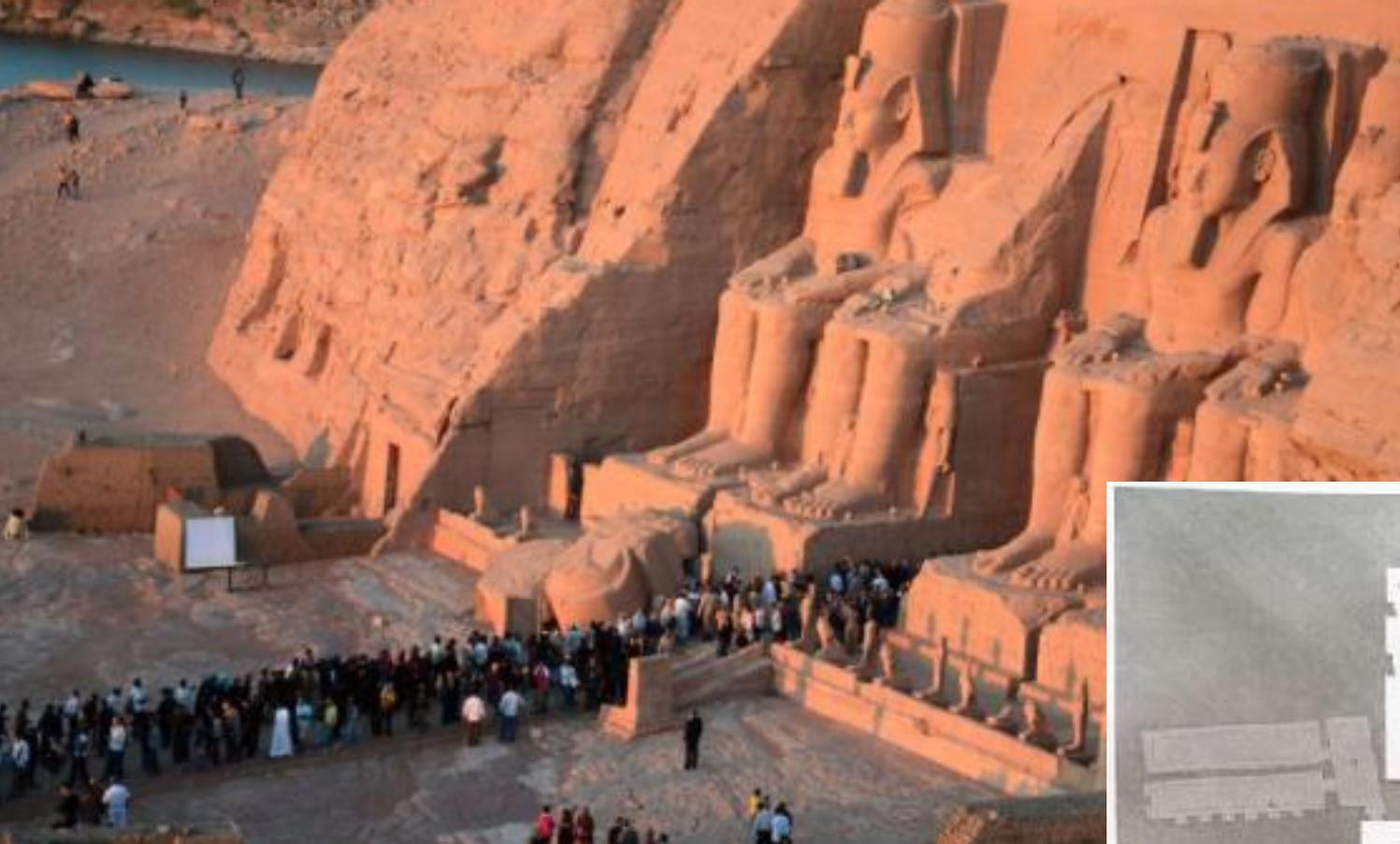
atlantids approximately 32 ft. high



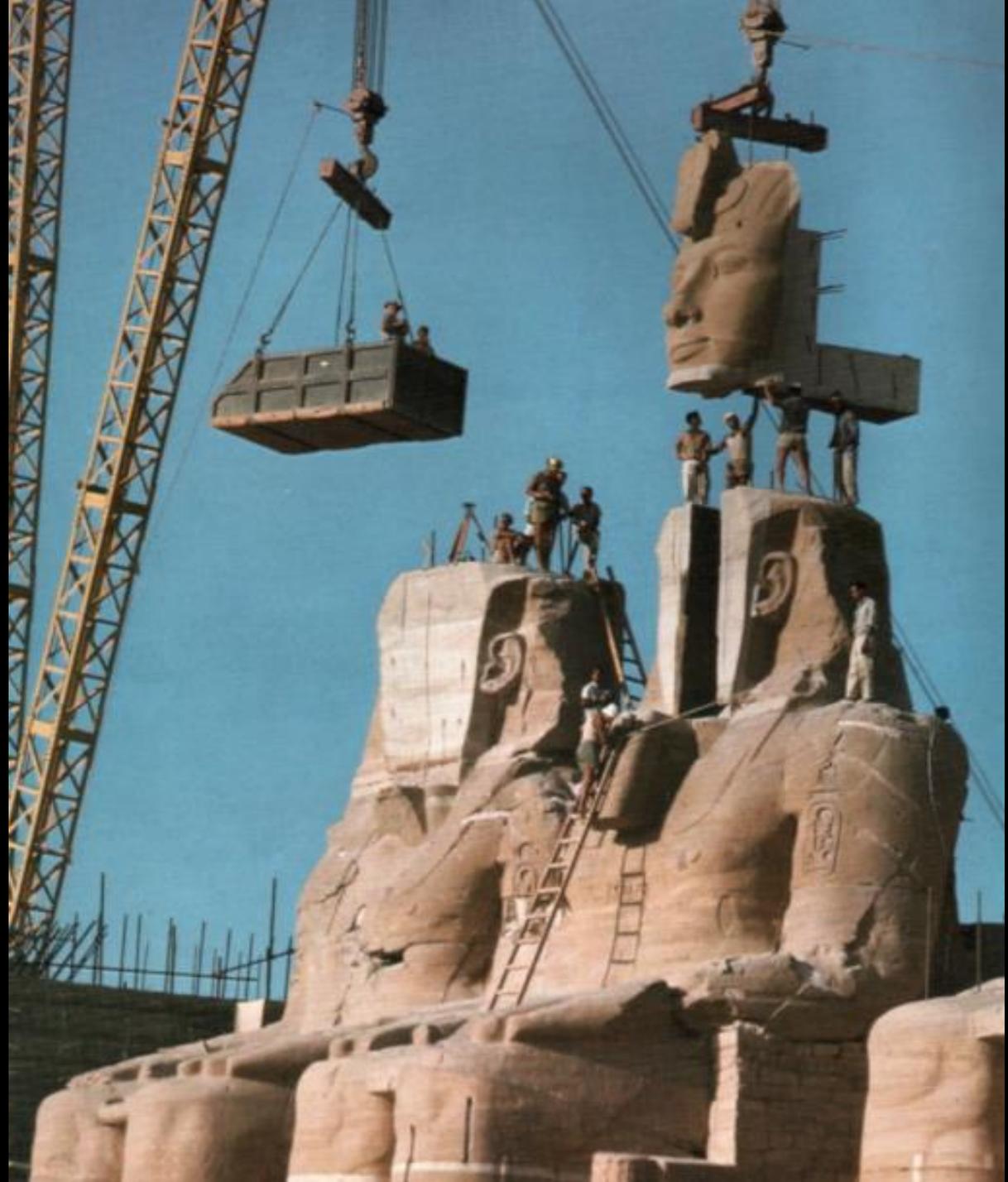
Inner Sanctuary

- Built so that every year on October 22 and February 22 the sun would shine all the way through to the sanctuary and illuminate three of four statues
 - Illuminated Ramses and two deities leaving the god associated with the underworld in the shadows.

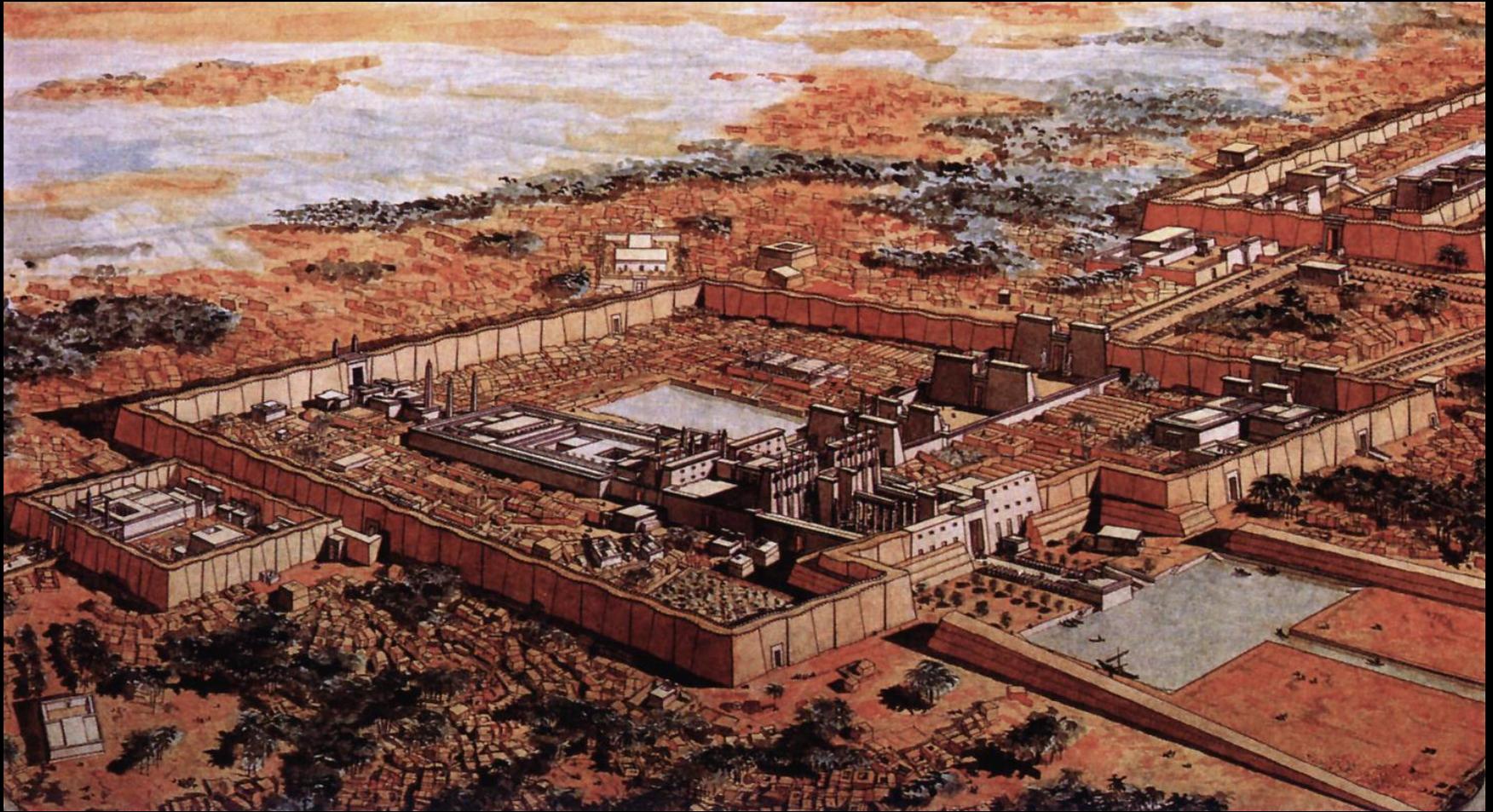




- <http://anthropology.msu.edu/anp363-ss13/2013/02/06/abu-simbel-temples-relocation-due-to-aswan-dam/>







Temple of Amen-Re

Karnak, Egypt

ca. 13th century B.C.E.

Temples at Karnak and Luxor

- Built to honor one or more of the gods
- Often added to by successive kings until they reached a gigantic size
- Temple Plan included a colonnaded court and hall that led into a dimly lighted sanctuary
- Egyptians did not use cement but depended on the weight of the huge stones to keep columns in place



Model of Hypostyle hall Temple of Amen-Re

Karnak, Egypt, Dynasty XIX

ca. 1290-1224 B.C.E.

Temple Columns

- Serve a structural purpose, not reserve columns
- Two basic types of capitals: bud/bell
- Covered in relief sculpture and painting suggesting that the intention was not to emphasize the functional role so much as utilize them for decoration
 - Later the Greeks will contrast this idea sharply

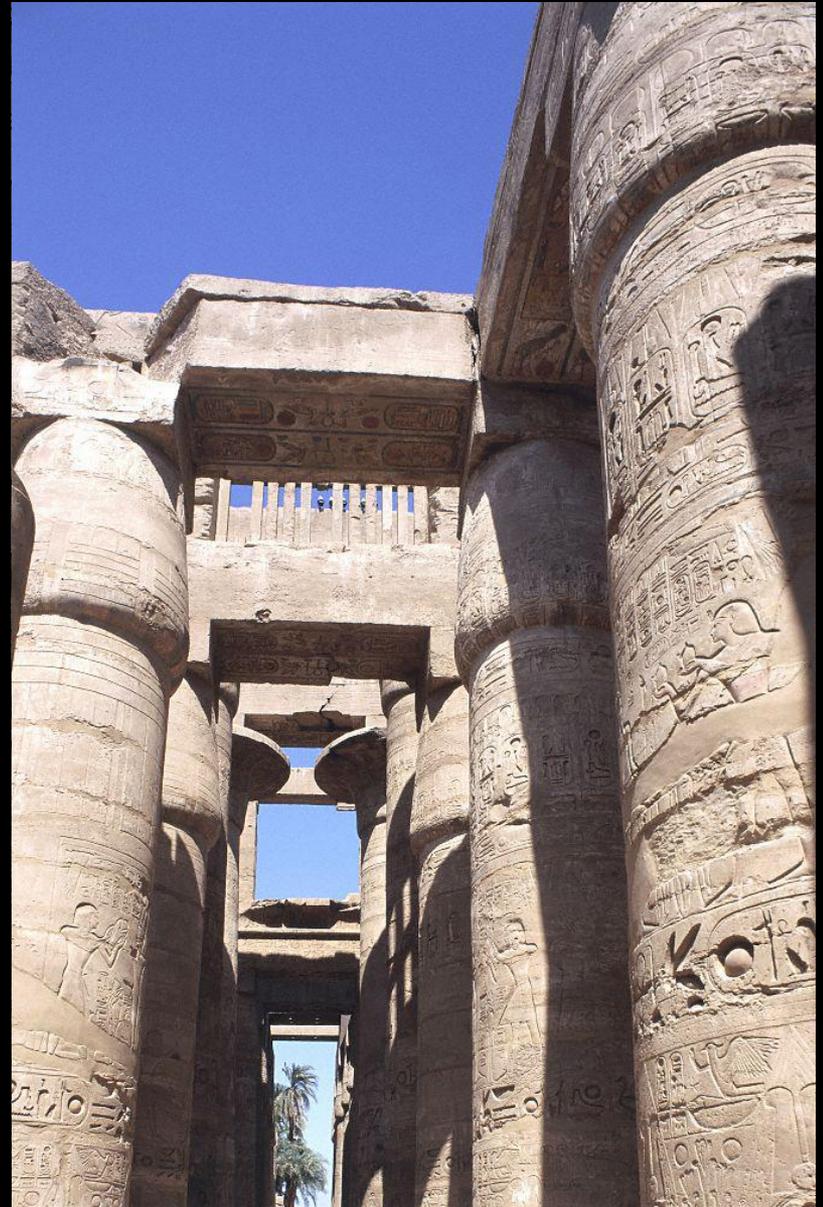
Clerestory

- The central rows of columns were higher than those at the sides, raising the roof of the central section---creating a clerestory.
- Openings in the clerestory permitted light to filter into interior.
- We'll see this in Gothic cathedrals

Hypostyle hall Temple of Amen-Re

Karnak, Egypt, Dynasty XIX

ca. 1290-1224 B.C.E.



What do you notice?



Fowling Scene

from the tomb of Nebamun, Thebes, Egypt

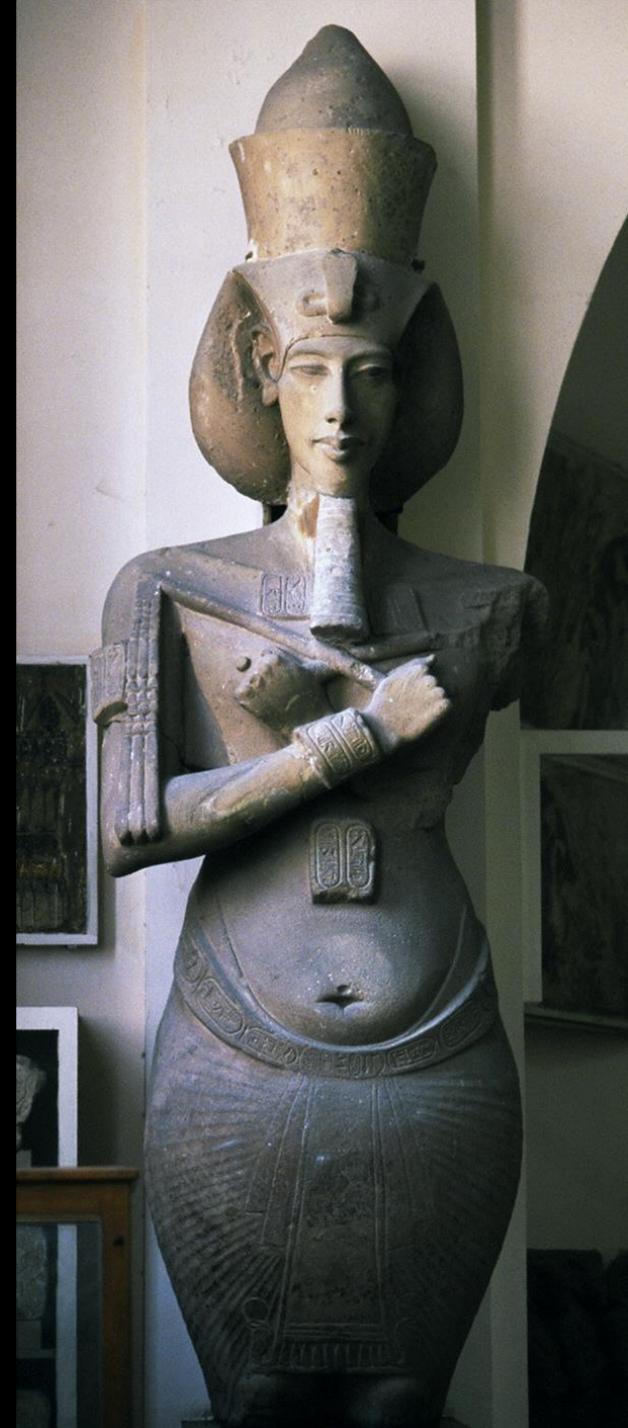
ca. 1,400-1,350 B.C.E.

fresco secco

32 in. high

Journal #6

How is this piece different from what we've seen so far in Egyptian Art?



Akhenaton

from the temple of Amen

ca. 1,353-1,335 B.C.E.

sandstone

approximately 13 ft. high

Akhenaton

- Takes power in the 14th C. BCE
- Established monotheism – worship of Aton (represented in art as a sun disc emitting rays)
 - Emptied the temples of other gods
 - Moved the capital down the river from Thebes to a site he named Akhetaton

Impact of new religious philosophy

- Temporary relaxation of preoccupation with death and the afterlife
- Greater concern with life on this earth
- Changes human representation in art
 - New sense of life and movement
 - Swelling, curved forms
 - Naturalistic tendencies seen previously in animals were extended to even royal figures



Akhenaton

from the temple of Amen-Re, Karnak, Egypt

ca. 1,353-1,335 B.C.E.

sandstone

approximately 13 ft. high

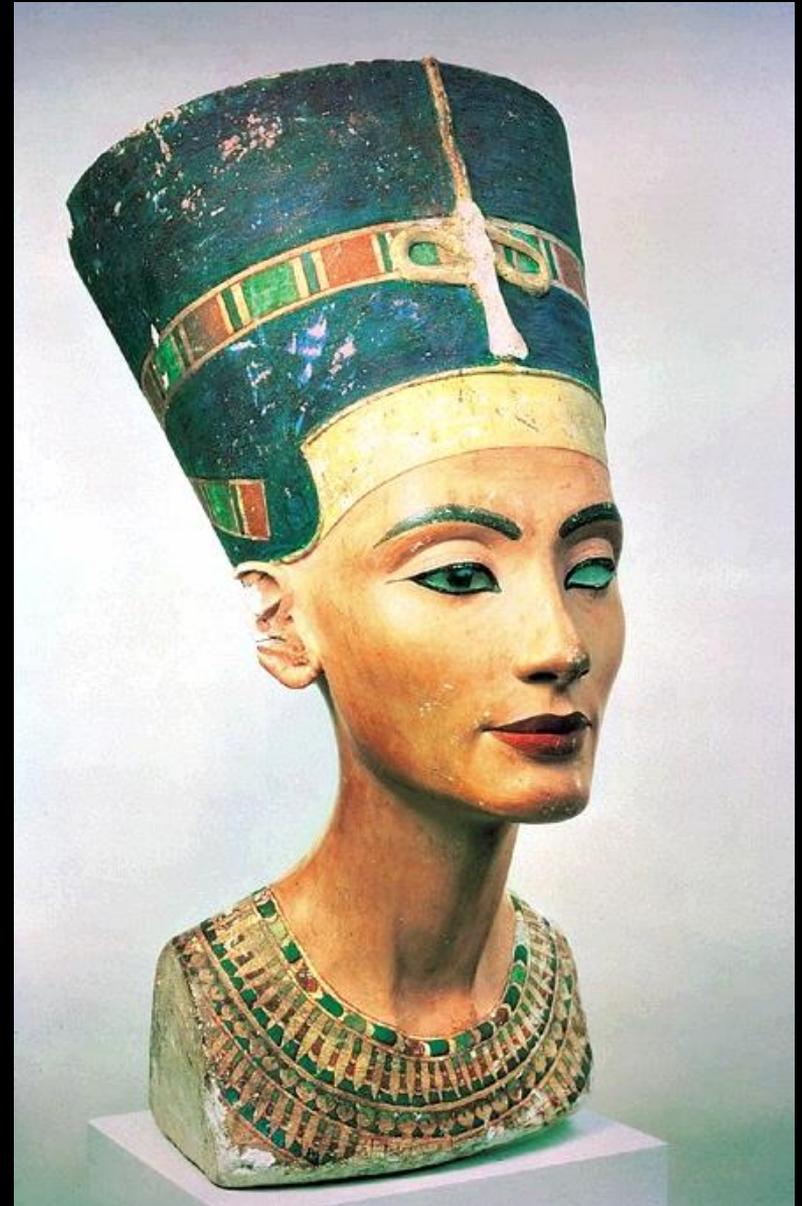


Akhenaton sacrificing a duck

ca. 1,353-1,335 B.C.E.

limestone

9 5/8 in. high



Thutmose

Nefertiti

from Tell el-Amarna, Egypt

ca. 1,353-1,335 B.C.E.

painted limestone

20 in. high

Nefertiti

- Her name means “the beautiful one has come”
- In art with her husband, she is often portrayed as the same size
- Take notes on Khan Academy video

Tutankhamen

- Son of Akhenaton by another wife
- Died at 18 – ruled for a decade
- Minor figure in Egypt's history – famous for his rich art and artifacts found in his tomb
- 3 coffins
- Most luxurious shows Tutankhamen in the form of Osiris (God of death)

Death Mask of Tutankhamen

from Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,323 B.C.E.

gold with semiprecious stones

21 1/4 in. high



What King Tut may have looked like



Materials

- Innermost coffin
 - Made with about a quarter ton of beaten gold
 - Semiprecious stones
- Portrait mask
 - Made of gold and semi-precious stone



Innermost coffin of Tutankhamen

from Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,323 B.C.E.

gold with semiprecious stones

73 in. high





**Painted chest
of Tutankhamen**

from Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,333-1,323 B.C.E.

painted wood

20 in. long



Wedjat Eye of Tutankhamen

from Thebes, Egypt

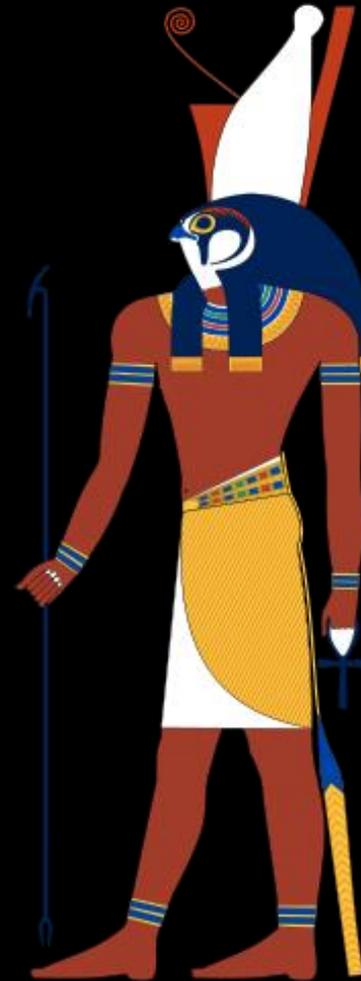
ca. 1,333-1,323 B.C.E.

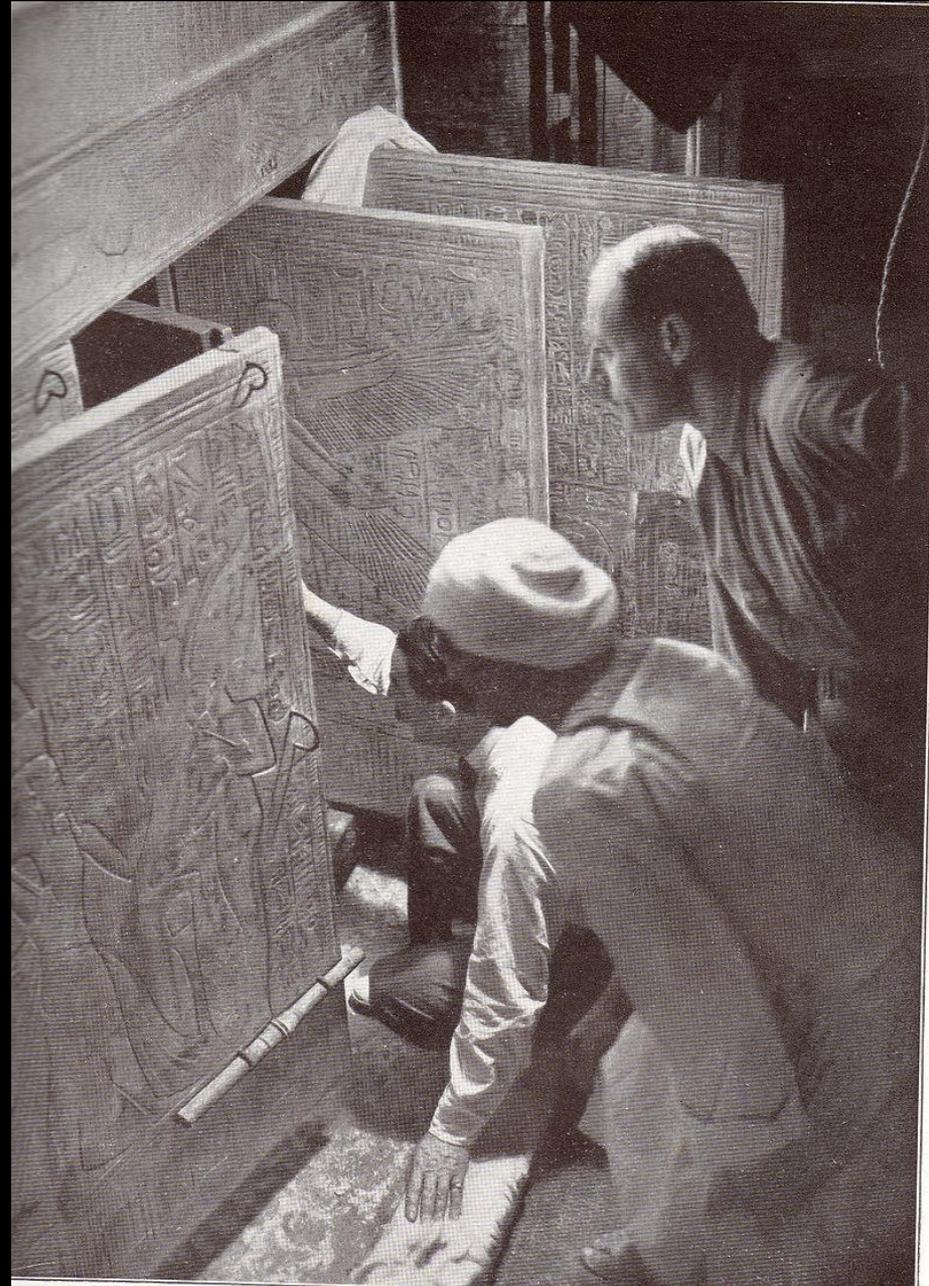
gold and precious stones

2 in. wide

Eye of Horus

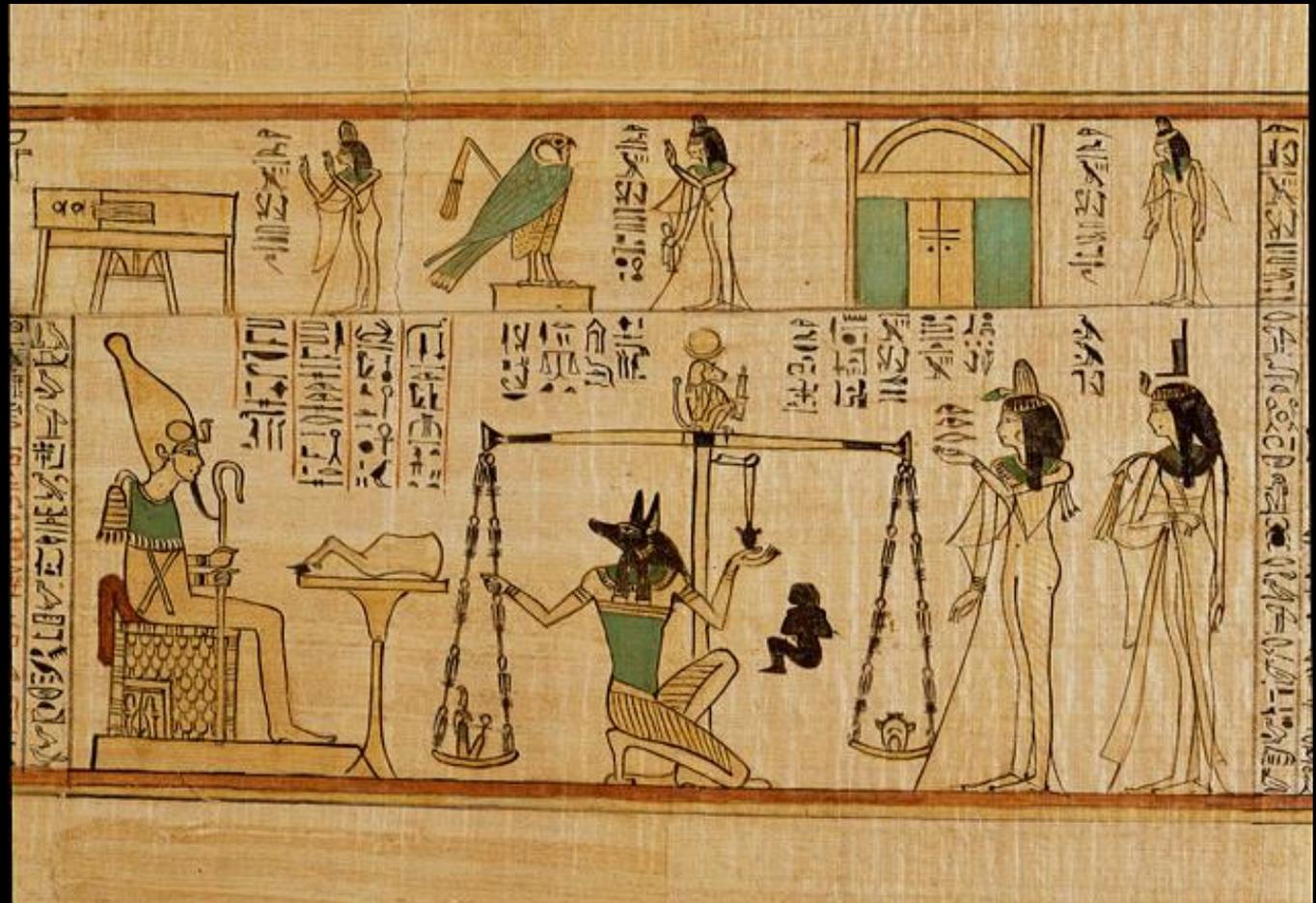
- Horus usually depicted as a falcon
- Sky – right eye, sun and moon left eye,
- Eye is the symbol of protection, power, and wealth
- Eye would protect the king in the afterlife





Rosetta Stone

- Note the different languages
- Who found it?



Book of the Dead

from Thebes, Egypt

ca. 1,040-945 B.C.E.

painted and inscribed papyrus

13 3/4 in. high

Decline of Ancient Egypt

- During the last millennium BCE, Egypt lost commanding role of the region
- Empire dwindled away
- Foreign powers invaded until Alexander the Great of Macedon, his Greek successors, and the Roman Empire took over