

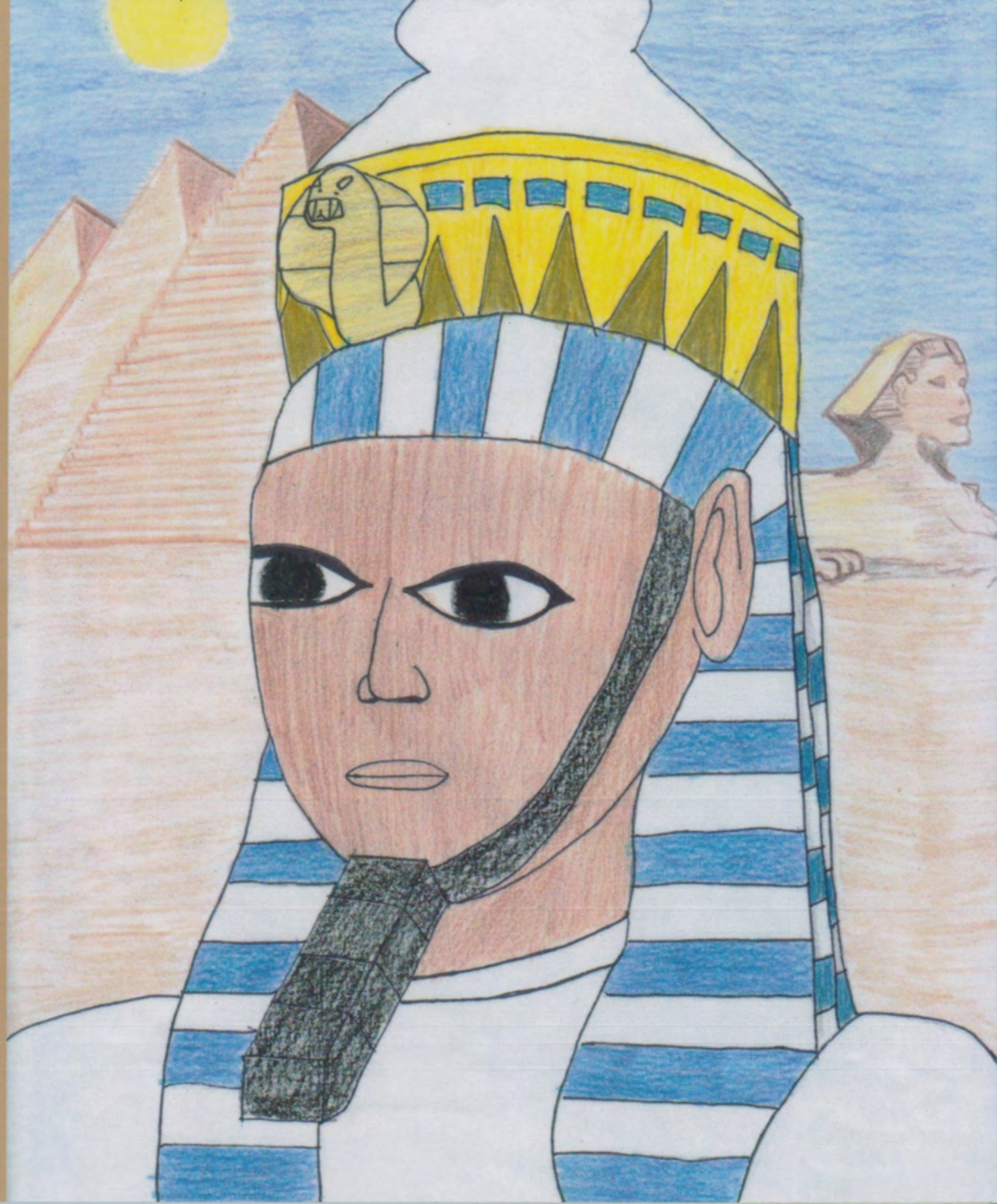
E

is for

Egypt

An Alphabetical
Adventure through
Ancient Egypt

By the 6th Grade Students
of the Daniels/Krueger Team
High Tech Middle
2009-2010



E is for Egypt

Prologue

by Melissa Daniels, Editor

Welcome! We hope that you will enjoy this alphabetical adventure through ancient Egypt. In these pages, young Egyptologists will unlock the mysteries of hieroglyphics, uncover ancient burial tombs, and reveal the secrets of the pharaohs.

This book is the product of three months of hard work, multiple drafts, rigorous research, and pain-staking artwork. I couldn't be prouder of these 6th graders, and I feel certain that you too will be impressed with their beautiful work.

Melissa Daniels
February 19, 2010



Table of Contents

Akenaten	4	Mastaba	30
Anubis, Amun, Aten, and Atum	5	Math	31
Artifacts	6	Mummification	32
Beetle	7	Nefertiti	33
Burial chamber	8	Nile River	34
Canopic jars	9	Obelisk	35
Curse	10	Osiris	36
Death mask	11	Papyrus	37
Deity	12	Pharaoh	38
Dynasty	13	Pyramids	39
Egypt	14	Queens	40
El Amarna	15	Ra	41
Feather of truth	16	Ramses the Great	42
Flood or famine	17	Religion	43
Giza	18	Sarcophagus	44
Goddesses	19	Snefru	45
Hatshepsut	20	Sphinx	46
Hieroglyphics	21	Tomb	47
Howard Carter	22	Ushabti	48
Immortality	23	Valley of the Kings	49
Inundation	24	Wedjat-eye	50
Jewelry	25	Writing	51
Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure	26	X-ray	52
King Tut	27	You can be an Egyptologist!	53
Lord Carnarvon	28	Zahi Hawass	54
Luxor	29	Zoser	55

A is for Akhenaten

by Abigail [redacted]

*Changed his name to honor Aten,
Other gods were soon forgotten.
His beliefs made Egypt mad,
Maybe the worst pharaoh Egypt had.*

Akhenaten was probably the most infamous pharaoh ever. He ruled for 17 years, from 1350 B.C. to 1332 B.C. Called "The Heretic Pharaoh," he changed Egypt's beliefs greatly. In fact, he was monotheistic and believed in only Aten, even when the rest of Egypt was polytheistic. Monotheism is believing in only one god, while polytheism is the belief in more than one. His birth name was Amenhotep IV, but he changed it to honor Aten. Akhenaten means "Glory of the Solar Disk Aten." Nobody knows where Akhenaten's mummy is.

Akhenaten became king when he was only twelve. Egypt was polytheistic before he became king, but once he was on the throne, everything changed. He changed the capital to Amarna. He completely defaced any monument that mentioned another god's (besides Aten's) name. And then there was the big change—he changed Egypt's religion to monotheism! He made people believe in Aten only, and that made Egyptians mad.

Akhenaten was married to Nefertiti. They had six daughters. Akhenaten was also known to be married to Kiya, a lesser royal wife. He is believed to be King Tut's father, but if he was, King Tut was probably Kiya's son, not Nefertiti's.



A is for Amun, Anubis, Aten, and Atum

by Jonathan [REDACTED]

Some of the most important ancient Egyptian gods all had names that start with the letter "A". These gods are Amun, Anubis, Aten, and Atum. Ancient Egypt was polytheistic, meaning they believed in many gods. Each of these gods was important in their own way.

Amun was the mighty king of the gods. He was depicted as a man sitting on a throne, wearing a headdress with two tall plumes. His name means "the hidden one."

Anubis was the god of the dead and mummification. He was also the supervisor of embalming, which was the process of mummifying a body. He was depicted as a man with a jackal head. Priests wore the jackal mask of Anubis during the embalming process.

Aten was the physical Sun. He was depicted as a sun disk with rays that end in hands. Aten was believed to be an all powerful god during the reign of Akhenaten, a pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt. During that time Egypt became temporarily monotheistic, meaning they believed in only one god.

Atum was the creator and father of the gods. He rose out of the waters of chaos, Nun, and climbed up on an island. Then he spat, and Shu and Tefnut formed from his spittle. They then gave birth to Geb and Nut, who gave birth to Osiris, Isis, Set, and Nephthys. Osiris and Isis gave birth to Horus, and Set and Nephthys gave birth to Anubis.



A is for Artifacts

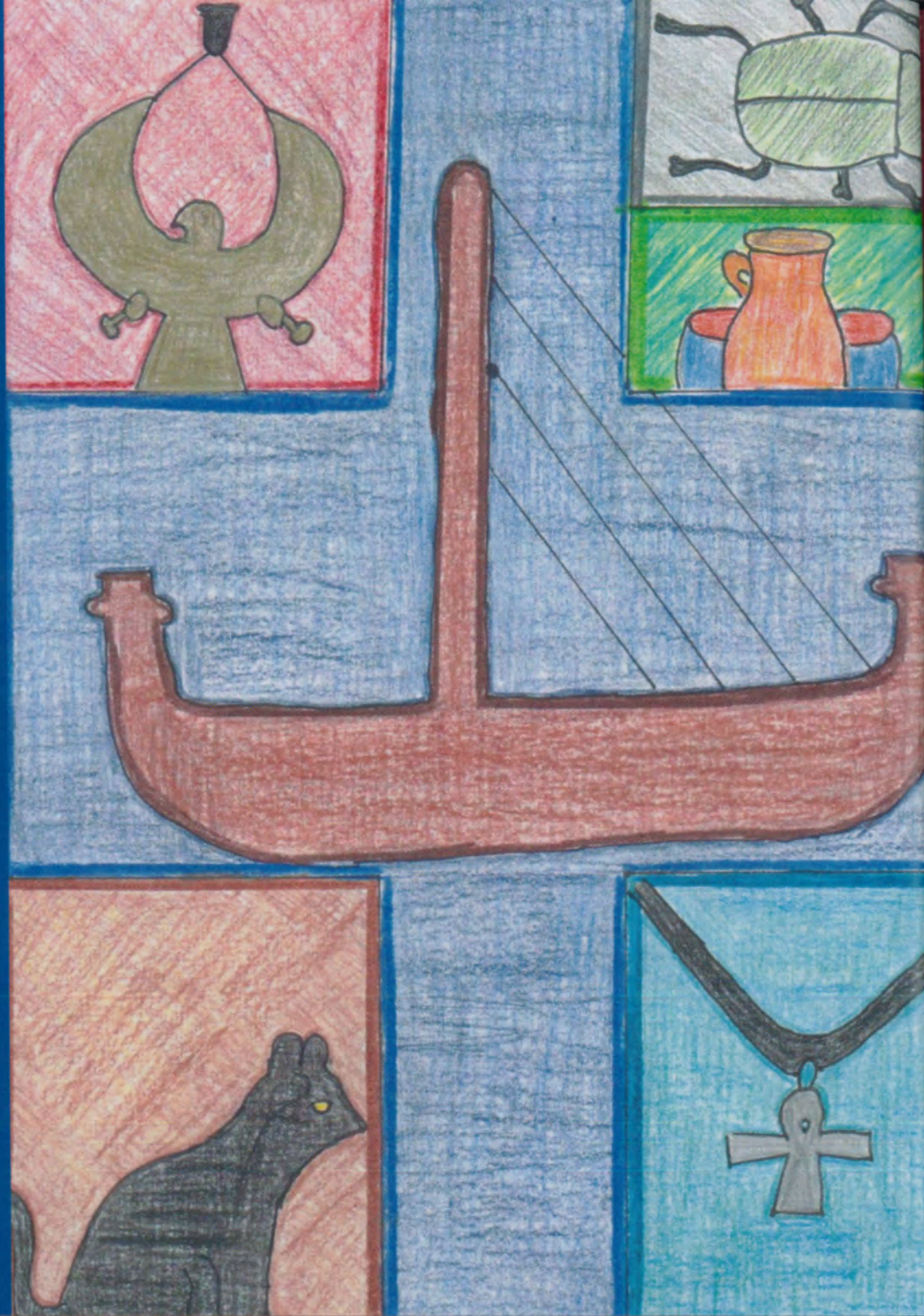
by Nia [REDACTED]

Buried deep beneath the ground are stories, secrets, knowledge, and mysteries to be discovered. Three thousand years of history could be uncovered in one strike of a shovel. Artifacts are the clues to our past. Artifacts include rocks, fossils, bones, beads, and broken pieces; basically anything left behind by a person could be an artifact.

King Tut's famous tomb was full of artifacts. When it was discovered in 1922, it contained jewelry, weapons, boats, furniture, and clothing. An important thing about King Tut's tomb was that it attracted people from all over to ancient Egypt. The tomb was discovered by an archeologist named Howard Carter and his sponsor Lord Carnarvon.

Another important ancient Egyptian artifact was the Rosetta Stone. The Rosetta Stone was a stone slab inscribed with hieroglyphics. It helped Egyptologists understand hieroglyphics. Not only did it have hieroglyphics, it also had Greek and Demotic, which was a language used by Egyptians after hieroglyphics. The Rosetta Stone was first found in 1799 by one of Napoleon's soldiers. It is on display at the British Museum in London.

Yet another important artifact is the Bust of Nefertiti. Nefertiti was Pharaoh Akhenaten's wife. The bust was found in 1912 by a German archeologist. The bust was rare because it still had paint on it. Busts usually are just one color, but Nefertiti had multiple colors of paint remaining. It was significant because it was one of the few artifacts of Nefertiti and Akhenaten that were not destroyed after their reign.



B is for Beetle

by Rebeca [REDACTED]

It may seem a little strange that Egyptians worshiped a dung beetle. The beetle is famous for its habit of rolling balls of dung on the ground and depositing it in its burrows. Egyptians worshiped this beetle because they thought that the circular ball of dung that it rolled was like the sun moving across the sky. In the behavior of this beetle, the Egyptians saw rebirth. They thought the bug was immortal, constantly being reborn.

Egyptians call images of the dung beetle scarabs. Scarab beetles are used for gifts, good luck charms to ward off evil, and jewelry. You can find scarab beetles in museums and in Egyptian art. The god Khepri had a head of a scarab beetle.

Dung beetles are found in South America and Egypt. Their fossils date back 40 million years.



B is for Burial Chamber

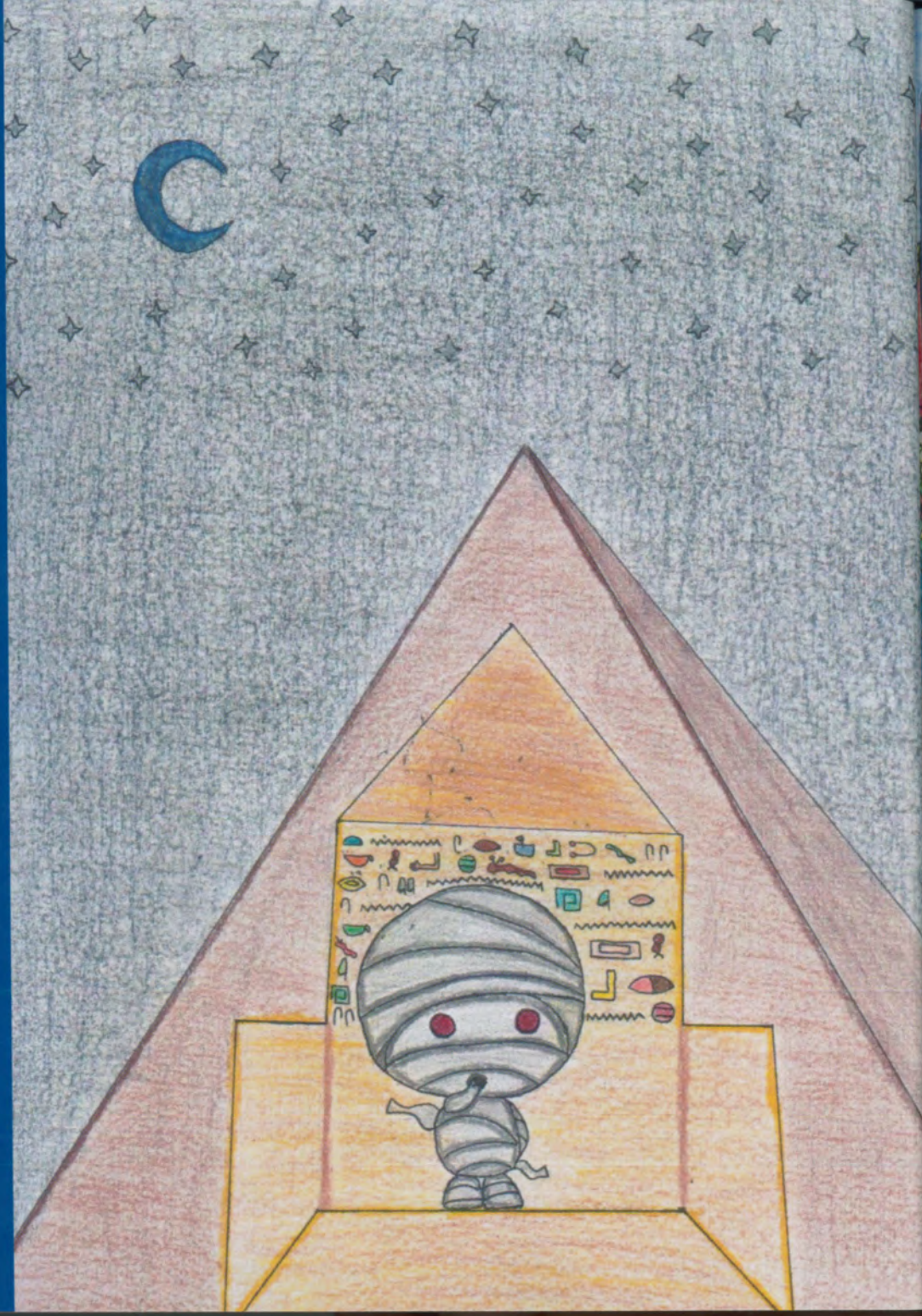
by Jeannette [REDACTED]

Burial chambers are one of the most important parts of a burial tomb because they contain the body of the king or queen. All of the deceased person's prized possessions or treasures are supposed to go with them to the afterlife, so they were buried with them. Tomb robbers would have to go through many challenges to get to the burial chamber.

There were a lot of treasures inside a burial chamber. The treasures found in burial chambers included objects such as clothes, cosmetics, jewelry, personal possessions, weapons, and furniture.

Pyramids are the most well-known type of ancient Egyptian burial tomb. Inside pyramids, tomb robbers would have to go through many obstacles, because they were built so tomb robbers would not disturb the dead king or queen's body or steal the treasures.

King Tutankhamen was also very important because without him Egyptologists would not know so much about burial chambers. King Tut was the only king whose burial chamber was not looted, but discovered intact. King Tut was buried in a underground tomb in the Valley of the Kings. When Howard Carter entered King Tut's burial chamber, he was surprised to see so many "wonderful things."



C is for Canopic Jars

by Kellie [redacted]



Canopic jars, also called canopic vases, were used during the process of mummification to hold the internal organs. The intestines, stomach, liver, and lungs were dried out, wrapped in linen, and each put in a separate jar. The canopic jars were then put in a box. Then they were placed in the mummy's tomb.

There were always four canopic jars. Each of these jars had a different stopper. Sometimes the stoppers were all human heads, but most of the time they represented the four sons of Horus. His four sons were Hapy, the monkey, for the lungs; Imsety, the human, for the liver; Duamutef, the jackal, for the stomach; and Qebhsenuf, the falcon, for the intestines.

Ancient Egyptians used canopic jars because they believed that if you didn't remove the internal organs somebody could use any part of your body to cast a spell against you. They also removed the organs, because organs have moisture, which makes the body decay faster. So, they were removed and put in canopic jars.

C is for Curse, Cobra, and Canary

by Dorothy [REDACTED]

"They who enter this sacred tomb shall swift be visited by the wings of death." Or that's what was printed in the paper. Soon after the official opening of King Tutankhamen's tomb in The Valley of the Kings, newspapers around the world were spreading rumors of this so-called "curse."

When Howard Carter went to find King Tut's tomb for the seventh time, he brought with him a golden yellow canary. The workers said it would bring them luck, and it did. A few weeks after starting to dig, a water boy hit an unusual stone. It was a step to King Tut's tomb. When they opened the tomb, they saw a feast for the eyes; thousands of dollars in golden treasure lay in front of them.

Meanwhile at the excavation camp, a cobra swallowed the golden bird around the same time they opened the tomb. The workers said this was the curse at work.

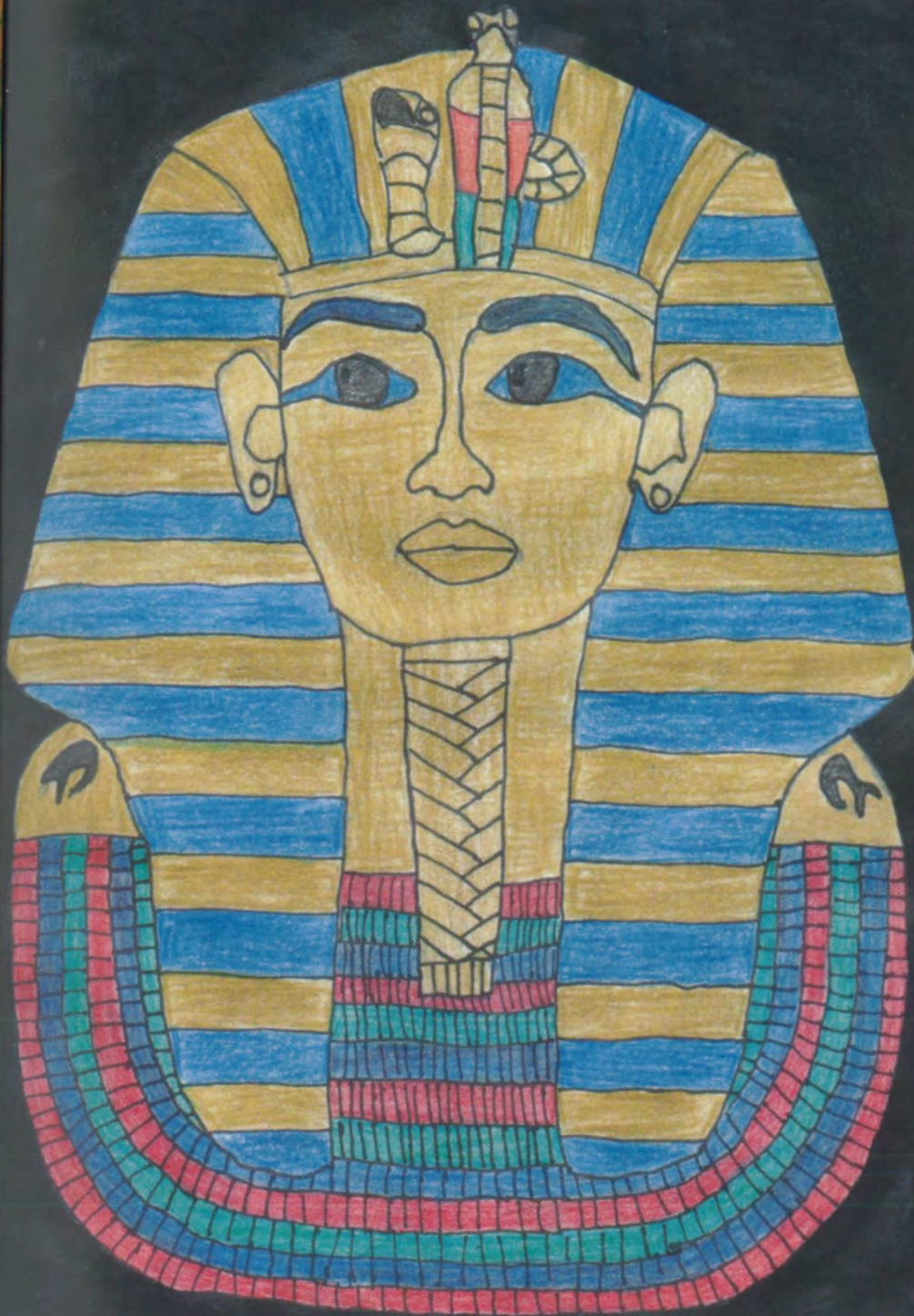
Only a few weeks after the opening of King Tut's tomb, Lord Carnarvon, their financier, died from an infected mosquito bite. Other deaths followed. A tourist died from a disease after visiting the tomb, and Lord Carnarvon's daughter died soon after the opening. Beliefs in the curse deepened.

Even with all the evidence pointing toward a "curse", most of the first people inside the tomb lived to old age. Howard Carter and the water boy both lived to their 60's. Some people died, some lived. Will we ever know the truth of what really happened? Nobody knows.



D is for Death Mask

by Richard [REDACTED]



Death masks are a very important part of a mummy's tomb. The death mask is put on the wrapped mummy, so you can still see his face even in death. The death mask allows us to see what the mummy may have looked like.

Not all death masks are the same, but they are all mostly made of gold. Each death mask has the face of the pharaoh. A lot of people had eye makeup in Egypt, so every death mask also had eye makeup.

King Tut's death mask is the most famous because of his history. He was the only pharaoh whose tomb had not been disturbed until its discovery in 1922. His death mask is made out of gold and inlaid with semiprecious stones. There are magical texts on the back of the mask. It stands 54cm (21in) and weighs 24 lbs. On the brow of the mask are the protective deities Nekhbet and Wedjeyt. Today this mask is housed in Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

D is for Deity

by Keith [redacted]

Deities had supernatural powers to rule Egypt. The Egyptians believed these gods created the world. The gods' family tree started with Atum. From there, Atum created two gods by coughing. These gods married and had children, and the family tree grew from there.

Egyptians were polytheistic, meaning they believed in more than one god. But once, King Akhenaten made everyone change from polytheistic belief to monotheistic belief during his reign. Monotheism is the belief in only one god. After King Akhenaten died, his son Tutankhamun was pronounced king, and he changed Egypt back to polytheism.

Egyptians used myths about the gods to explain natural events. One myth was about the sun. It explained that Nut gave birth to Ra everyday and ate him at night.

Horus was the god of the sky and air, and he had the head of a falcon. He fought his uncle/dad Seth after Seth killed Amun for the throne. He won the fight but lost his eye, which became a protective symbol.

Amun-Ra is the god of all gods. His form is a human form. People thought of him as two people put together, Amun and Ra. His name means "the hidden one."

Khnum is god of fertile soil or plants. His head is a ram, which is an important animal because it was linked to the Earth. Ptah is seen in the form of a mummy and holds a staff. He is the god of craftsmanship.



D is for Dynasty

by Brooke [REDACTED]

A dynasty is a big family of ancient Egyptian rulers, or pharaohs. In the history of ancient Egypt, there were 34 dynasties. In a dynasty, the throne gets passed on by the pharaoh to his child, then it continues until another dynasty is formed.

The third and fourth dynasties were very important because these rulers were the pyramid builders. Three of those pharaohs built the Pyramids of Giza. Their names were Khufu, Khafre, and Menkare. These three pharaohs were related. Khufu was Khafre's father, and Khafre was Menkare's father. Most of the first pyramids in Egypt were built by the pharaohs of the third and fourth dynasties. Zoser was the second king of the third dynasty and he built the Step Pyramid. His pyramid stands 204 feet tall and was the first pyramid in Egypt. He was one of the many pyramid builders of the third and fourth dynasties, which occurred in 2686-2498 B.C.E.

The 19th and 20th dynasties were the dynasties of the Ramses. They were a family of 18 pharaohs. These dynasties occurred during 1295-1069 B.C.E. The most famous pharaoh out of those dynasties was Ramses II, who was also known as Ramses the Great. When he ruled, he spent his time fighting distant lands. Ramses ruled for 66 years. He said that the years he ruled were the years that made Egypt better.



E is for Egypt

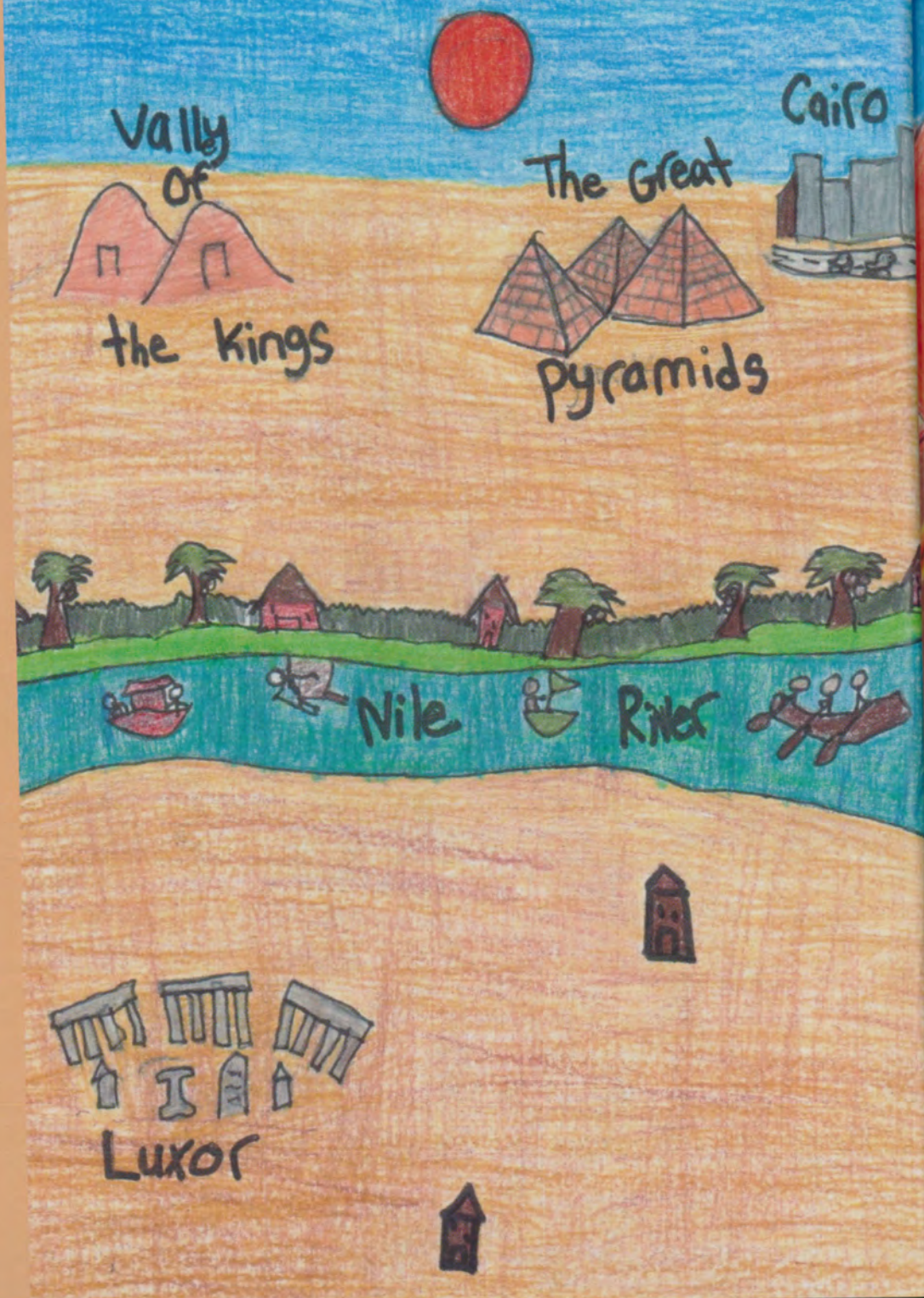
by Zara

Egypt's culture is thousands of years old. When we think of Egypt, we often think of mummies and pyramids, but it is not like that at all anymore. Cairo, the capital, is quite a modernized city. The geography of Egypt is unique; it is a huge desert and the only water source is the great Nile river. It is in the northern part of Africa and is the 12th largest country on the continent.

The people of Egypt are spread across the country, but most live in Cairo near the Nile river. Most Egyptians are very close to their families and are Muslim.

Egypt's government is kind of like that of the United States. They have a president, and the people of Egypt vote in the elections. Egypt's president's name is Hosni Mubarak.

Egypt's history is so fascinating that it has become one of the most famous civilizations in history. It is known for its mummies, pyramids, pharaohs, and the mysteries of the great Nile river. Today, Egypt's economy mainly relies on tourism, and it will continue to thrive due to its rich history.



E is for El Amarna

by Mia

In the 18th dynasty, the Pharaoh Akhenaten changed ancient Egypt. He changed their art, their way of life, but most importantly, their religion. The Egyptians had been polytheistic for thousands of years. But when Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten) came to power, he wanted everyone to be monotheistic and believe in only Aten, the sun-disk god. Akhenaten moved the capital city from Thebes to Akhetaten, currently called El Amarna.

Akhenaten had very different beliefs than other rulers. He focused only on religion. Akhenaten's reign was the only time ancient Egypt was monotheistic. To prove they didn't like being forced to believe in only Aten, after Akhenaten's reign, the people wrecked El Amarna. Along with destroying his city, archeologists believe that the ancient Egyptians destroyed Akhenaten's and possibly Nefertiti's body too. Their mummies have never been found.

El Amarna was built to honor Aten and to support Akhenaten's monotheistic religion. Built around the 18th dynasty, El Amarna's population was over 20,000. El Amarna was shaped like a "D", with the Nile river running against the straight side. It had a large ground space with the main city, the worker's villages, the royal tombs, temples, gardens, and the central hall. The main city was about six miles long and one mile wide. El Amarna took seven years to build, 1348 BCE-1374 BCE. El Amarna was 194 miles from Thebes (now Luxor), the ancient capital of Egypt. Akhenaten built El Amarna where he did because it wasn't "contaminated" by deities that "didn't exist."

El Amarna

*Previously named Akhetaten,
Built to honor the sun god Aten.
Built in Akhenaten's reign,
And with them, monotheism slain.*

F is for Feather of Truth

by Jacqueline [REDACTED]

In ancient Egyptian mythology, ancient Egyptians would use the "Weighing of the Heart" ceremony to see if a deceased person would go to the afterlife.

When a person died, the gods would take their heart and weigh it against a feather. If their heart was lighter than the feather, Thoth would write that they are "true of voice" and they would go to the kingdom of Osiris. However, if the heart was heavier, then the goddess named Devourer would eat the heart and they would not be able to survive in the afterlife. The feather belonged to Ma'at, who was the god of justice, truth, and harmony.

Ancient Egyptians mummified the bodies of the dead in order to prepare them for the afterlife. They prepared the body for mummification, by taking out the major organs except for the heart. They would throw the brain away because they thought it was useless. They kept the heart in the body, because it needed to be weighed in the "Weighing of the Heart" ceremony.





F is for Flood or Famine

by Maddie [redacted]

Even though in the modern world we think of a flood as a disaster, the ancient Egyptians prayed that a flood would occur. The Nile River, the main source of water, was very important to the ancient Egyptians. They relied on the Nile to feed them and give them water. They also relied on the Nile for traveling, personal hygiene, and for washing clothing.

Ancient Egyptians didn't have any cars, so they traveled by boat. Egyptians didn't have any washers or dryers, so they washed their clothing in the Nile river. They grew crops along the banks, and when there was no flood the crops wouldn't get water.

The annual flood happened during three months each year, June through September. The annual flood was essential because it helped the crops grow. When the flood happened, it left a very fertile soil, thereby allowing the crops to be able to grow.

When the Nile didn't flood, it resulted in a disaster. If the crops didn't get water, the people of Egypt could starve. In Egypt it is really dry, so when it floods the water irrigates the dry part of the land and occasionally grass can grow, which is important for feeding the livestock.

G is for Giza

by Devin [redacted]

Giza is located on the west side of Cairo, Egypt where the city meets the desert. The three pyramids of Giza are the burial tombs of the pharaohs Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure. These pyramids are aligned with the stars in Orion's Belt. In front of Khafre's pyramid is the Sphinx.

The Pyramid of Khufu is also called the Great Pyramid, because it is the biggest pyramid in the world. It was the tallest structure on earth for 3,800 years. This massive structure took 20 years to build in 2,500 BC. It is 481 feet tall, and is one of the seven ancient wonders of the world.

The pyramid of Khafre actually looks bigger than the Great Pyramid because it was built on higher ground. It is 471 feet tall and the sides are 704 feet in length.

The Sphinx is in front of Khafre's pyramid facing the rising sun. The Sphinx is covered in bed rock. It is the body of a lion and the head of the pharaoh. It symbolizes strength and wisdom. King Khafre built it to protect the pyramids. The Sphinx is one of the oldest statues in the world.

The Pyramid of Menkaure is the smallest pyramid in Giza. The pyramid is 215 feet tall and each side is 344 feet long. It is the first pyramid with granite, which is on the north side of the pyramid.



G is for Goddesses

by Daniela [REDACTED]

Most ancient Egyptians were polytheistic, which means that they worshiped many gods. There were about 115 gods, but only 11 of them were female goddesses.

The goddess of the sky, Nut, wore a blue dress with stars on it and her body created a canopy over earth. Nut is the sister and wife of Geb and the mother of Isis.

Isis, the goddess of protection, had a throne and a sundisk on her head. She used magic to help people in need. She was the wife of Osiris and the mother of Horus, who was the husband of Hathor.

Hathor was the goddess of love, joy, and protection. She had the ears of a cow and a sundisk on her head. She was the wife of Horus and sometimes people thought she was the mother of the pharaoh.

Bastet was the goddess of protection. She had the head of a cat, and was seen as a gentle goddess, but sometimes she had the head of a lion to protect the king. She was the daughter of Ra, and the sister of Ma'at.

Ma'at was the goddess of truth, justice, and harmony, and she was usually seen with feathers on her head. She was associated with the balance of things on earth, and she was the daughter of the sun god, Ra.



His for Hatshepsut

by Czarina [redacted] and Meghan [redacted]

Hatshepsut was the first female pharaoh. Before she was a pharaoh, her husband ruled and they had a daughter together. Years passed and then her husband died. Her nephew was next in line for the throne, but he was too young to rule. So, she decided she was going to be pharaoh. Not everyone was happy to be ruled by a woman. So, Hatshepsut dressed like a man and did what a male pharaoh would do so she would have more respect.

While many pharaohs gained their respect through war, Hatshepsut strengthened Egypt through trade. She traded things like jewelry and gold. This helped Egypt become more powerful because more people and places respected them. By doing this, Hatshepsut could gain more trust from her own people who were still not sure if they liked the whole idea of being ruled by a woman.

Hatshepsut had a lot of temples, but her most famous one was the Deir el Bahri. This temple was built into a mountain in Thebes. The temple was built with limestone, not sandstone like other temples in the New Kingdom period. This structure is found in a steep half-circle of cliffs on the west bank of the Nile River, guarding the entrance to the great Valley of the Kings.



H is for Hieroglyphics

by Jessica [REDACTED]

In 1799, a French soldier spotted a large stone while fighting in Egypt. The odd stone had writing carved in Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics. Using the Greek to translate, Egyptologists discovered the mystery of hieroglyphics. This odd stone was later named The Rosetta Stone because it was found in the town of Rosetta.

Since Egypt was one of, if not the first civilization with a writing system, not everyone could read and write, only scribes. Scribes were a group of people who were allowed to have this knowledge. Writing in Egypt was not as simple as picking up a pencil and writing. You had to carve in a wall or paint on hand-made paper called papyrus. Young scribes were to memorize over 650 hieroglyphs around the age of five, instead of 26 like in the English alphabet.

Egyptians invented a form of paper called papyrus, which was made from the tall papyrus plant. It lasted longer than any other material. This plant grew on the banks of the Nile. To make papyrus paper, you would take each piece and soak it in water, weave it together, and leave it out to dry under a weight like rocks.

When looking at a wall of hieroglyphic writing, you might notice an oval-shaped frame with writing inside. This object is a cartouche, or in Egypt, a shenu. The cartouche was used to write a royal's name to make it look special.



His for Howard Carter

by Rodrigo [REDACTED]

Howard Carter is famous for being the archaeologist who found King Tut's tomb in 1922. He became interested in Egypt after visiting there at a very young age. He was very talented. He was a watercolor artist before becoming an archeologist at age 17.

It took Carter many years to find the tomb of King Tut. Carter first started excavating at the Valley of the Kings, but he didn't get to finish digging because he didn't have the money. The only way Carter had the chance to keep on digging at the Valley of the Kings was when he received money to finish his dig from a wealthy antiquities collector named Lord Carnarvon.

Carter failed to find King Tut's tomb in many places besides the Valley of the Kings. When Carter finally found King Tut's tomb, he suddenly became famous around the world. He had discovered a tomb that had not been touched for over 3,000 years. Carter discovered hundreds of artifacts including King Tut's coffin and sarcophagus, ancient masks, and valuable jewels. All of the artifacts went to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.



I is for Immortality

by Diego

Who would like to be immortal? Immortality means never dying. Ancient Egyptians believed that people would go to the afterlife. Most of the pharaohs went to the afterlife, but many regular people didn't go to the afterlife because they couldn't afford mummification. The pharaohs believed that their "ka" or spirit would leave the body and go to the afterlife. In order to enter the afterlife, they would complete the Weighing of the Heart Ceremony.

In order to live comfortably in the afterlife, pharaohs took most of their valuables like gold, food, jewels, boats, furniture, and cosmetics. They basically took their whole life with them to the afterlife. They also took their pets, which would be mummified so their "ka" would go with their master to the afterlife.

It was common for pharaohs to also take ushabtis with them to the afterlife. Ushabtis were statues and would be the pharaoh's servants for eternity.



I is for Inundation

by Samantha [REDACTED]

The inundation was the flooding of the Nile River, which was very important to the ancient Egyptians. Without this river, they would not have food to eat and the land would be dry. There was only one time of year the Nile flooded. It flooded in mid summer all the way to October. When it did this, it flooded in upper Egypt in mid summer and lower Egypt in the fall.

After the Nile river flooded it was good for the land so farmers could grow their crops. They called Egypt "The Black Land" because of the rich silt soil that the flood left behind. The farmers could only grow a great amount of crops this time of year.

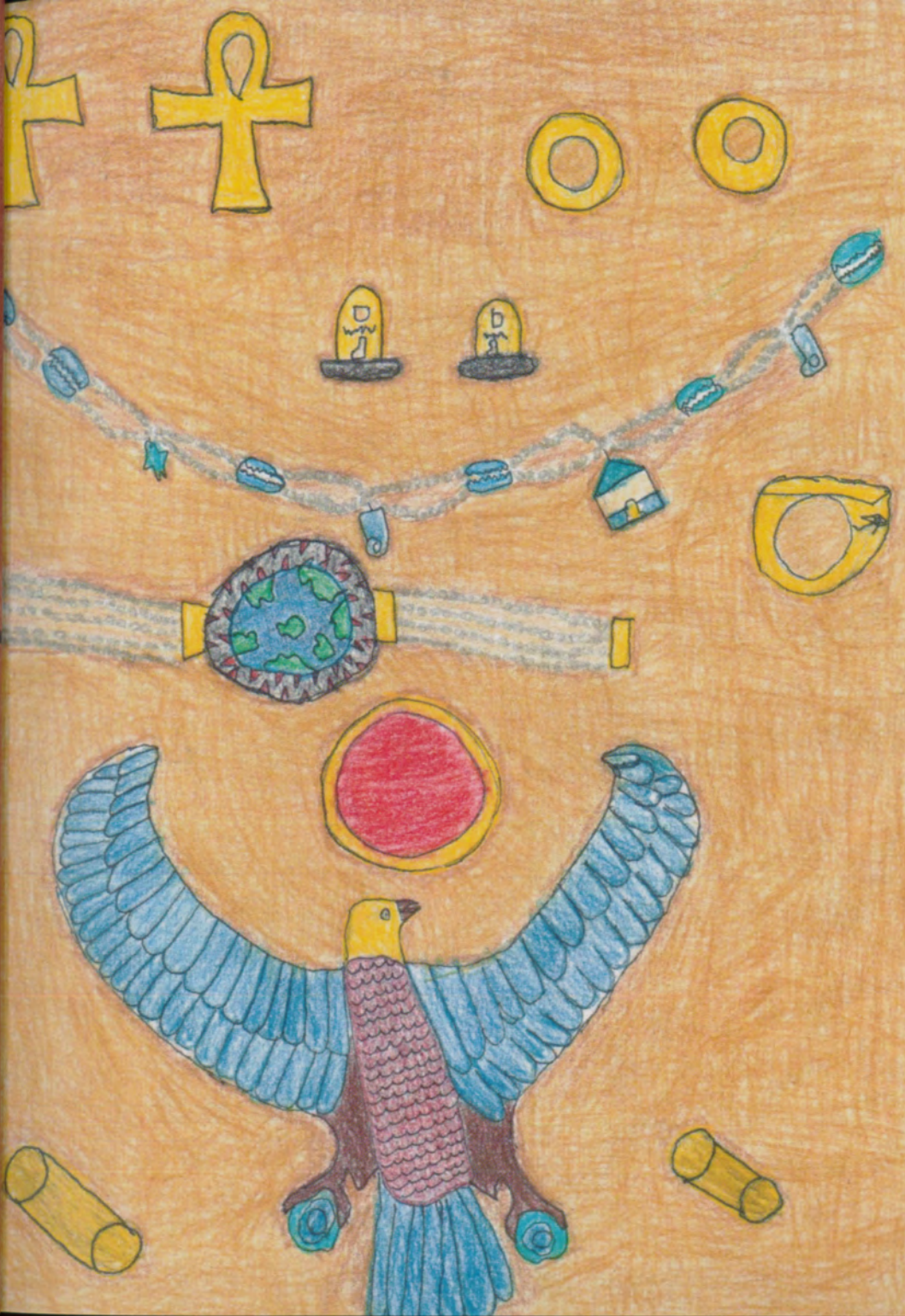
The god of the Nile and inundation was Hapi. He was shown having a large belly to indicate that he could nourish the land after the flood happened. He was also shown wearing waterplants on his head.

The Nile still floods, just not as dramatically, thanks to the Aswan Dam, which was completed in 1970. It keeps the river from over flowing too much at the time of inundation. The Aswan Dam is located in upper Egypt, which is actually in the south of Egypt.



J is for Jewelry

by Rene [REDACTED]



Egyptians did not have jewelry like us. In fact, they had better jewelry than us! They didn't have diamonds, rubies, or emeralds, nor did they have machines to carve and make jewelry. However, they had a lot of precious jewelry, much of which was made of solid gold.

How did they get all that gold and precious stones without drills, machines, or modern technology? They had to break through rocks and mines to get semi-precious stones like lapis, faience, carnelian, feldspar, and turquoise.

More than 100 of pieces jewelry were found in King Tut's tomb. They found collars, necklaces, pectorals, and earrings, which were as long as 12 cm and probably extremely heavy due to all of that gold. All of this gold came from mines of Egypt. King Tut's jewelry is so valuable that it is priceless. Much of it can be seen today at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

K is for Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure

by Lucas [REDACTED]

In Egypt, there were many pyramids. Three of the most famous ones were the Pyramids of Giza. Sound familiar? Have you ever wondered about the pharaohs who built these massive landmarks? Well, wonder no more!

Pharaoh Khufu was mostly known for his pyramid, which was the first pyramid built in Giza. It is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It took about ten years to make, and it towers over 480 feet. That's right, you've guessed it, the Great Pyramid of Giza. After his reign from 2589 B.C. to 2566 B.C., Pharaoh Khufu was laid to rest, ready for the afterlife.

But the dynasty wasn't over. Pharaoh Khafre, Khufu's son, became pharaoh. Known for making monuments, Khafre made the Sphinx as a sign of protection for the pyramids. Some even say that the Sphinx has similar facial qualities as Khafre. Khafre's pyramid, the Pyramid of Khafre, was in the middle of the two other pyramids of Giza. Most people see the pyramids and think that Khafre's is the biggest. Actually, Khafre's ground level is 33 feet higher than Khufu's pyramid, so it just looks taller.

The last pharaoh of Giza, Khafre's son, was Pharaoh Menkaure. He reigned from 2532 B.C. to 2504 B.C. His pyramid was 218 feet tall. Just like all the other pharaohs, Menkaure was also laid to rest in his pyramid.



Kis for King Tut

by Luis [redacted] and Sebastian [redacted]



On November 4, 1922 archeologist Howard Carter made one of the most important discoveries ever. He found the tomb of King Tut with all of his belongings in his tomb. King Tut was a young pharaoh who reigned for nine years, from age nine until he died at nineteen years old. He was born in 1341 B.C.E. and died in 1323 B.C.E.

King Tut is not only important because of his tomb full of treasures. He is also important because during his reign, Egypt went back to being a polytheistic country. Akhenaten, King Tut's father, made people monotheistic. Monotheism is believing in only one god. Polytheism is believing in many gods. Akhenaten made people only believe in Aten, the sun-disk god. When Tutankhamen became king, people returned to their beliefs in many gods.

King Tut's wife was his half sister named Ankhesenamun. Akhenaten and his other wife Kiya are King Tut's parents. Akhenaten's most famous wife was Nefertiti, but she was not King Tut's mother. His grandmother was King Tiy, the wife of Amenhotep.

King Tut was buried more than 3,300 years ago. He was buried in the Valley of the Kings, and was found in 1922 with all of his treasures. King Tut was x-rayed on November 5, 2005 in order to find out how he died. Egyptologists don't know exactly how King Tut died. Some believe he died from an infection on his leg, while others believe someone murdered him.



L is for Lord Carnarvon

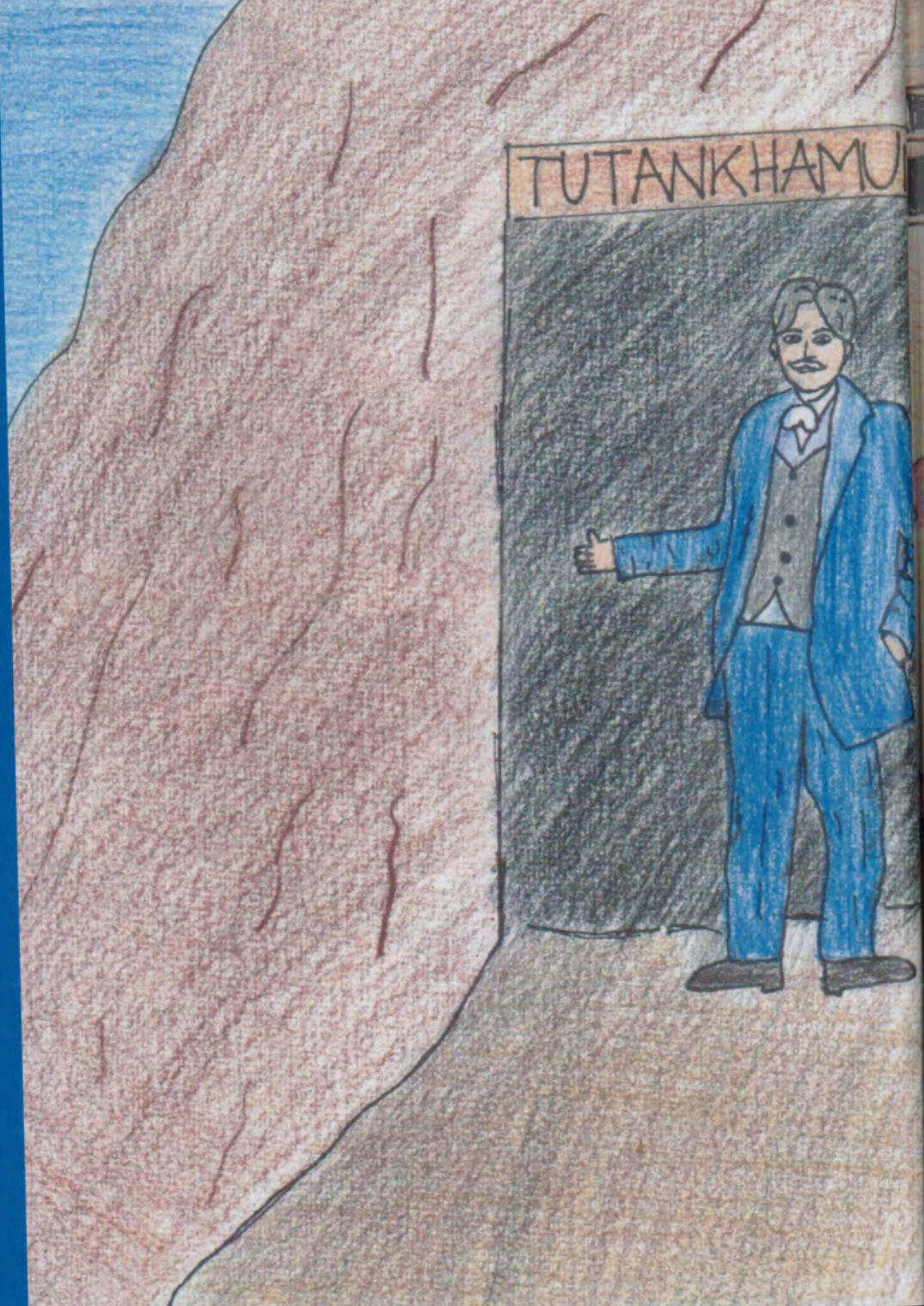
by Marissa [REDACTED]

Have you ever wondered about the guy who supposedly died from Pharaoh Tutankhamen's curse? Well you'll be fascinated with Lord Carnarvon's dreadful death. Here's the real story of what happened.

Lord Carnarvon was a very rich British collector. He is known for being the financier of the discovery of King Tutankhamen's tomb. Lord Carnarvon saw that a man named Davis was done with his excavation in the Valley of the Kings. Davis declared that there were no more discoveries in the Valley of the Kings. However, there were greater things to be discovered in that site. Lord Carnarvon hired Howard Carter to be the head of the excavation team searching for King Tut's tomb.

Howard Carter had a pet canary and he decided to bring it along to the excavation site for good luck. He had left the pet in a cage dangling off the roof of the excavation site. As he was doing his job as the excavation manager, a cobra struck at the helpless canary. Some people believe that the canary and the cobra are part of a curse that also explains Lord Carnarvon's death. In 1923, Lord Carnarvon got a mosquito bite at the site. It became infected, and he fell dead a couple weeks later. Some people say that he died because of the curse.

If it weren't for Lord Carnarvon's wealth and interest in Egypt, they might not have discovered King Tut's tomb, and we probably would not know so much about Egypt's fascinating history.



L is for Luxor

by Richei



In ancient times Luxor was named Thebes. Luxor was the capital of Egypt. In this ancient town there are many temples and sites including the Temple of Luxor, Valley of the Kings, and The Valley of the Queens.

The Temple of Luxor was built by Amenhotep I. It was built to worship Amun, the god of all gods, his wife Mut, and his son Khonsu. The whole temple exterior consists of five mini temples; all five temples form the Temple of Luxor.

The Karnak Temple is linked to the Temple of Luxor. Both temples were used to worship Amun. The center of the temple was restricted in ancient times so that only priests who served Amun could enter, because Egyptians believed it was sacred place. At the entrance of the temple were a row of sphinxes called "dromos." The sphinxes were thought to protect the the journey of the sacred barques leaving the temple.

Two of Egypt's most mysterious sites are the Valley of the Kings and Queens, which are located at the west bank of the Nile river. Both sites have over 80 burial tombs built by ancient Egyptian priests to prevent tomb robbers. Out of both sites, the Valley of the Kings is probably the most popular because of King Tut's tomb.

Dier el-Bahri was built to honor the first female pharaoh, Hatshepsut. She built this temple to honor herself and Amun. This temple is built into a side of a mountain near Luxor.

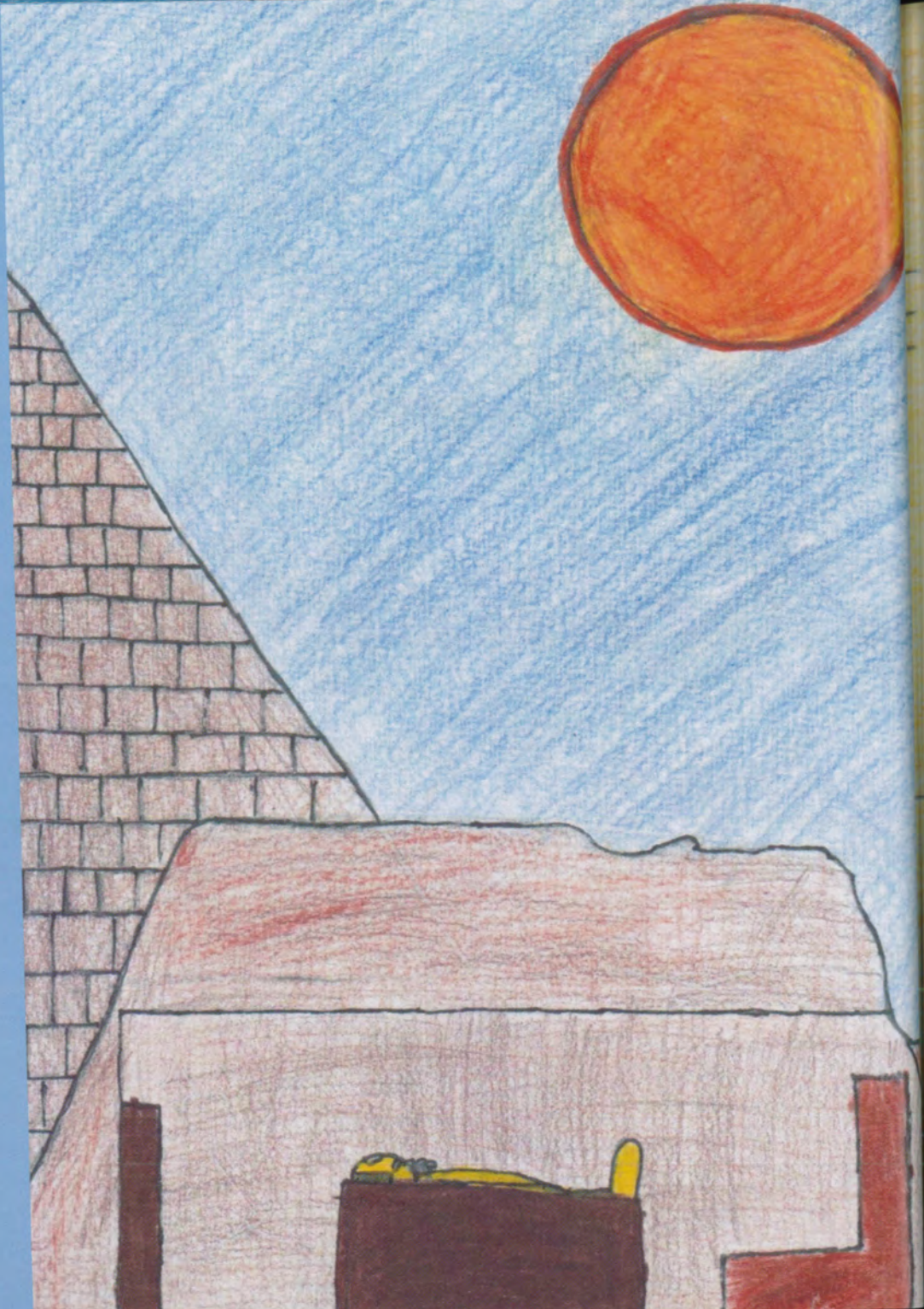
M is for Mastaba

by Stephen [redacted]

Have you ever wondered what other type of ancient Egyptian burial tombs there were other than the famous pyramids? Before pharaohs were buried in pyramids, they were buried in mastabas, which were smaller rectangular tombs. Mastabas weren't just for pharaohs; they were also for wives, generals, and master servants. Before mastabas, ancient Egyptians just dug a hole, put in the body, and put sand on top.

Mastabas were built with sand, gravel, and mud. They were built with flat sides and a flat top. The burial chamber was about 30 feet underground and filled with all of the king's or queen's belongings.

The first pyramid was inspired by mastabas. It was the Step Pyramid of Zoser built by the famous architect Imhotep. It was designed to look like a staircase to Ra, the sun god, with one mastaba at the bottom and smaller mastabas stacked on top. Because of Imhotep's new design, pyramids were born.



M is for Math

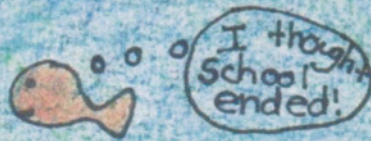
by Grace [redacted] and Ashley [redacted]

Ancient Egyptian mathematics started with the Nile River because the Egyptians had to measure it to see how big the annual flood would be. They measured it with a tool called the Nilometer to measure the depth of the river. If it was not a good flood, there wouldn't be enough food for the people and they might starve. In this way, math was very important. Egyptians would measure the water so they would be warned ahead of time so they could find other food. They used math to record crops, measure the Nile, and trade goods. The math wasn't taught in schools, because they thought the children didn't need to know it. The only people who knew it were people like farmers who had to use it in their work.

Word Problem:

On Wednesday, the Nile was 171 feet high. The next month it has risen 113 feet. What is its height now?

On Wednesday the Nile was @nnnnnnn 1 feet high. The next month it had risen @nnn feet what is its height now?



1-I 2-II 3-III 4-IIII 5-IIIII
6-IIIIII 7-IIIIIIII 8-IIIIIIIIII
9-IIIIIIIIIIII 10-n 100-@
1,000-? 10,000-A
100,000-] 1,000,000-L

LOMETER

M is for Mummification

by Cynthia [redacted]

Ancient Egyptians found a way to preserve the dead through the process of mummification. By taking out the organs, drying the body, and wrapping it with hundreds of feet of linen, they made the body look like it died yesterday, leaving it with a recognizable face and body for the afterlife.

Anyone who could afford it could be mummified. Because it cost the modern day equivalent of \$20,000, people had to save money their whole life to have a safe journey to the afterlife. One of the most famous pharaohs to be mummified was King Tut. He was buried with thousands of dollars worth of treasure, a death mask, gold, and a golden sarcophagus.

The process of mummification begins with removing the internal organs and putting them in canopic jars. They only left the heart because they thought it served the function of the brain, and so they would need it for the afterlife. The brain was pulled out through the nose by a hook and disposed of. The body was packed and covered with natron, a salty substance, and left to dry for forty or fifty days. Then they would stuff the body with resin, saw dust, or linen. Also, a numerous amount of amulets were wrapped with the body for good luck. At each stage of wrapping, a priest recited spells and prayers. It took seventy days for the complete mummification process.





N is for Nefertiti

by Nairobi

Queen Nefertiti is said to be one of the most beautiful queens of Egypt. She became queen after marrying Akhenaten, the pharaoh of Egypt. Though a lot of Akhenaten's monuments have been destroyed, many of Nefertiti's statues have not been. She is mostly known for her beauty and famous statues.

Out of all the wives that Akhenaten had, Nefertiti was the wife he most loved. She was a big influence on ancient Egyptian art. She let people paint her and her family as normal people. In the depictions of them, she and Akhenaten appear as equals. Like all queens she wore make up and wigs, but she is best known for the crown she wore.

The time in which Nefertiti and Akhenaten reigned was called the "Amarna period." In this period they changed the religion from polytheism to monotheism. Polytheism is the belief in more than one god. Monotheism is the belief in only one god.

Nefertiti and Akhenaten had a total of six daughters. It is said that Egyptians think that King Tut was the son of Akhenaten, but it was not by Nefertiti. It is believed that King Tut's mother was another of Akhenaten's wives, named Kiya.

When she and Akhenaten died, their temples were torn down. Their names were hated and crossed off the inscriptions. Scientists still don't know where Nefertiti's mummy is or if it even exists.

N is for Nile River

by Quentin

There were many important parts of ancient Egyptian culture like pharaohs, gods, and pyramids, but the most important part of the Egyptian civilization would have to be the Nile River. The Nile spans approximately 4,000 miles, flowing north from East Africa to the Mediterranean Sea, making it the longest river in the world.

The Egyptians had many important uses for the Nile like fishing, bathing, and transportation. They even made their calendar according to the cycles of the Nile. The Nile was very important to the ancient Egyptians because without the flooding of the Nile every year, all of their crops would die.

Just like anything else in ancient Egypt, there is a god of the Nile. The Egyptians believed that without Hapi, the god of the inundation, their crops couldn't grow.

A variety of animals inhabited the Nile river in ancient Egypt, but most of them were reptiles. The Nile is home to the largest crocodiles in the world, spanning from ten to twenty feet long. There are also soft shelled turtles, monitor lizards, and fifteen different species of poisonous snakes that inhabit the Nile river. As there still are today, there were many hippopotamuses living on the floor of the Nile. Hippos can grow as big as thirteen feet long and five feet tall. They generally can grow around 2,600 pounds, although big males can grow as large as 5,500 pounds.



O is for Obelisk

by Peyton [redacted]



An obelisk is a four-sided, tapering monument with hieroglyphics on all sides. Ancient Egyptians believed that the sun god, Ra, and the sun disk, Aten, lived at the top of them. Ancient Egyptians built obelisks for decoration and worship. Obelisks can be found in many temples in Egypt.

Some obelisks can be higher than 500 feet and weigh more than 12 tons! Ancient Egyptians built obelisks out of a single piece of stone. It was hard work for workers back in the ancient times because they didn't have cranes and technology like we do now.

An obelisk starts off as a block of stone. Then about 20 workers chip pieces off of the stone to make it look like an obelisk. Next, about 60 men use ropes to pull the obelisk onto its mount and finish the chipping of the hieroglyphics on the sides. They did this all by hands and rope.

There are obelisks all around the world, not just in Egypt. There is an Egyptian obelisk in Paris at the Place de la Concorde. The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. is an example of a modern obelisk.

O is for Osiris

by Jorge [redacted]

Osiris was primarily the God of the Underworld but he had many more titles. In his life he became King of the Earth, and was one of the oldest known deities in Egyptian mythology. His green skin represents rebirth and the crook and flail represent power and kingship. His Atef crown represents that he ruled over Upper Egypt. Osiris had a big family of deities. He had two parents Nut and Geb, two sisters Isis and Nephthys, one brother Seth, two kids Horus and Anubis and his grandfather Ra.

In the Egyptian myth on how the world came to be Osiris plays an important role. According to this myth all that was on the face of the earth were Nun the dark waters of chaos. Then a hill came up from the waters called Ben-Ben. On that hill was Atum the first god. Then Atum spit out his brother Shu and his sister Tefnut. Shu and Tefnut had children Geb and Nut. Shu would hold up Nut so she could become a canopy over Geb. They had four children Osiris, Isis, Nephthys and Seth. Osiris and Isis became rulers of the Earth. Osiris was a good king and he ruled for many years so Seth got jealous and killed Osiris. Since Osiris was the first person to die he created the underworld. Seth stayed on Earth and became king. Osiris and Isis had a child, Horus, who fought and defeated Seth, and Horus lost an eye in battle which is now worshiped as the Eye of Horus or Wedjat Eye.

When Osiris died he became the God of the Underworld where he is in part of different rituals to help the soul of the person get into underworld, such as the Weighing of the Heart ceremony and Opening of the Mouth Ceremony.



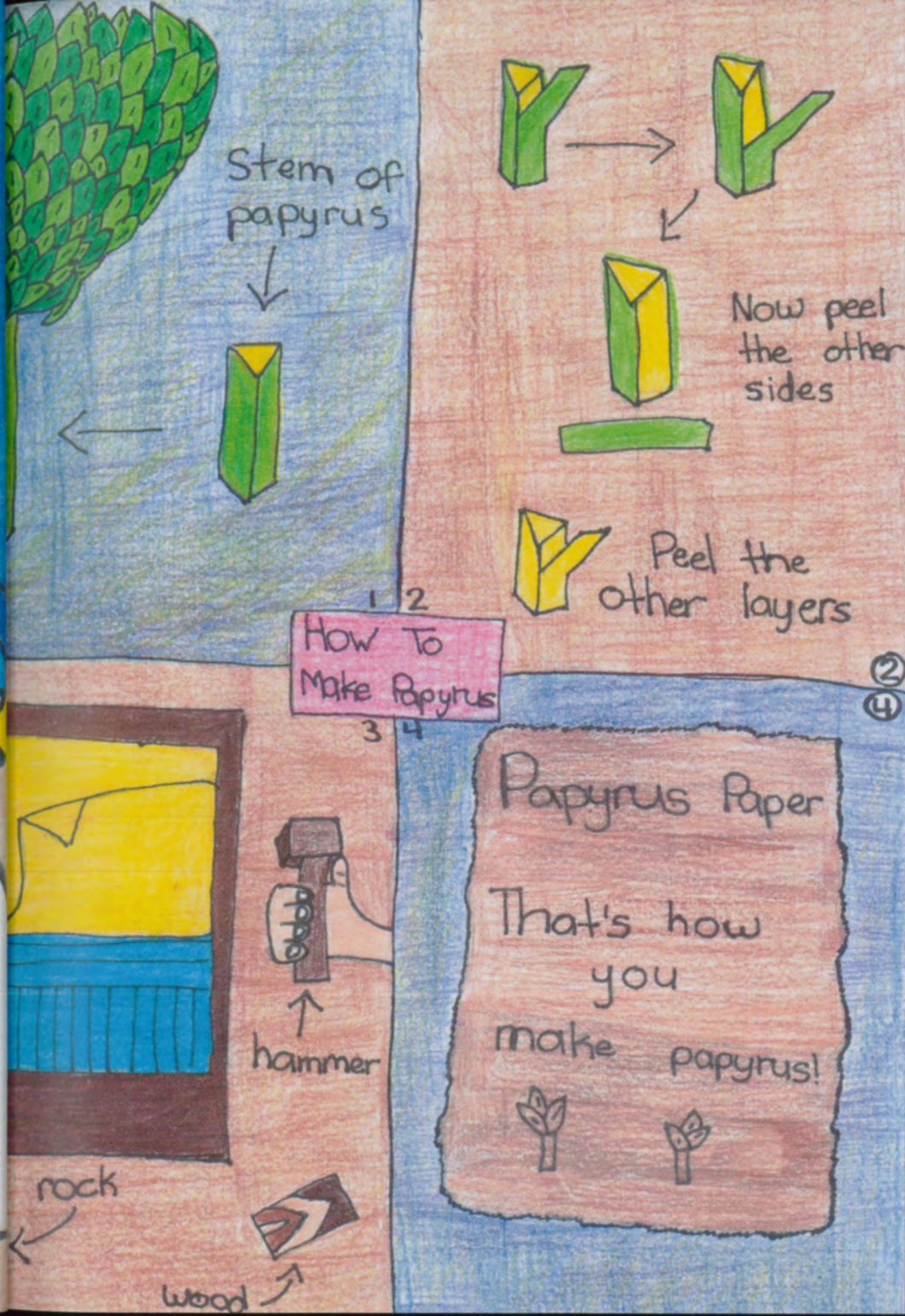
P is for Papyrus

by Elena [redacted]

Paper is one of the most important things in the world. Without it, we wouldn't have all the important documents and recorded history that are important in our everyday lives. Ancient Egyptians had paper too, though theirs was made from a plant called papyrus. If it weren't for this magnificent plant, we wouldn't know the history of Egypt that we know today, which was all written down on papyrus paper.

Papyrus is a plant with a triangular reed, or stem. It usually grew about five to nine feet tall, and sometimes, it could even grow up to 13 feet tall. Papyrus grew along the banks of the Nile, and was known to have been first manufactured in Egypt about 3,000 B.C. However, papyrus ended up vanishing from Egypt because of over harvesting, and people just simply stopped using it. Papyrus had been used to make boats, baskets, sandals, rope, and writing material.

Papyrus paper is made from the stem of the papyrus plant. The outer layer, or the bark, of the plant is stripped off, and then the pith, or center of the stem, is cut into thin strips. After that, the strips are put next to each other on a hard surface with the edges slightly overlapping. Then another layer of strips is put on top of the first layer at a 90 degree angle. The strips are then soaked in water so that they can attach more firmly. While the strips are still moist, they are hammered together into a single sheet of paper. The sheet is then dried and polished with a round object, like a stone. To make the long strips that scrolls required, a number of papyrus paper sheets were overlapped, and then they would be hammered together.



P is for Pharaoh

by Brian [REDACTED]

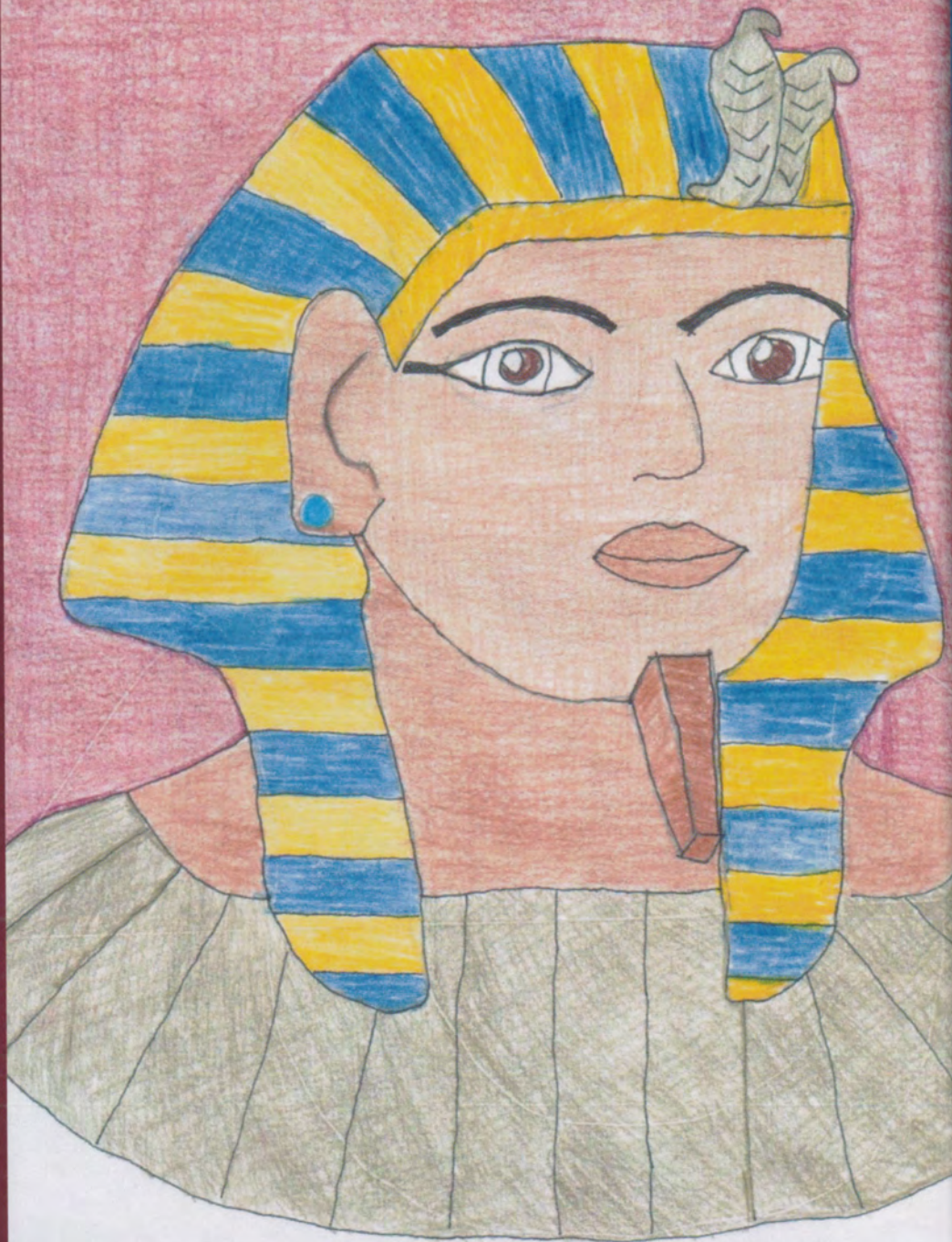
Pharaohs are ancient Egyptian kings, but some people thought they were half god and human. A pharaoh wore a crown that represented his reign. For example, the red crown represented lower Egypt, the white crown was for upper Egypt, and the double crown was for upper and lower Egypt.

Some of the most important pharaohs were Hatshepsut, King Tut, Akhenaten, and Ramses the Great. Ramses the Great was one of the greatest pharaohs of all time. He is remembered because he went to war with his army. He was one also of the greatest builders of all time. He built a temple called Abu Simbel. He reigned for about 60 years.

Hatshepsut's husband, Thutmose II, died in 1504 B.C. His son was too young to rule so Hatshepsut became the first woman pharaoh. Hatshepsut helped Egypt gain power and wealth by trading.

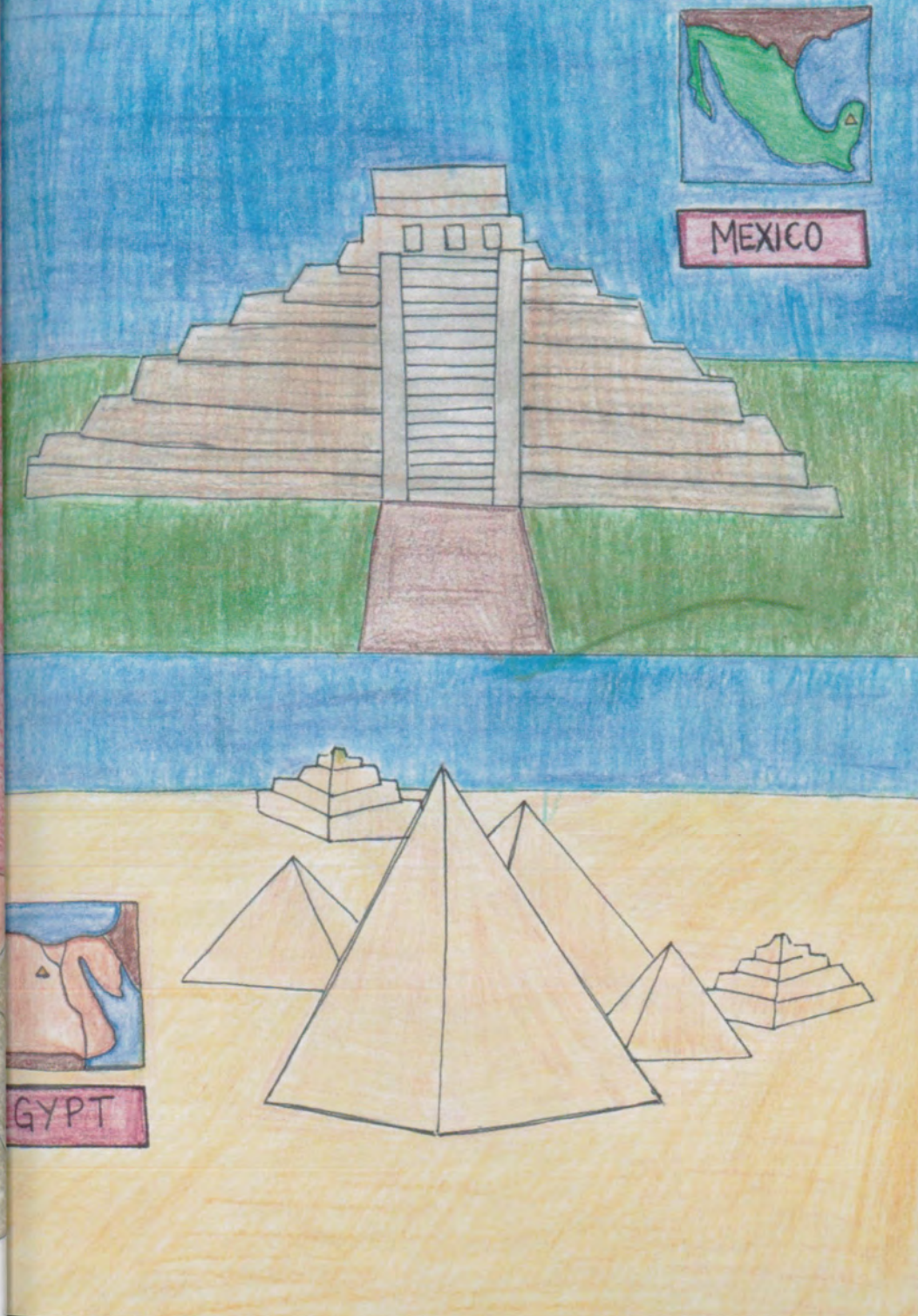
When Akhenaten became pharaoh his name was Amenhotep IV. He changed his name to honor the sun god, Aten. When he was pharaoh, Egypt was polytheistic, meaning they believed in many gods. Akhenaten told everybody to believe in one god, Aten.

Many people think King Tut is famous because he ruled at a young age from 9 to 19 years old. The real reason that he is famous is because Egyptologists discovered his tomb full of treasures. With this discovery, Egyptologists learned a lot about what types of treasures went with pharaohs into the afterlife.



P is for Pyramid

by Isaiah



Did you know that there are over 100 pyramids in Egypt? The tallest pyramid in the world is the Great Pyramid of Giza. It was the tallest man-made structure for over 3,800 years. Some of the most famous pyramids in the world are located in Egypt. A pyramid is a burial chamber or tomb where ancient Egyptians buried mummies.

Most of the Egyptian pyramids are located near Giza. The Pyramids of Giza were built as tombs for a family of pharaohs in the 4th dynasty. They are aligned with Orion's Belt and they took 20 years to build.

People stopped building pyramids because of tomb robbers. They had to hide the tombs in the mountains of the Valley of the Kings so tomb robbers would not steal the treasures in the tombs.

Pyramids are not only found in Egypt. There are hundreds of pyramids in Mexico. The Mayan pyramids are very big and old. Most of the Mayan pyramids are built steeper than Egyptian pyramids. During the 3rd through 9th centuries, Mayan pyramids were built across Mexico. The Mayans were skilled astronomers, and they laid out their pyramids according the sun, moon, and stars.

Q is for Queens

by Lea [redacted]

Imagine being a queen in ancient Egypt. Now you've been dead for hundreds of years, and you are one of the three most famous Egyptian queens known to mankind. These queens are Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra.

Hatshepsut was the first woman pharaoh. She was known for dressing like a male pharaoh, which she did to gain the respect of her people. After ruling for more than fifteen very successful years, she died or was forced out of her throne. During her reign, she strengthened Egypt through trade. After long searches and several excavations, Hatshepsut's mummy has never been found.

Queen Nefertiti was married to the pharaoh Akhenaten, who angered Egypt by changing their religion to monotheism, worshiping only Aten. She was known for her great beauty. They had six kids together. Akhenaten had many wives but favored Nefertiti. After many years of searching, archeologists finally found a bust of the beautiful Queen Nefertiti. This famous artifact is now on display at the Neues Museum in Berlin, Germany.

Queen Cleopatra was the last pharaoh to rule Egypt. When she was eleven, she was forced into a consort, which is when you are a forced to marry a brother or close relative. She married her younger brother, Ptolemy XIII. After they were married for a while, he drowned. She then married her other brother, but he died later from a disease. She was actually happy when she had no one else to marry because both of her brothers had died. It is believed that she killed herself with a bite of a cobra.



R is for Ra

by Matt



The Egyptians believed that Ra, the first being of all beings, was the god of the sun, and they worshiped him everyday. Every morning Ra was born, which brought daylight to the world. By evening he was swallowed by the sky goddess, Nut, which brought darkness on the world.

Ancient Egyptians believed that Ra was born in Heliopolis. The people of ancient Egypt believed he was important because he was the god of the sun. Ra was the only god other than Osiris who did not live on earth. Ra was significant because he was a symbol of good and truth by bringing light on the world. He stood for life and rebirth.

The people of ancient Egypt envisioned Ra as a pharaoh with the head of a hawk. In addition, his worshipers pictured him with a headdress and a sun disk that represented light and rebirth. In his hands, he held a staff and a scepter which represented that Ra was a prominent and powerful ruler.

R is for Ramses

by Alex [REDACTED]

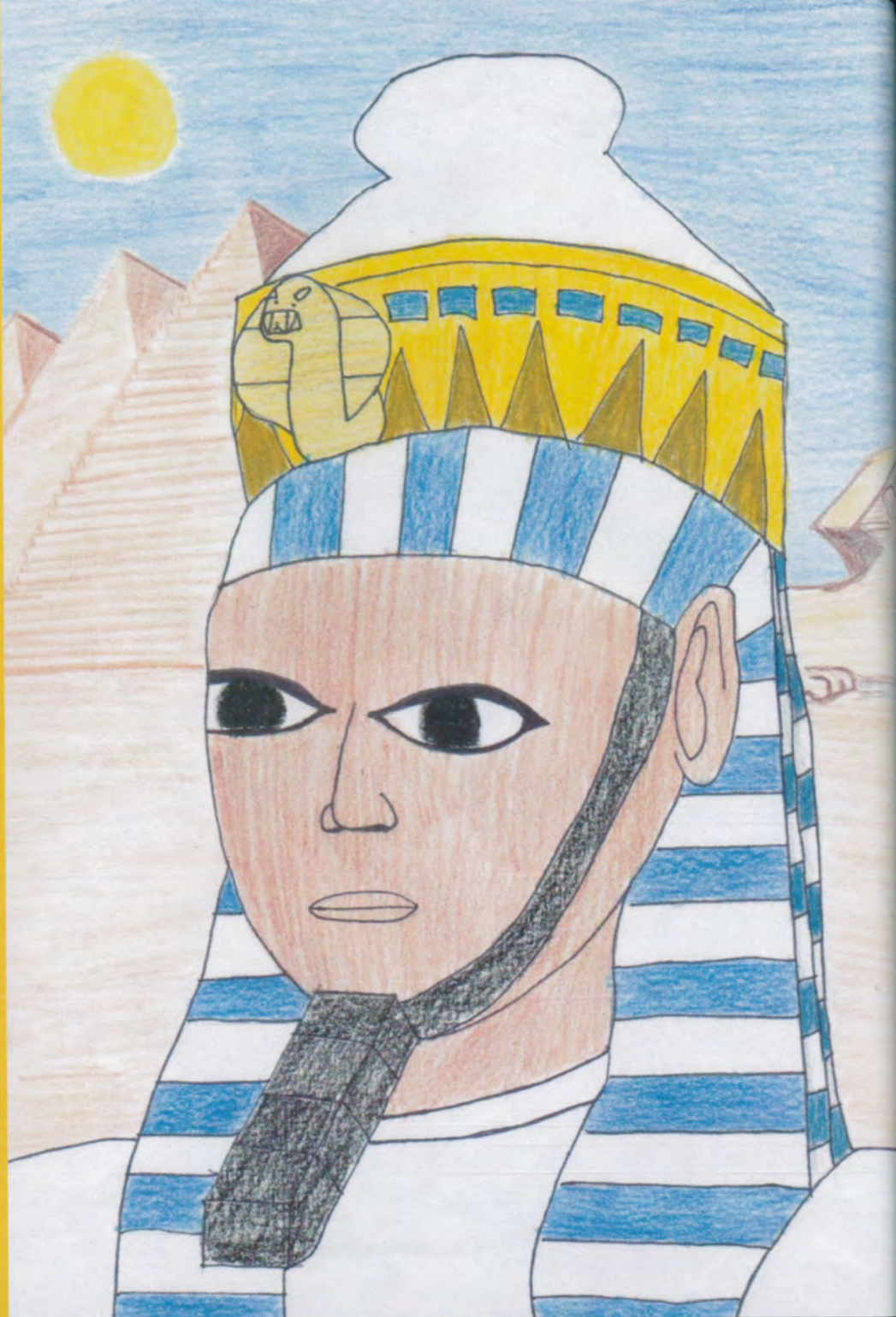
Ramses II is believed to be the greatest pharaoh of ancient Egypt. He was not just a pharaoh, but the leader of Egypt's army. He fought in many battles where he risked his life. He was also known for his amazing monuments such as Abu Simbel, the Luxor Temple, and the Karnak Temple.

Ramses II made Egypt one of the most powerful countries in the world. Unlike Hatshepsut, Ramses increased Egypt's wealth and power through war. Ramses reigned for over 60 years in the 19th dynasty. Ramses' most famous battle was when he faced the Hittites. Egypt's army lost many soldiers, and King Ramses was the only one remaining. The other soldiers were dead or ran away.

Ramses was known for the amazing temples and monuments he made. Abu Simbel is Ramses' most famous temple. It's located in the central part of Nubia, near the present day border of Sudan. Four, 65 feet tall statues of Ramses guard both sides of the entrance.

The Luxor Temple is located on the east bank of the Nile River. Ramses II built the entrance pylon and the two obelisks. One of these obelisks was given to France, and is now at the center of the Place de la Concorde in Paris.

The Karnak Temple is located near Luxor, about 500 km south of Cairo, Egypt. It's part of the monumental city of Thebes. The Karnak Temple takes its name by the nearby village of el-Karnak, some 2.5 km north of Luxor.



R is for Religion

by Kayla

What did religion have to do with ancient Egyptian pyramids and tombs? Well actually, religion had almost everything to do with an ancient Egyptians' daily life.

Ancient Egyptians practiced polytheism, which is the belief in many gods. Religion guided every aspect of the ancient Egyptians' lives. Each deity had their own role to play. Some took care of people when they died in the afterlife, some offered protection, and others brought the flood every year. The Egyptians believed it was good to worship gods and goddesses so that life continued smoothly. They also made offerings to keep the forces of chaos at bay.

Although all Egyptians believed in the major gods, each community would worship their own minor deity or set of deities. Household gods were often worshiped at shrines in peoples' living quarters. Local or state gods were the main deities in certain locations of Egypt.

The religion itself gradually developed and evolved becoming more sophisticated. The Egyptians saw death as a transitional stage in the process to a better life in the next world. They also believed that every person had three souls: the "Ka", the "Ba", and the "Akh". For these to function properly, it was considered essential for the body to survive intact. This is why the ancient Egyptians mummified the dead--to insure the body was protected and ready for the afterlife.



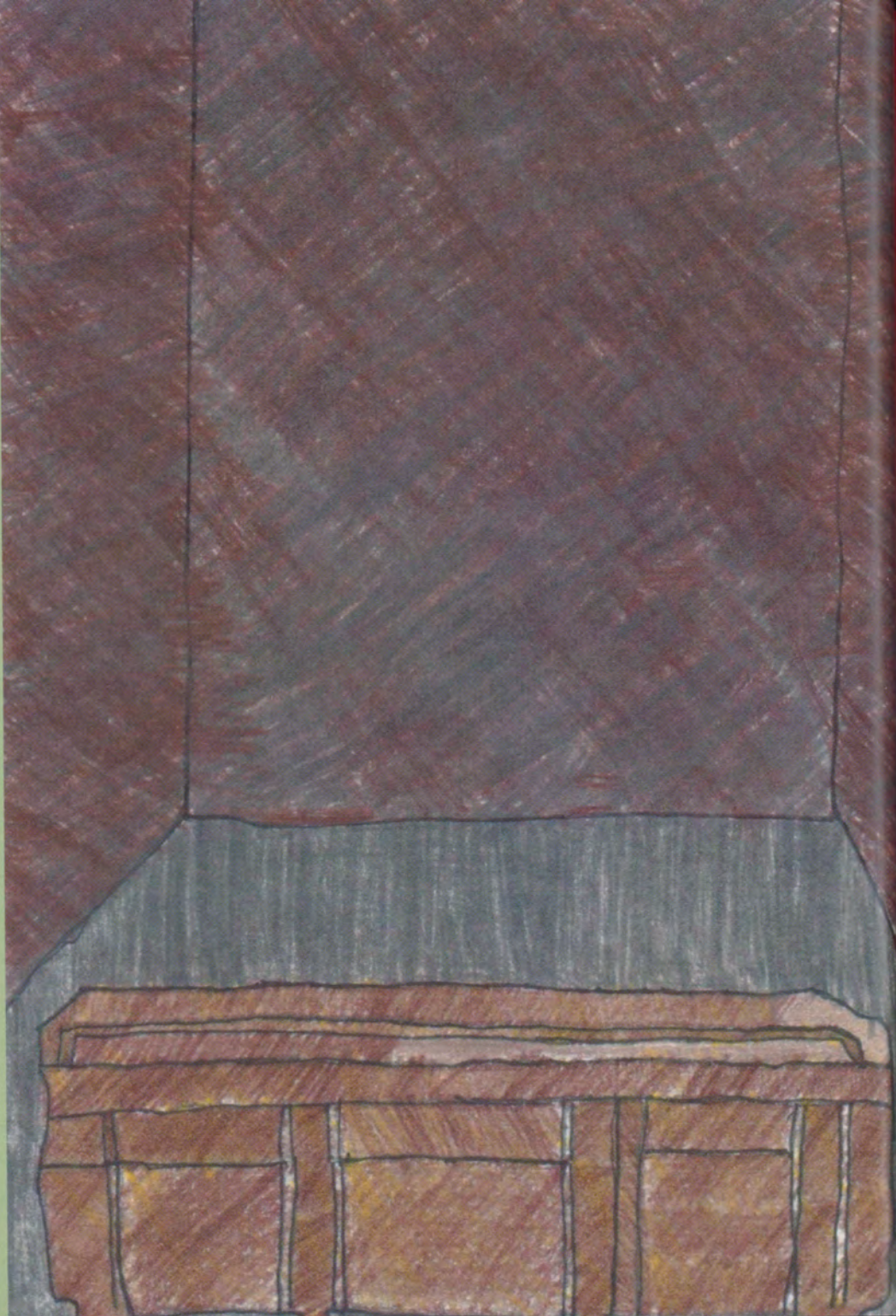
S is for Sarcophagus

by Jordan [REDACTED]

Imagine a world where people worked day and night under the boiling Egyptian sun that burned the land. They worked for years so that the pharaoh would have a resting place. Buried with all his treasure, the pharaoh would be placed in a sarcophagus within a burial chamber. This sarcophagus would be the door to the other world, and the pharaoh's ka, or spirit, would leave the body and go to the afterlife.

A sarcophagus is a large coffin made out of stone. One of the main uses for the sarcophagus was to prevent the body from decomposing. The sarcophagus holds many other coffins inside called mummy cases. The innermost case holds the mummy. Egyptologists discovered three solid gold mummy cases in King Tut's sarcophagus.

In the earliest dynasties, the Egyptians would make the sarcophagus out of wood. Later, they made it out of stone or granite. The granite was so hard that you would only be able to carve on it, and as time went by the carvings became more life-like. One of these carvings was a design called a false door, which Egyptians thought the pharaoh's ka would go through to get to the afterlife.



S is for Snefru

by Walker

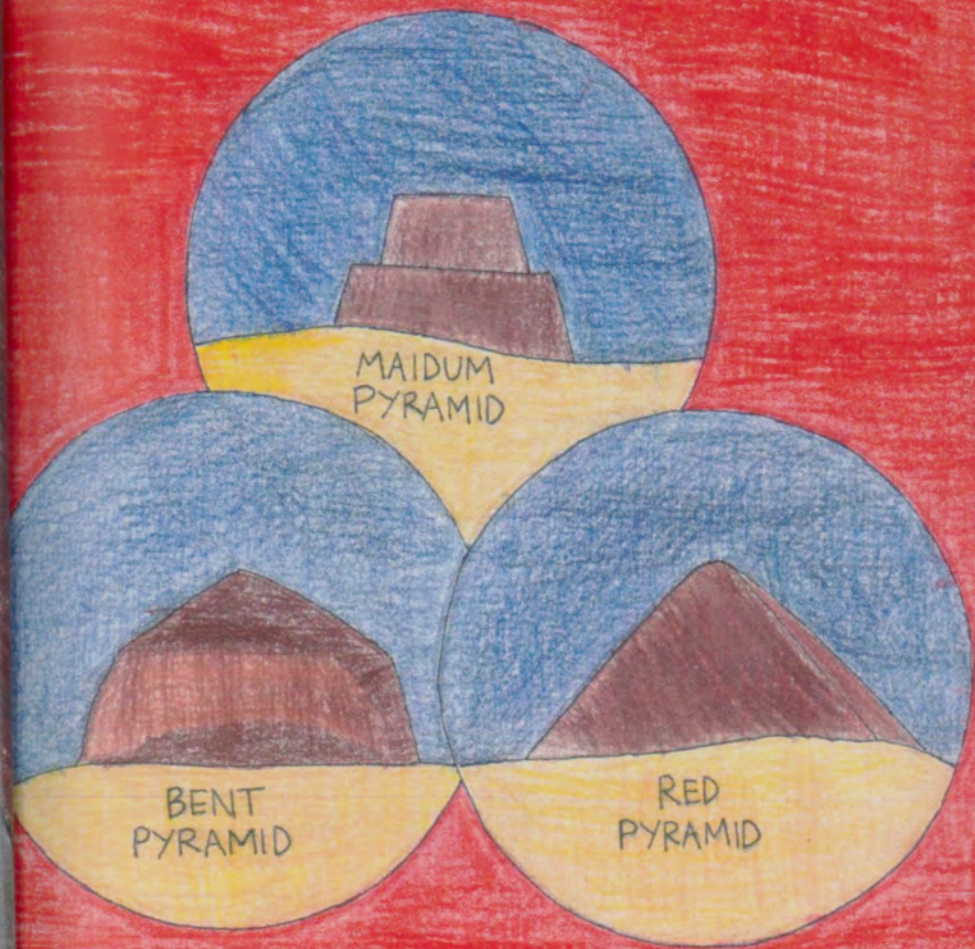
Snefru was one of Egypt's great rulers. He was born in the year 2635 B.C.E. He ruled for 24 years and had a large family of two wives, six children, and his mother named Hapie.

Snefru built three pyramids, which included the Maidum Pyramid, the Bent Pyramid, and the Red Pyramid. The first pyramid was the Maidum Pyramid. It was influenced by the Step Pyramid of Zoser. However, this pyramid had steps instead of the smooth sides of a classic pyramid. The Maidum Pyramid also was the first pyramid to have an above ground burial chamber.

The second pyramid Snefru built was the Bent Pyramid. This pyramid acquired its name because of its bend in the sides, which occurred as a result of a construction mistake discovered part way through it being built. The Bent Pyramid was also the first smooth sided pyramid.

The final pyramid is the Red Pyramid, which was built to make up for the mistakes made in the building of the Bent Pyramid. It was named the Red Pyramid because of its pinkish limestone. This pyramid was the last pyramid built by Snefru.

Snefru died 1598 B.C.E. He was not buried in a pyramid but a mastaba.



S is for Sphinx

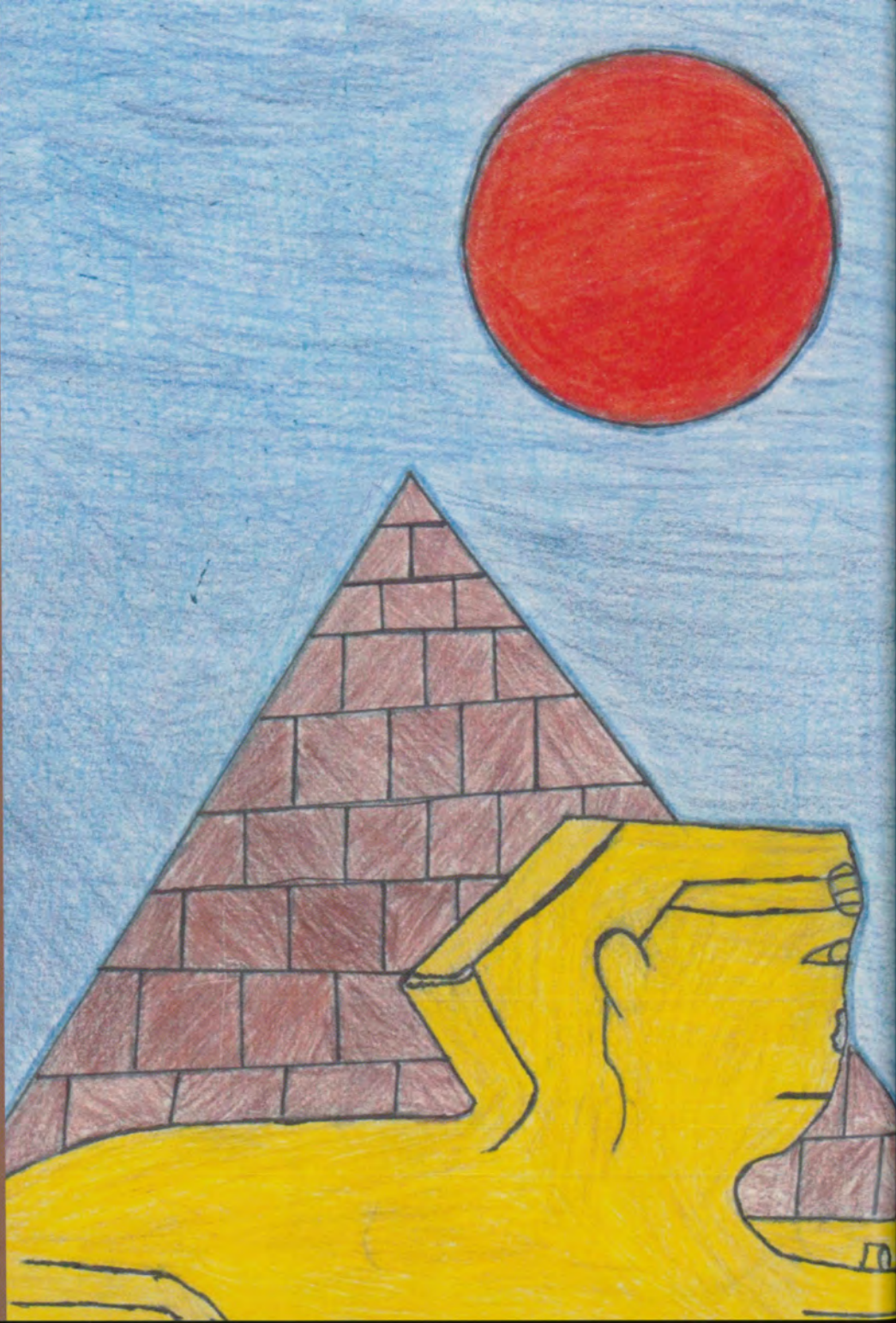
by Micah

In Ancient Egypt, a sphinx was a figure of lion's body with a human's head. The Great Sphinx in Giza is a lion's body with the pharaoh Khafre's head on it. It is one of the most important landmarks in Egypt.

The Great Sphinx is in front of Khafre's pyramid. The Great Sphinx is 187 feet long and 66 feet high. It is made of limestone. Khafre built the Sphinx to protect his pyramid so his body could rest in peace.

The Sphinx has no nose. Some people say that modern Egyptians broke it off because their religion says to not worship idols. Others think a member of the French army blew it off. Some think that it just fell off due to age and erosion. No one really knows what happened.

Between the two paws of the Great Sphinx is a tablet. Written on this tablet was Thutmose's IV's dream about him and the Sphinx. According to this legend, the Sphinx promised to make him king if he freed him of the suffocation of the sand. After he dug him up, the prince recorded his story on the tablet.



T is for Tomb

by Austin [REDACTED]

The purpose of tombs are for ancient rulers to be laid to rest. There are different types of tombs like mastabas, pyramids, and hidden tombs.

Mastabas were the first type of tombs of ancient Egyptian origin. Mastabas are rectangular structures made of mud-brick. They came before the pyramids.

Pharaoh Zoser reigned during the time of mastaba tombs, but he wanted something bigger. He ordered his architect to make a tomb with mastabas stacked on top of each other. That made the first pyramid in history, which was called the Step Pyramid.

After the Step Pyramid, pharaohs started making smooth-sided pyramids as their burial tombs. The most famous pyramids are the Pyramids of Giza. The problem with pyramids was that they were easily seen, and tomb robbers would often rob the tombs of all of the treasures inside.

Finally, Egyptians buried pharaohs in hidden tombs in order to prevent robberies. The tombs in the Valley of the Kings are hidden. There are lots of rulers buried in the Valley of the Kings. Some of the most important pharaohs buried in the Valley of the Kings are Tutankhamun, Ramses II, Seti, and Amenhotep.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS

PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

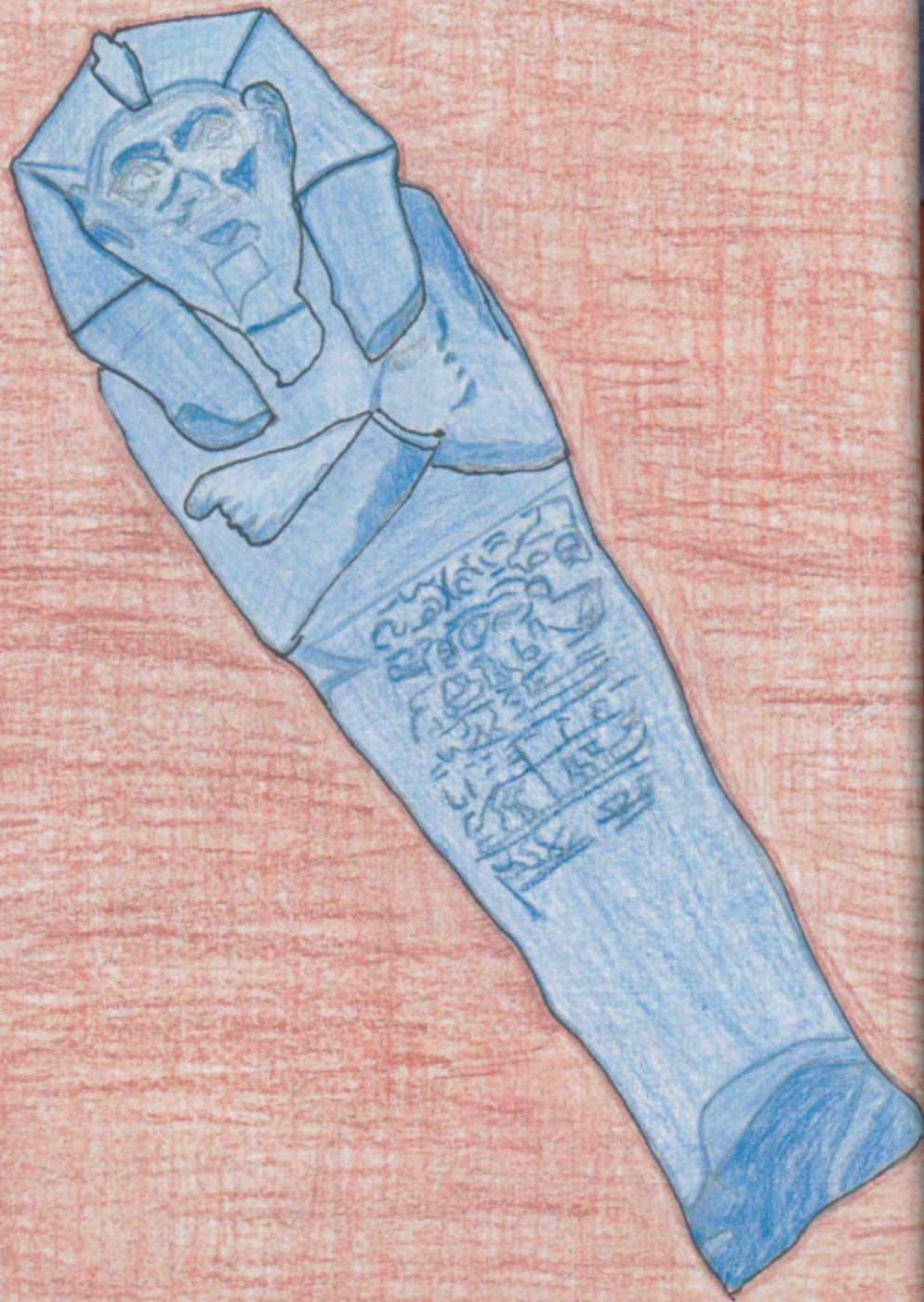
U is for Ushabti

by Cheyenne [redacted]

After pharaohs were mummified they were buried with all their belongings in their tomb. One of those belongings were ushabtis. Ushabtis are little figurines that were put inside a pharaoh's tomb. They were in the tomb because it was believed that when the pharaoh moved on to the afterlife the ushabtis would be their servants.

Ushabtis looked like a smaller version of a mummy. They were usually made of stone such as limestone or calcite. Sometimes they were made of wood. The wood ones were most likely to be covered in gold. Ushabtis would usually be holding tools such as a mattock (a small tool with a blade perpendicular to the handle), a basket, or a hoe (a tool used for agriculture).

One of the most famous pharaohs, King Tut, had a lot of ushabtis. Archaeologists were surprised by how many they found in his tomb. There were 412 ushabtis, measuring between 15 to 63 cm long. It is said that the more ushabtis you had the richer you were, so King Tut must have been one of the richest pharaohs in ancient Egypt.



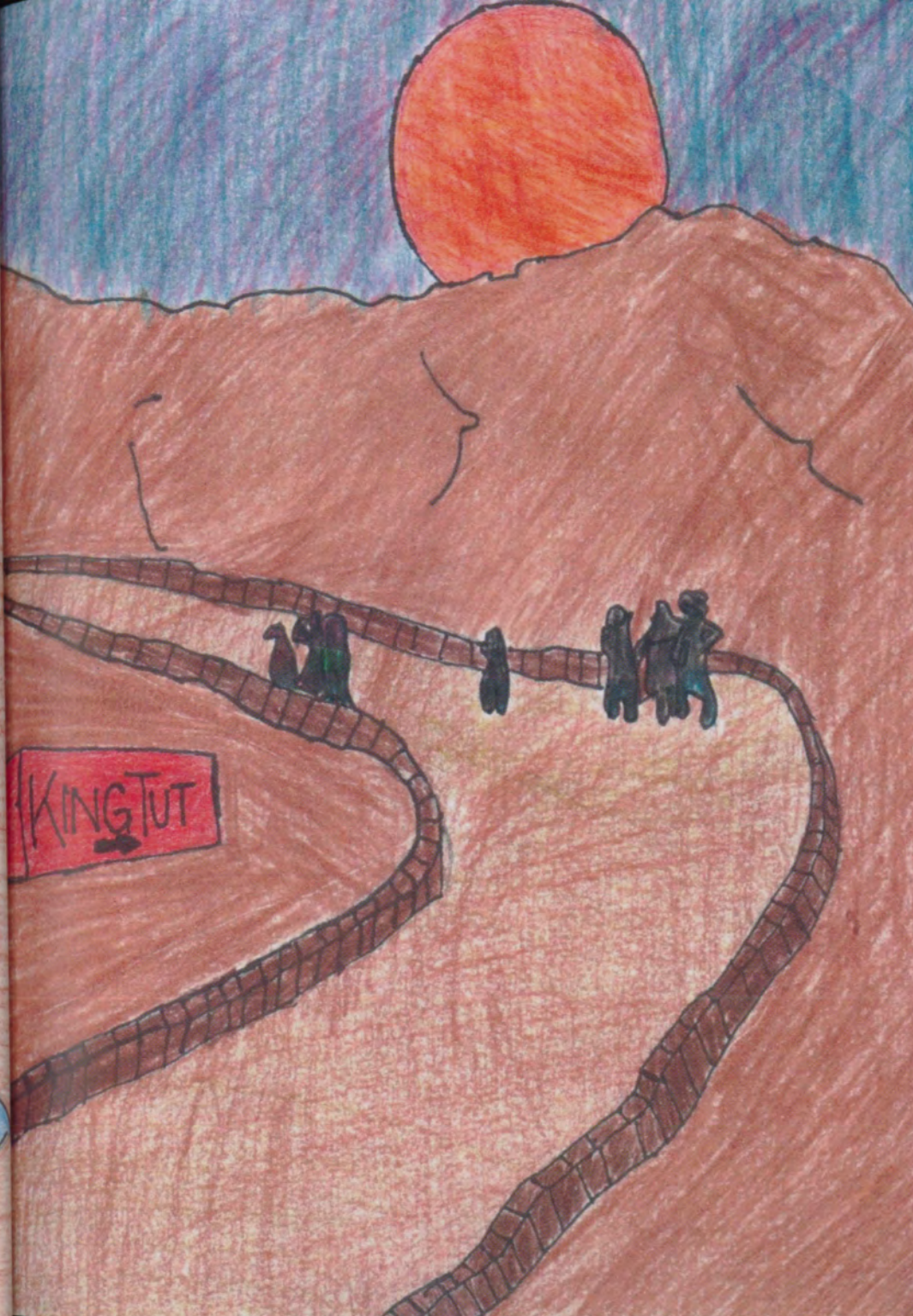
V is for Valley of the Kings

by Branden [REDACTED]

The Valley of the Kings is a mountainous land filled with the tombs of ancient Egyptian kings. It is located on the west bank of Nile river near Luxor. The Valley of the Kings was needed because of tomb robbers, who would rob the pyramids. So, Egyptians started burying the pharaohs in hidden tombs in the south of Egypt.

There were 62 tombs that were found in the Valley of the Kings. Some of the most important pharaohs buried in the Valley of the Kings are Tutankhamun, Ramses II, Seti, and Amenhotep.

King Tut's tomb was one of the greatest discoveries ever. His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. King Tut reigned between 1311 and 1325 BCE. King Tut was the 62nd king found in the Valley of the Kings.



W is for Wedjat Eye

by Toni [REDACTED]

Ever lost your eye in battle? Probably not, but the Egyptian god Horus has! The Wedjat Eye is now known as the symbol of protection to Egyptians. It is supposed to protect against evil and rebirth in the underworld. It is sacred to Egyptians because they believe that someone is watching over them through the Wedjat Eye.

There are lines coming down from the eye. Those are the markings on a falcon's face. Sometimes two Wedjat eyes were drawn on the side of coffins because they believed that the mummy could see through the eyes. Each part of the eye could also represent mathematical fractions or the five senses.

The Wedjat Eye is also known as the Eye of Horus. Horus, the god of the sky, is known to have a falcon's head. He is the son of Isis and Osiris. He is also the brother of Seth, the one who killed Osiris. According to ancient Egyptian myths, Horus fought Seth to avenge him for killing their father, Osiris. Seth tore out one of Horus's eyes during the fight, but eventually Seth lost the fight. Horus regained his throne as god of the sky and Osiris, god of the underworld. Seth is the god of chaos. No wonder!



W is for Writing

by Karmone

Ancient Egyptians created one of the first writing systems in history called hieroglyphics. Hieroglyphics has over seven hundred symbols to represent sounds and words. The Egyptians wrote in hieroglyphics from 3,200BC-400AD. Over the many years, people forgot how to write in this language. The people who mostly wrote in hieroglyphics were scribes. The ancient Egyptian god of writing was Thoth.

The Rosetta Stone was an important discovery because it unlocked the code to hieroglyphics. It was constructed in 196 BC and was found 1,603 years later in 1799 by a French soldier. It was deciphered by Jean Francois Champollion. It was very difficult to decipher the Rosetta Stone, because no one wrote in hieroglyphics or Demotic, two of the languages on the stone. However, people did write in Greek, the third language on the stone. So Champollion used Greek to figure out hieroglyphics. The Rosetta Stone weighs about 1,500 pounds.

Scribes had the job of writing about the history of ancient Egypt. They were considered siblings of Thoth. They wrote on rock and papyrus, which was used for many things in ancient Egypt, such as paper and boats. A papyrus plant looks like a stick with spikes on the top and it grows on the banks of the Nile.



X is for X-ray

by Aleya [redacted]

Egyptologists sometimes can tell how ancient Egyptians died by studying their mummies. Now Egyptologists can use CAT scans and X-rays to learn how ancient Egyptians once lived. An X-ray is an image produced on photographic film, when X-rays pass through parts of the body. CAT scans are pictures of structures in the body created by a computer that takes multiple X-ray images and combines them to make a three-dimensional image. Egyptologists used these machines to figure out how Tutankhamen, better known as King Tut, died.

Some Egyptologists think that King Tut died from a disease, but others think that he was murdered. Bob Brier, an Egyptologist, thinks that someone, particularly Ay, hit Tut in the head with something. He believes that Ay might have killed him because he wanted to be the next ruler of ancient Egypt. Ay did become king and he reigned for about four years. Bob Brier came to this conclusion because in an X-ray, the back of King Tut's head was damaged.

Zahi Hawass, another Egyptologist, wanted to find out for himself, so, on January 5, 2005, he went to Luxor to see King Tut's mummy and have a CAT scan done on him. It was a success. They concluded that he wasn't murdered, but he might have died from an infection. Just above his left knee, it was broken and his left knee cap was detached. Hawass's team believed that Howard Carter's team probably caused the damage on his head when his tomb was first found. To come to this conclusion, there were many of X-rays and CAT scans that had to be done. X-rays and CAT scans have helped Egyptologists so much, and they will continue to help them discover many things about ancient Egyptians.



Y is for You can be an Egyptologist!

by Sophia [REDACTED]



Have you ever wanted to be an Egyptologist? Egyptology is the study of Egypt and its past. Egyptologists work out in the fields to excavate, observe and take samples of artifacts that they've found.

One of the most famous Egyptologists is Zahi Hawass. Hawass is the head Egyptologist in Egypt. He lives in Cairo, Egypt and his office is only a few feet away from the Pyramids of Giza!

Another famous Egyptologist is Howard Carter. Carter is famous for helping discover the tomb of King Tutankhamen, or King Tut for short. Scientists think that King Tut's tomb is the only tomb in the Valley of the Kings that was not touched by tomb robbers. Carter was also one of the first people to go in his tomb.

Some other famous Egyptologists are Jean Francois Champollion and Gaston Maspero. Champollion is famous for helping decipher hieroglyphics from the Rosetta Stone, which is a huge chunk of rock with ancient Egyptian writing called hieroglyphics all over it. Maspero is famous for arresting tomb robbers, excavating the Sphinx, and recommending Howard Carter to Lord Carnavon.

You can become an Egyptologist too! All you have to do is study Egypt, watch Egyptology documentaries on T.V., read about Egypt, and research Egyptology on the Internet. If you really put your heart into it, you might become one! Have fun!

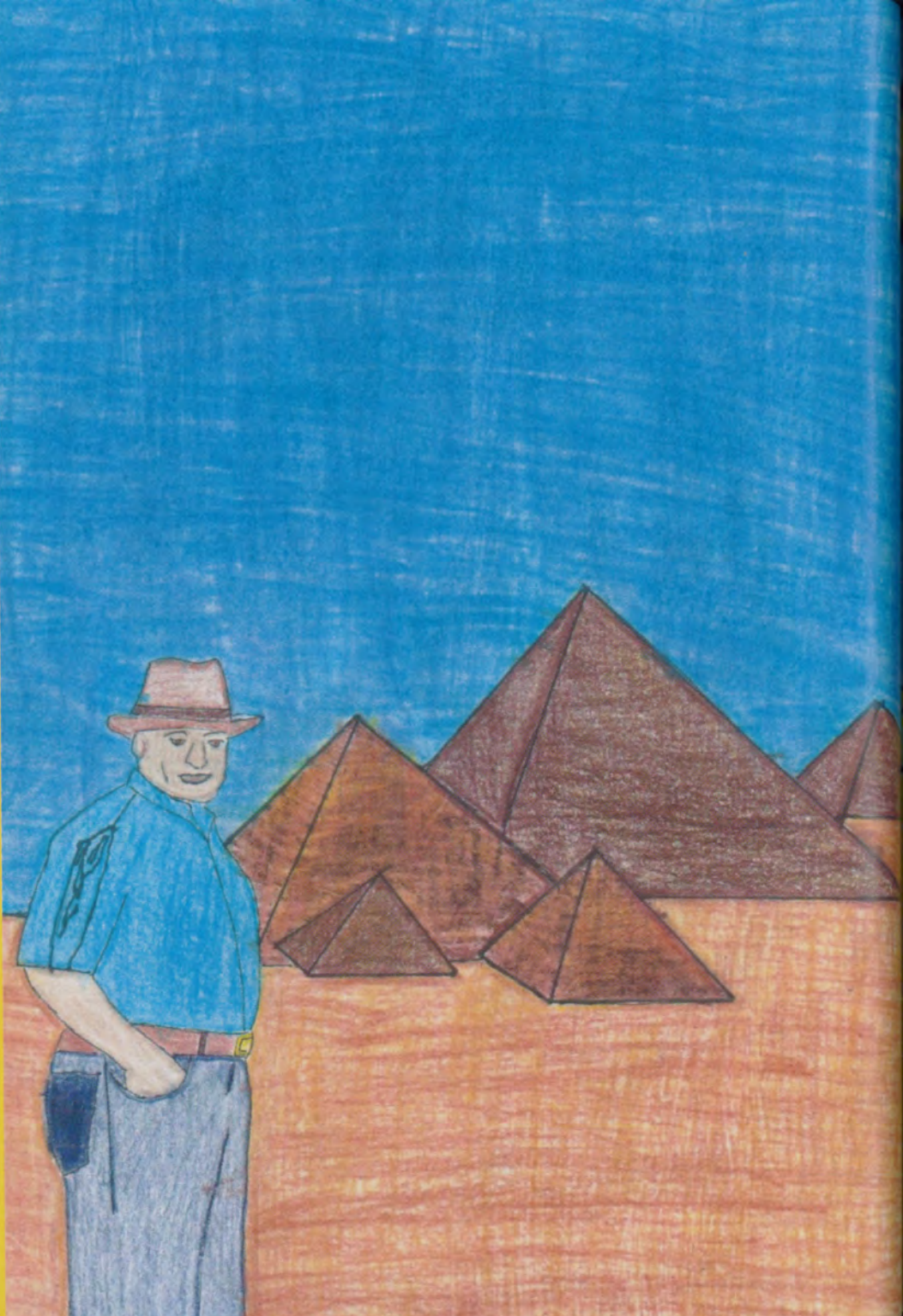
Z is for Zahi Hawass

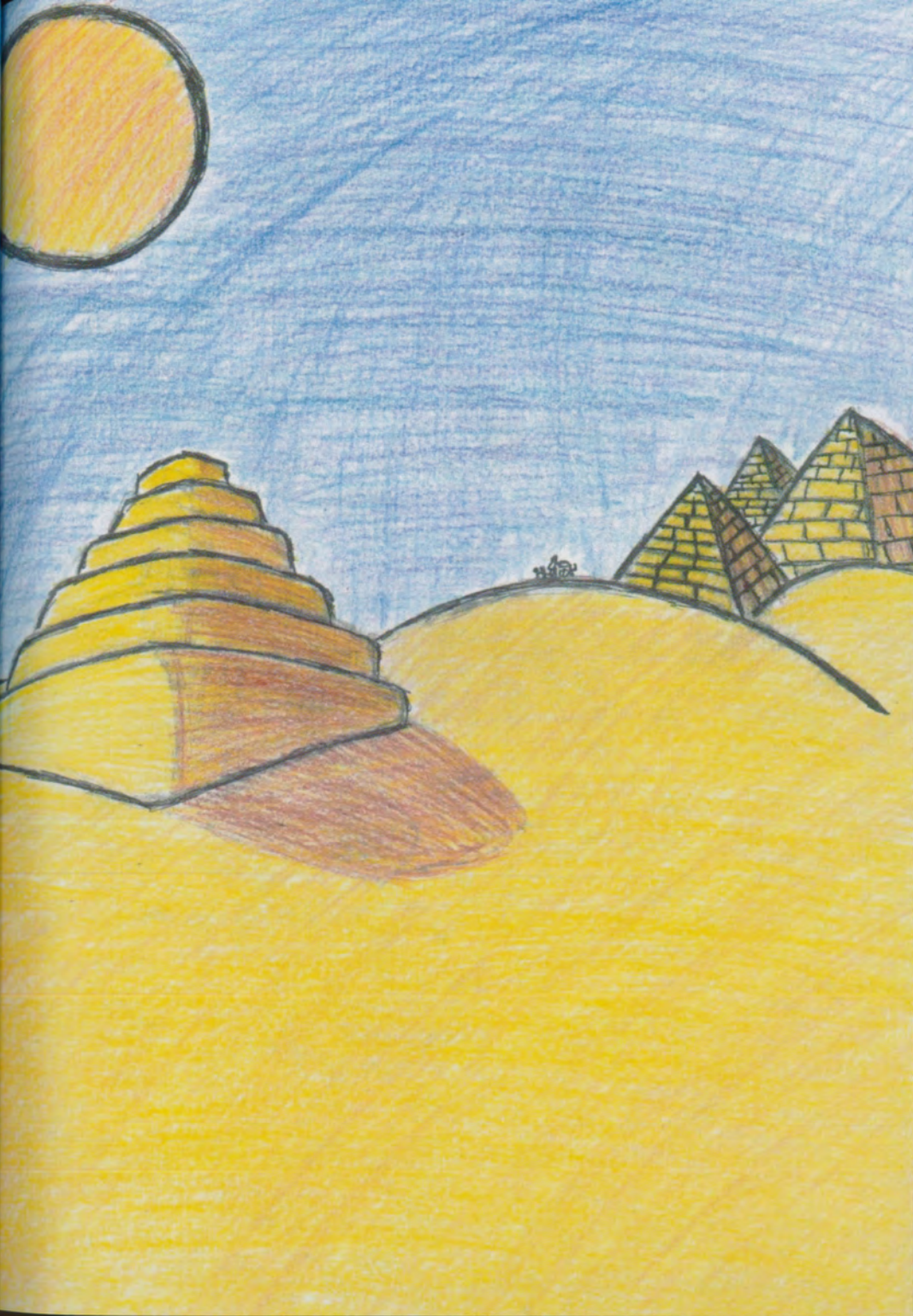
by Jacob [REDACTED]

Whenever you see a documentary about Egypt, the chances are you'll see a man with gray hair and an Indiana Jones hat. This person is Zahi Hawass. Zahi Hawass currently serves as the head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, which means he is responsible for overseeing all of the antiquities and archeological excavations in Egypt.

Zahi Hawass intended to be a lawyer, but he studied Greek and Roman mythology and got a bachelor's degree at Alexandria University. Later he obtained a diploma in Egyptology at the University of Cairo, which has made him the most well-known Egyptologist in the world.

These are some of Hawass' most amazing discoveries. On March 2, 1996 Zahi Hawass received a call from Ashry Shaker who is the director of the SCA (Supreme Council of Antiquities) office in the Bahariya Oasis. Ashry told him about a new discovery. He told him that a guard named Abdul Megoud had chased a runaway donkey to a hole with a glint of gold in it. Abdul Megoud had found The Valley of The Golden Mummies, which Zahi Hawass then excavated. Another discovery is Queen Hatsheput's tomb, where all he found was a woman who might have been Hatsheput's nurse and another woman who was very obese at death. Even though he saw so little in the tomb, Hawass did find a lot of information about Hatsheput. Hawass is also famous for discovering a cemetery for the pyramid builders, which he believes is evidence that the pyramids were not built by slaves.





Z is for Step Pyramid of Zoser

by Marina [REDACTED]

The Step Pyramid of Zoser was the very first pyramid in ancient Egypt. The pharaoh Zoser ordered his architect Imhotep to create a pyramid for his mummy to be buried in. It was the biggest stone building of its time and it was created by stacking mastabas on top of each other from biggest to small. Mastabas were the first burial tomb before any pyramids. This huge stone building had carvings on it to look like wood, reeds, grass and other soft materials.

Zoser was buried in the Step Pyramid. He asked for the making of the pyramid because he did not want to be buried in a mastaba. He wanted to be buried in something better, so he asked Imhotep to build a new type of burial tomb that would be even more impressive than a mastaba.

Imhotep created the step pyramid as well as other pyramids. After he died he was considered a god of building. The only thing found in the Step Pyramid was Zoser's left foot. It may have been that way because of tomb robbers. The pyramid had six or seven chambers in it. There were a few unfinished statues found, but nothing more. Thanks to Imhotep, ancient Egypt had a new era of burial tombs such as the Great Pyramid, the Red Pyramid, and the Bent Pyramid.

The Process



To create their pages for this book, students completed multiple drafts of both their illustration and writing piece. Here you can see the progress that student author Cynthia Ahumada made on her illustration. To enhance her draft, Cynthia implemented a layering technique with her colors, improved her proportions, and added a sky. She acquired ideas for improving her work through peer critique and lessons with the art teacher, Andrea Barrett.

Exhibiting Our Work

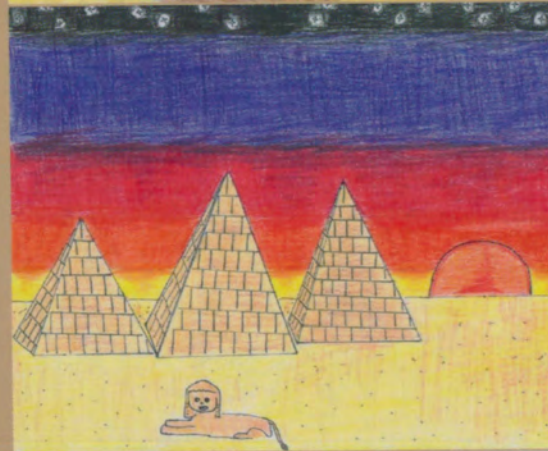


Cynthia [redacted] shows off the final draft of her illustration.

After completing their pages for the book, students exhibited their work to peers, parents, and community members at a Presentation of Learning. At this exhibition, they discussed the drafting process of their writing pieces and illustrations. They also shared their learning about a wide range of topics related to ancient Egypt.



Students exhibit their work at a Presentation of Learning.



From Akhenaten to Zoser,
E is for Egypt will take you on
an alphabetical adventure
through ancient Egypt.

