

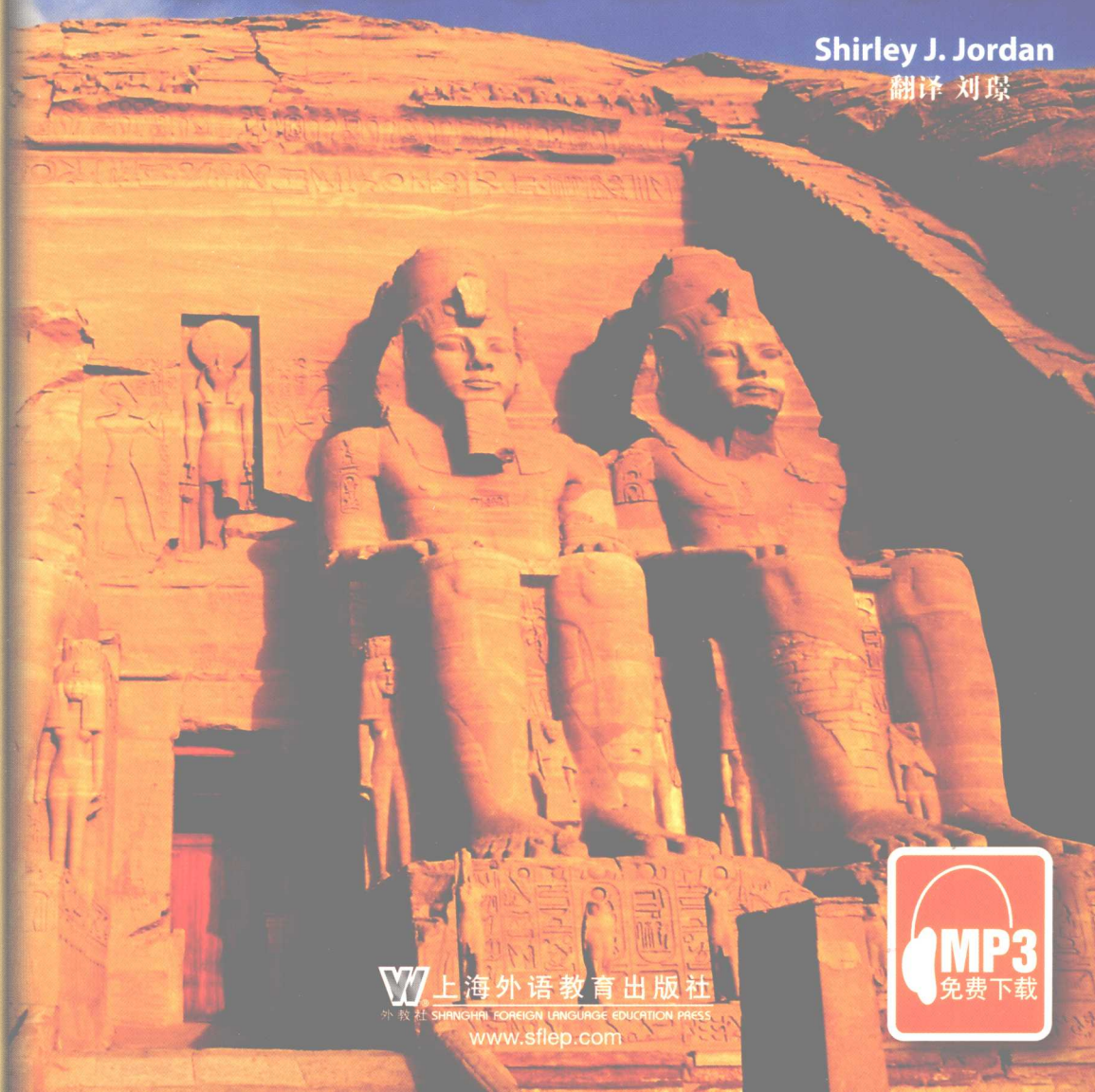
英·汉·对·照

外教社中学生世界历史与文化读本 之 二
World Cultures Through Time

埃及 EGYPT

Shirley J. Jordan

翻译 刘璟



上海外语教育出版社

外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

www.sflep.com



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

埃及(英汉对照)/刘璟译.

—上海:上海外语教育出版社,2009

(外教社中学生世界历史与文化读本)

ISBN 978-7-5446-1296-8

I. 埃… II. 刘… III. 英语—阅读教学—中学—课外读物

IV. G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2009)第006409号

Published by arrangement with Teacher Created Materials, Inc.

Licensed for distribution and sale in China only.

本书由TCM出版社授权上海外语教育出版社出版。

仅供在中华人民共和国境内销售。

图字:09-2008-444

出版发行:上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编:200083

电 话:021-65425300(总机)

电子邮箱:bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑:施茵

印 刷:上海景条印刷有限公司

经 销:新华书店上海发行所

开 本:787×965 1/16 印张4 字数85千字

版 次:2009年7月第1版 2009年7月第1次印刷

印 数:5000册

书 号:ISBN 978-7-5446-1296-8 / K·0041

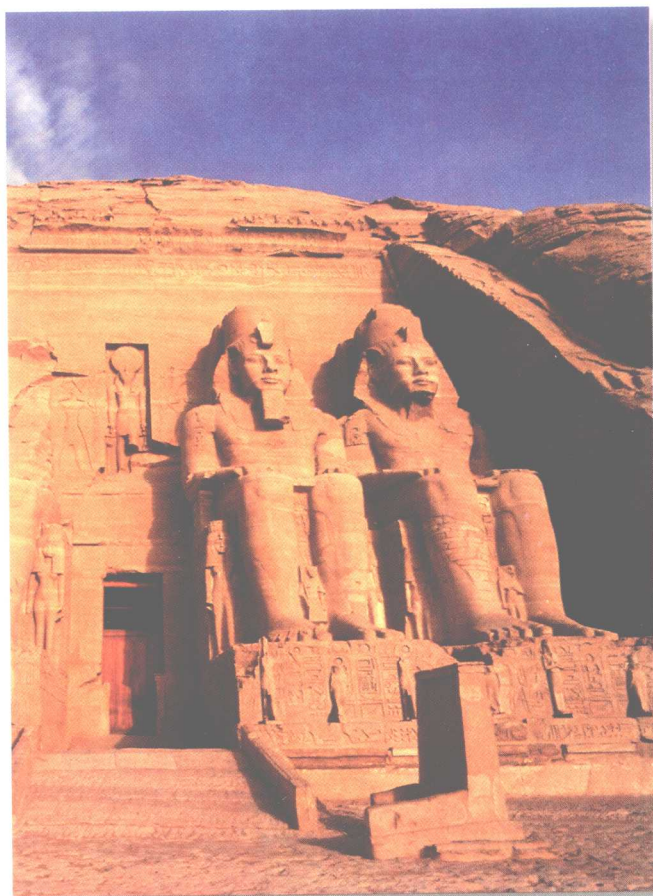
定 价:18.00元

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Egypt

Shirley J. Jordan, M.S.

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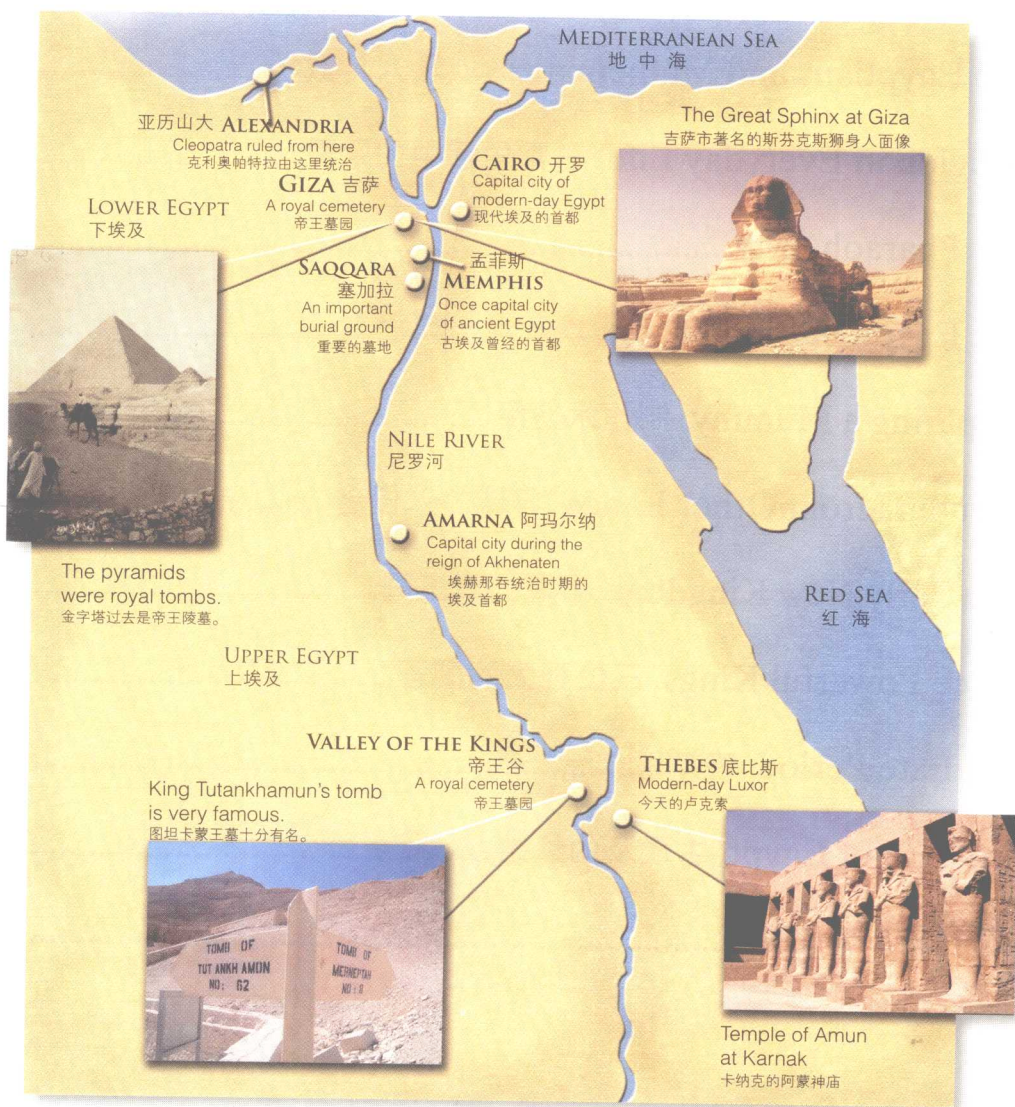
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Ancient Egypt 古埃及

A country must learn from the past to grow and prosper. For centuries, people have looked back at the history of Egypt and learned important lessons for today. They explore the land in northern Africa where Egypt began. They find evidence of an advanced civilization.

国家要发展，要兴旺，就要向历史学习。几个世纪以来，人们不断回顾埃及历史，为今天总结重要的经验教训。人们探索埃及的发源地——非洲北部地区，并找到了证据，证明这里曾经存在先进的文明。

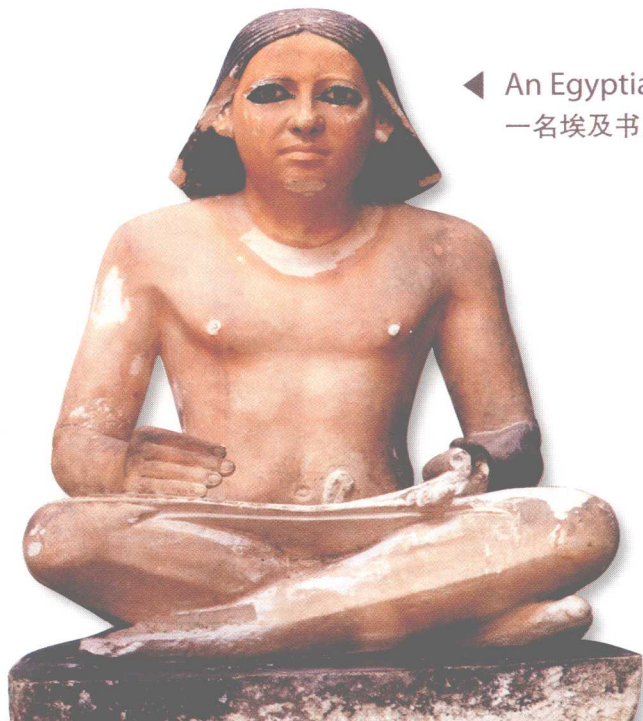


The Nile is the longest river in the world. The early Egyptians were the first people to live along its banks. At first, they were food gatherers who did not stay in one place. Then, they saw how important the river was to their way of life. So, they began to settle down.

During their 5,000 years of history, they learned to use the land wisely. They perfected their arts and crafts and had a gift for building. Those who came after them learned from the talent and wisdom of the ancient Egyptians.

尼罗河是世界上最长的一条河流。早期的埃及人是最早在尼罗河两岸居住的人。起初，他们靠采集食物为生，并不固定居住在一个地方。后来，他们认识到尼罗河与他们的生活息息相关，这才开始定居下来。

在埃及5000年的历史中，埃及人学会了合理地使用土地，其艺术创作和手工艺制作日臻完善，他们还具有建筑天赋。后人从古埃及人的天分和智慧中不断汲取养分。



◀ An Egyptian scribe
一名埃及书吏

Keeping Records

作记录

Egypt had a written language, and some people could read and write. Those people were called scribes. They kept records in pictures and codes. The pictures and codes were discovered in modern times.

They are called hieroglyphics.

埃及有语言文字，一些埃及人能读也能写。这些人被称作“书吏”。他们用图画和标记作记录。这些图画和标记被现代人发现，并被称为“象形文字”。



The Early Period 早期

Around 5,000 B.C., nomads began to make their homes along the Nile River in northern Africa. Nomads were normally wandering people. But, people felt safer if there were other people living near them. Their villages grew into small kingdoms. Several kingdoms ruled different parts of the river.

Each year, beginning in June, the Nile River flooded. The flooding lasted about four months. It spread wet, new soil all along the river. In most places, this wet soil stretched for about six miles (about 10 km) on either side of the river.

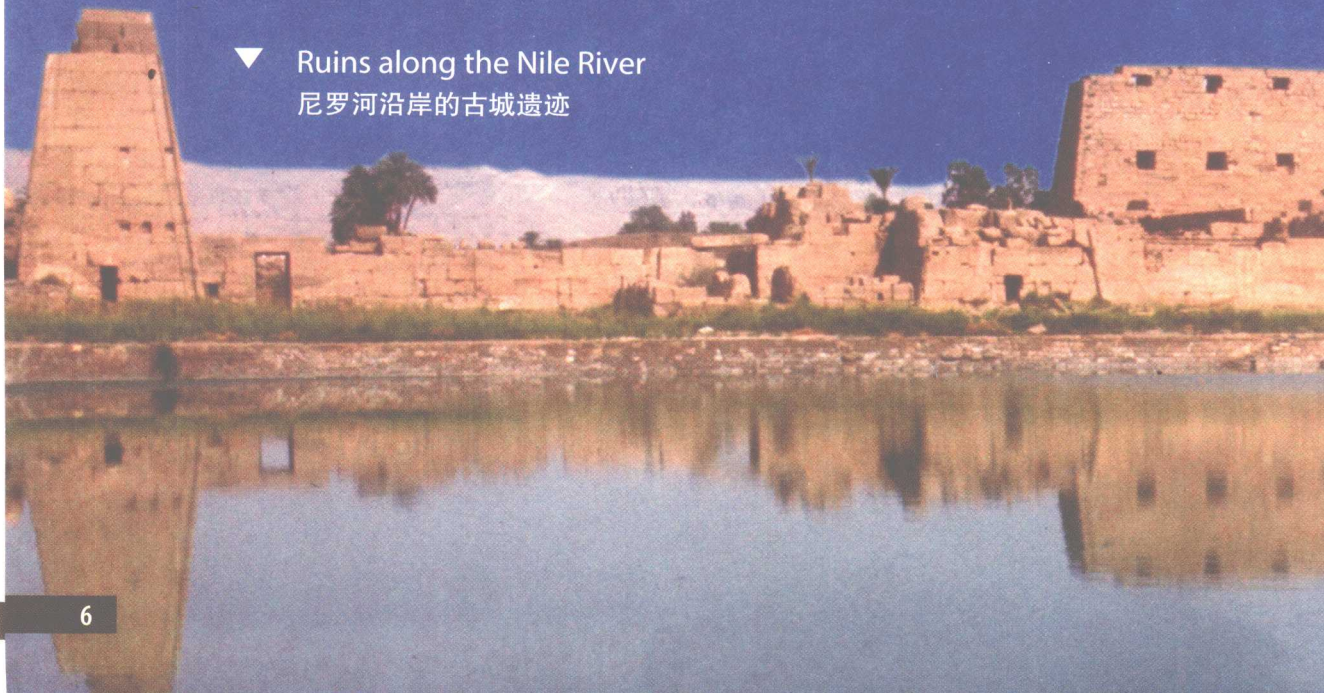
Grasses and reeds sprang up in the wet soil. Ducks and geese came to feed on the grasses. They built nests and laid eggs. Fish swam in the shallow water at the edge of the Nile. The settlers found plenty of food and good fortune in the Nile River Valley.

大约在公元前5 000年，游牧民族开始在非洲北部尼罗河两岸安家落户。游牧民族通常四处漂泊，但是，如果附近有其他人居住，人们会感到更安全，因此，这些游牧民族聚集的村庄渐渐扩大为规模较小的王国。几个王国分别统治着尼罗河不同的流域。

每年从6月开始，尼罗河会定期泛滥。泛滥期会持续大约4个月之久。河水将湿润的新土堆积在河的两岸。在大多数地方，这种湿土会在尼罗河两岸铺开达6英里(约10公里)之远。

草和芦苇在这片湿土上茂盛地生长。鸭和鹅来到这里以草为食。它们筑窝，然后下蛋。鱼儿在尼罗河岸边的浅水中游来游去。定居下来的人们在尼罗河谷找到了充足的食物，碰上了好运。

▼ Ruins along the Nile River
尼罗河沿岸的古城遗迹



The lands near where the Nile River started were called Upper Egypt. The lands where the river emptied into the Mediterranean Sea were called Lower Egypt.

靠近尼罗河源头的周边地区被称作上埃及。尼罗河注入地中海的附近区域被称作下埃及。



Upside-Down Map

颠倒的地图

It may seem strange to us today, but Lower Egypt was to the north. This was nearer to the Mediterranean Sea. Upper Egypt was to the south because it was at the source of the Nile River. 也许在我们现代人看来会感到奇怪，下埃及位于北部，距离地中海更近。上埃及位于南部，因为它处于尼罗河的源头。

A Kingdom United

统一的王国

In about 3100 B.C., there was a king of Upper Egypt named Menes. His kingdom was in the south, where the river valley was very narrow. Menes knew there was more good land to the north. He wanted to join the two Egypts into one. He sent his army against the people of Lower Egypt. He united the two Egypts and become the first pharaoh. 在公元前大约3100年，上埃及有一位国王，名叫美尼斯。他的王国位于南边，那里的河谷十分狭窄。美尼斯了解到北方有更多肥沃的土地，他想将上下埃及统一成一个国家。他派遣军队去攻打下埃及。他统一了上下埃及并成为第一任法老。

◀ This carving shows the double crown of Egypt. It was worn by the pharaohs. 这件雕刻作品展示了埃及法老佩戴的双王冠。

The Old Kingdom and the Pyramids

旧王国与金字塔

Menes was followed by other pharaohs who were good leaders. Egypt was strong. The people lived well and peacefully.

After living for many years in reed huts, some settlers began to replace them with brick buildings. The brick was made from blocks of mixed mud and reeds. Brick houses were stronger and more comfortable. Soon after, the Egyptians began to build tombs called mastabas. This is where they buried important leaders. Mastabas were big tombs with flat tops. Inside were burial chambers and storage rooms filled with goods.

After a time, a very smart man was born. His name was Imhotep. He was probably the first person to find a way to build with stone. Around 2630 B.C., Imhotep created plans for the first pyramid to be built in Egypt. It was called a step pyramid. It was built to be the tomb of King Djoser. The people went there to worship the spirit of the dead king.

This is a step pyramid. ►

这是一座梯形金字塔。

美尼斯之后的法老继任者都是优秀的统治者。埃及国力强盛，人民生活富足安逸。

在芦苇棚里生活了许多年之后，一些定居者开始用砖代替芦苇造房。砖是由泥浆和芦苇混合制成的块状物。砖房更结实，也更舒适。此后不久，埃及人开始建造陵墓，即“马斯塔巴”——古埃及墓室。埃及人在这里安葬重要的统治者。“马斯塔巴”建筑宏伟，顶部平坦，里面是一间间的墓穴和堆满了各种货物的储藏室。

过了一段时间，一位智者诞生了。他的名字叫伊姆贺特普。他很可能是第一个发现如何用石头建造房屋的人。在公元前大约2630年，伊姆贺特普为埃及将要建造的第一座金字塔制定了计划。它被称为梯形金字塔，修建后作为左塞王的坟墓。人们去那里朝拜这位死去国王的灵魂。

An Unfortunate Theft

不幸的偷盗事件

The mummy of King Djoser was buried under the pyramid Imhotep designed for him. There were six layers of rock over the body. Somehow, robbers broke into the pyramid. It was later found empty. 左塞王的木乃伊被安葬于伊姆贺特普为他设计的金字塔下。在他的尸身上方，是6层由石块堆砌而成的金字塔。然而，偷盗者还是设法闯入了金字塔。后来人们发现时，墓室已空空如也。

The Great Sphinx

斯芬克司狮身人面巨像

The Great Sphinx was built near the Pyramids at Giza. The Egyptians worshiped it as a sun god. The huge figure is almost as long as a football field. Its tallest parts are like a six-story building. The whole Sphinx is carved from one piece of limestone. Visitors to Egypt today never forget the Great Sphinx and the Pyramids at Giza. 斯芬克司狮身人面巨像建造在吉萨金字塔的附近。埃及人奉它为太阳神。这座巨大的雕像几乎有一个足球场那么长。它的最高部分有6层楼那么高。整个斯芬克司像由一整块石灰岩雕刻而成。斯芬克司狮身人面巨像和吉萨金字塔是今天来埃及的游客所必往之处。



The Egyptians and Mathematics

埃及人与数学

The Egyptians developed a system of numbers. They had a symbol for one and ten. They did not use the numbers two through nine. The number 25 was written in symbols as $10 + 10 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$.

These ancient people could multiply and divide whole numbers. They also knew how to work with fractions. They invented a system of fractions including $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{10}$. Later, they learned to use more difficult fractions, like $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{7}{10}$.

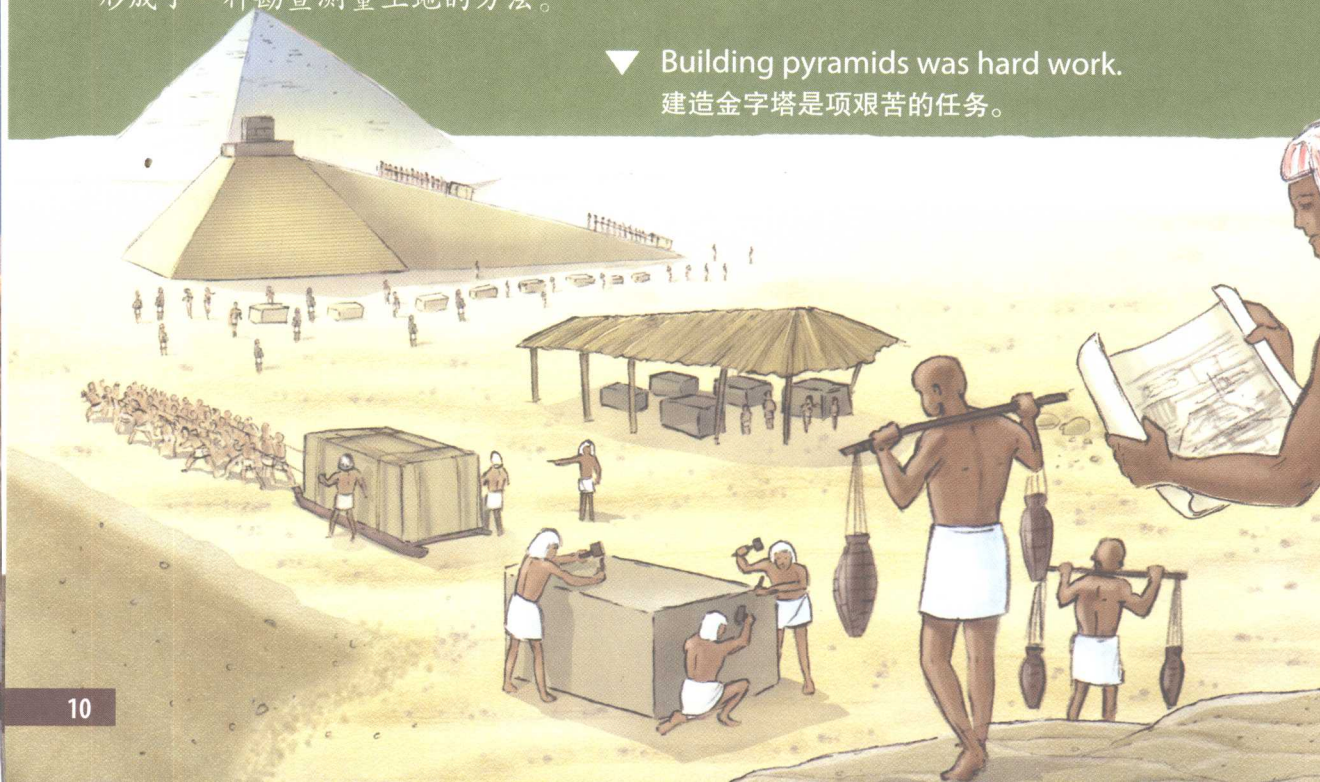
When the Nile River flooded each year, it washed away land boundaries. To solve this problem, the Egyptians developed a way of measuring their land by surveying it.

埃及人建立了一套数字系统。他们有表示1和10的符号，但没有使用数字2至数字9。数字25可以用符号写成 $10 + 10 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$ 。

这些古埃及人能够对整数进行乘除运算，他们还知道如何使用分数。他们发明了一套分数系统，包括 $\frac{1}{2}$ ， $\frac{1}{4}$ 和 $\frac{1}{10}$ 。后来，他们学会了使用更复杂的分数，譬如 $\frac{3}{4}$ 和 $\frac{7}{10}$ 。

每年尼罗河泛滥的时候，河水就会把地界冲走。为了解决这个问题，埃及人逐渐形成了一种勘查测量土地的方法。

▼ Building pyramids was hard work.
建造金字塔是项艰苦的任务。

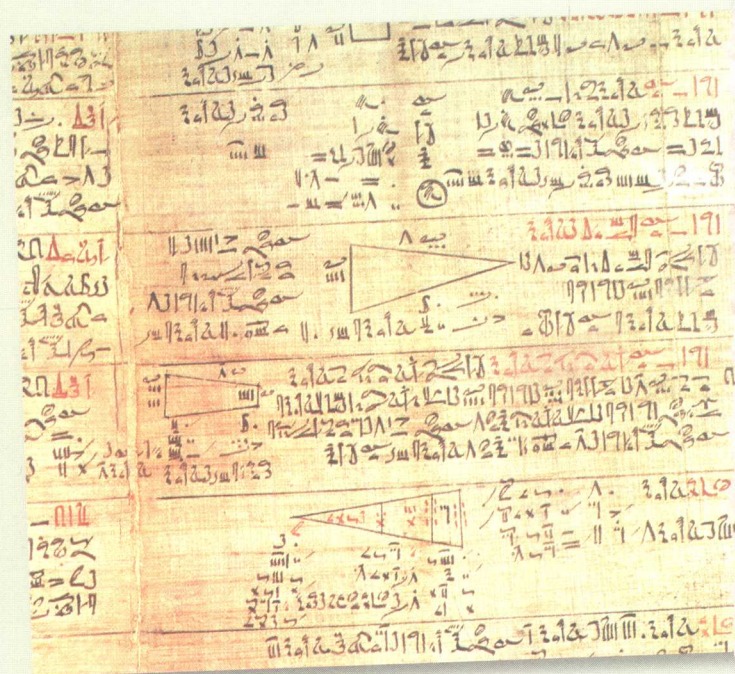


Measuring accurately was also important for building monuments. To build a pyramid, huge blocks of rock had to be cut very carefully so they would fit together exactly.

During the 500-year period called the Old Kingdom, the Egyptians were very busy. They finished more than 20 important pyramids. To do this properly, they had to know about weight and volume. Written records show they also knew algebra and geometry.

精确的测量对建造墓室墓碑也很重要。为了建造金字塔，巨大的石块必须精心切割，这样它们才能紧密地嵌合在一起。

在被称作“旧王国”的500年时间里，埃及人十分忙碌，他们完成了20多座重要金字塔的建造。为了圆满完成这些工程，他们必须具备关于重量和体积的知识。文字记录显示他们还具备代数学和几何学方面的知识。



▲ This document shows mathematical work by the Egyptians.

这份文件展示了埃及人所作的数学运算。

No Zero 没有“零”

Although the Egyptians had many symbols to help them work with numbers, they had no zero. We can only imagine today how hard it was to multiply and divide without that important placeholder. 尽管埃及人有很多符号来帮助他们进行数字运算，但是他们没有表示“零”的符号。我们今天只能设想一下，没有这个重要的占位符，他们当时的乘除运算该是多么困难。

Measuring Time

测算时间

There were Egyptian astronomers. They studied the planets and stars, even though they did not have telescopes. As the skies changed with the seasons, these men developed a calendar for the year. Just like ours, it was based on 365 days. 埃及过去有天文学家。他们尽管没有望远镜，但仍对行星和恒星做了研究。根据天空随季节的变化，这些学者创造了年历。正如我们今天的年历一样，这种年历也是以一年365天为基础的。

Surveying the Land

勘测土地

To measure land, the Egyptians tied knots in string. With the knots equally spaced apart and the string stretched out, the surveyors counted the knots and wrote down the measurements. 为测量土地，埃及人在绳子上系结。结与结之间距离均匀，当绳子被拉直时，测量人员会计算总的结数并记录测量结果。

Religion in Everyday Life

日常生活中的宗教

The Egyptians had many gods. Some of them frightened people into being careful about how they acted. It was the priests who taught people about the gods. Ordinary people were not allowed inside Egyptian temples.

The moon god, Thoth, was believed to rule over all learning. Egyptians respected him for his control over numbers, weights, and measures. They also thought he could heal, and that he guided the work of doctors.

Re was the sun god. He was worshipped as the “father of fathers” and the “mother of mothers.” The Egyptians believed that each pharaoh was a child of Re.

Amun was the name of the Egyptians’ most important god. He was also called Amun-Re. That means “Amun of the Sun.” His main place of worship was at Thebes in Upper Egypt.

埃及人信奉很多神。其中一些神威吓人们当心他们的行为。祭司专职教导人们关于神的知识。普通人不被允许进入埃及的神庙。

月亮神透特被认为是掌管所有学识的神。埃及人尊敬他，因为他监管数字和度量衡。人们还认为他能够驱病降魔，并指导医师行医。

拉是太阳神。他被当做“父亲之父”和“母亲之母”来崇拜。埃及人相信每一位法老都是太阳神拉的孩子。

阿蒙是埃及最重要的神的名字。他也被称做“阿蒙拉”，意思是“太阳神阿蒙拉”。他最主要的朝拜地是在上埃及的底比斯。

◀ Obelisks like this one tell the stories of the pharaohs’ lives.

如图所示的方尖石塔记录了法老生活中的故事。



◀ This is a carving of Amun and Thoth.
这是一件关于阿蒙和透特的雕刻。

Thoth 透特

Many paintings and carvings of Thoth have been found. He is portrayed as a bird. The Egyptians had libraries like we do today. They believed that Thoth took care of them. 人们发现了众多有关透特的绘画及雕刻。他被描绘成一只鸟。埃及人像我们今天一样也拥有图书馆。他们相信透特照看着这些图书馆。

Paintings of Amun

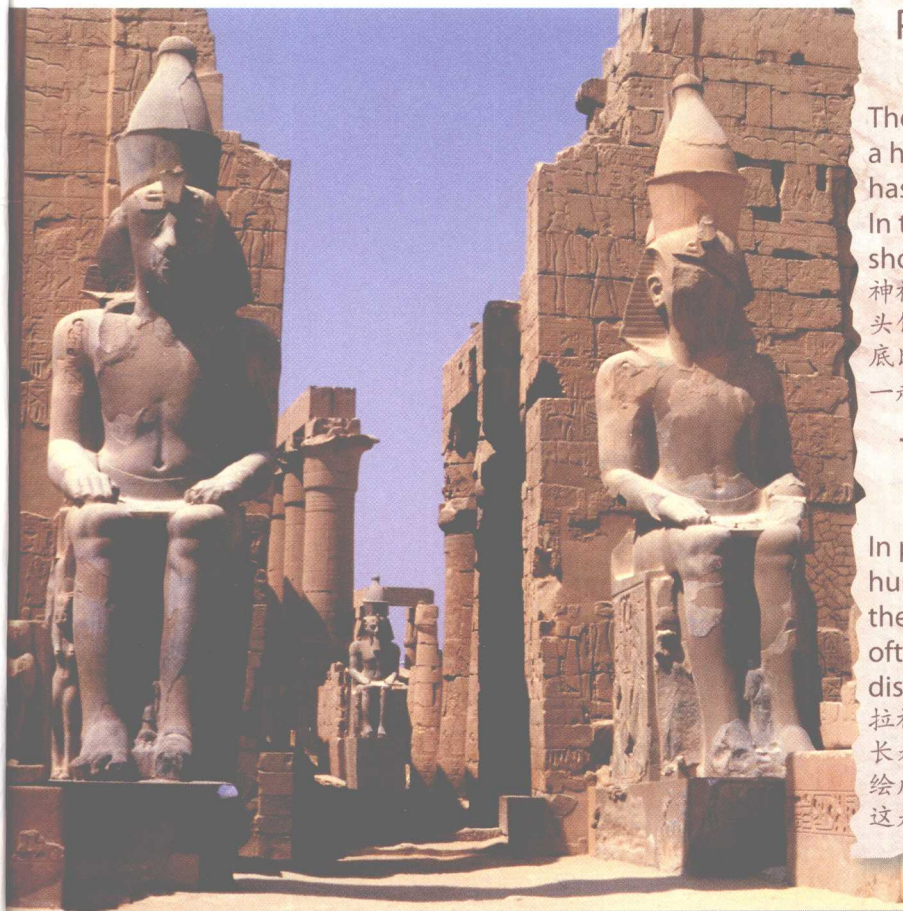
有关阿蒙的绘画

The god Amun is painted with a human form. His headdress has two large feathers on top. In temples at Thebes, he is shown with his wife Mut. 阿蒙神被描绘成具有人的外形。他的头饰顶端有两片巨大的羽毛。在底比斯的庙宇中，他与妻子玛特一起出现在绘画中。

The God Re Today

今天的拉神

In paintings, Re is shown in human form. Usually, he has the head of a falcon. He is often shown carrying a sun disk as his symbol. 在绘画中，拉神也具有人的外形。通常，他长着猎鹰的脑袋。拉神常常被描绘成带着一轮金色的太阳圆盘，这是他的象征。



◀ This temple was in Thebes. Today, Thebes is called Luxor.

这座庙宇位于底比斯。今天，底比斯被称作卢克索。

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