

# Egypt's Golden Empire

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## You Be the Architect

**Part 1 Directions:** Read each question below carefully and use the [Egypt's Golden Empire Web site](#) [insert pbs link] along with the additional sites listed here to help you find the answers to each question.

[Note to web editor: these are the same as those in Related Resources above – FYI]

- NOVA: [Secrets of the Lost Empires](#) [insert pbs link] offers a detailed look at how the great obelisks were erected by the ancient Egyptians.
- NOVA: [Mysteries of the Nile](#) [insert pbs link] provides photographs and narrative about the temples, pyramids and other architectural wonders of Egypt.
- NOVA: [Pyramids](#) [insert pbs link] offers a first hand look at the Great Pyramid and the role pyramids played in ancient Egyptian culture.
- The [Pyramids: Houses of Eternity](#) [<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/pyramids/story/main.html>] pages on the [British Museum's Ancient Egypt site](#) [<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html>], offer a description and diagrams of how pyramids were built. The same site also offers a similar look at [temples](#) [<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/temples/home.html>]. Be sure to select the Story, Explore, and Challenge links to get the most information from these pages.

## Pyramids

1. Why did the ancient Egyptians build pyramids?
2. What were each of the following elements in the pyramid used for?
  - underground room/chamber
  - passageways
  - Queen's Chamber
  - northward pointing air shafts
  - Grand Gallery

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- King's Chamber
3. What materials were the pyramids built from?
  4. How were the great stone blocks moved into place to create the pyramid?
  5. How long did it take to build an average pyramid?
  6. What was the special stone at the top of the pyramid made of?
  7. How was the smooth outer covering of the pyramid created?

## **Temples**

1. Why did the ancient Egyptians build temples?
2. Describe each of the following elements in the temple, their significance, and what they were used for?
  - pylon
  - courtyard
  - hypostyle hall
  - second hall
  - sanctuary
  - sacred lake

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3. Who was allowed in each area of the temple, and what would that person(s) do there?

- courtyard
- hypostyle hall
- second hall
- sanctuary
- sacred lake

4. What is a stele?

5. What was the significance of the scarab?

6. Why were the columns in the temple carved to represent papyrus?

7. What types of statues would typically be placed in and around the various parts of the temple?

8. What were the responsibilities of the temple priests?

9. What types of carvings and artwork generally appeared on the temple walls?

10. What was the purpose of the shrine in the sanctuary?

## **Obelisks**

1. Why did the ancient Egyptians build obelisks?

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2. What materials were obelisks made from?
3. How were the obelisks cut/made?
4. What tools were used for carving obelisks?
5. Why was sand thought to be an important part of the cutting and carving process?
6. How much did the large monumental obelisks weigh?
7. What was the shape of the obelisk?
8. What appears at the top of every obelisk?
9. What types of carvings are typically found on obelisks, and what is their significance?
10. How were the obelisks raised to a standing position?

## **Part 2 Directions:**

- Now that you have learned some basic information about pyramids, temples, and obelisks, work with your group to create a design for a temple, an obelisk, or a pyramid.
- Using a poster board, draw a color diagram of your structure and clearly label all of the significant parts.
- From your design, construct a model of the structure. You may use the building materials of your choice. The model should be no larger than 2' x 3' in size, and it must be secure, sturdy, and movable from place to place.
- Your model should be high quality, with attention to detail. It should reflect what you have learned in your research.

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- Compose a written explanation of your structure design so that you can explain your diagram and model to your classmates. You should use the research questions for the type of structure you chose to build as a guide for writing your explanation. Be sure to address each research question in your composition. (For instance, if you constructed a temple, then you would include information such as: in our sanctuary, we have a statue of the god \_\_\_\_ because...)
- When you have completed all parts of the project, practice presenting your diagram and model the way you would for the class. Be prepared to answer questions about your project diagram and model.