

Name: _____

The Great Pyramid

If you were to visit Egypt today, you could see many amazing things. One of the most famous Egyptian objects is the pyramid. There are nearly eighty pyramids in Egypt. The Great Pyramid of Pharaoh Khufu is the largest. Originally built as a tomb, it was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The pyramid of Khafre, Khufu's son, is the second-largest of the pyramids. Khafre (also known as Chefren), ruled from around 2558 to 2532 B.C. I guess Khafre didn't want to be second-best. Khafre had his pyramid (pictured above) built on a small hill to make it look larger. All of the pyramids are massive and are impressive to look at. They are even more impressive when you realize when and how they were built. The Great Pyramid is the oldest and largest. It was built by hand more than 4,500 years ago. The pyramid was 480 feet tall. Its base is a giant square. Each side is longer than two football fields. It is made up of more than two million stones. Each one weighs 4,000 pounds. That is more than most cars weigh! The ancient Egyptians did not have any power tools. So how did they build these huge structures? No one knows exactly. Experts think that the workers may have used ramps and rolling logs to help them lug the giant blocks. They may have also used copper chisels and wooden hammers to shape the stones. Simple rods and strings may have been used to make sure that each block was straight. For twenty years, men worked year-round to build the Great Pyramid. It is estimated that 4,000 people worked on the pyramid. They did a great job! Now, 4,500 years later, their hard work can still be seen and admired.



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Questions

1. What is an opinion found in the story?

_____ 2. The author probably wrote this article to _____.

- A. persuade you to visit the Great Pyramid
- B. inform you about some ancient Egyptian pyramids
- C. describe the best places to stay in Egypt
- D. demonstrate how to build a pyramid

_____ 3. Which of the following is true about the Great Pyramid?

- A. It was built by hand.
- B. It was built for a queen.
- C. It took 4,500 years to build.
- D. It weighs 5,000 pounds.

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_____ 4. Choose the best title.

- A. Egypt is Hot!
- B. The Life of Pharaoh Khufu
- C. The Puny Pyramids
- D. What a Wonder: The Pyramids of Egypt

