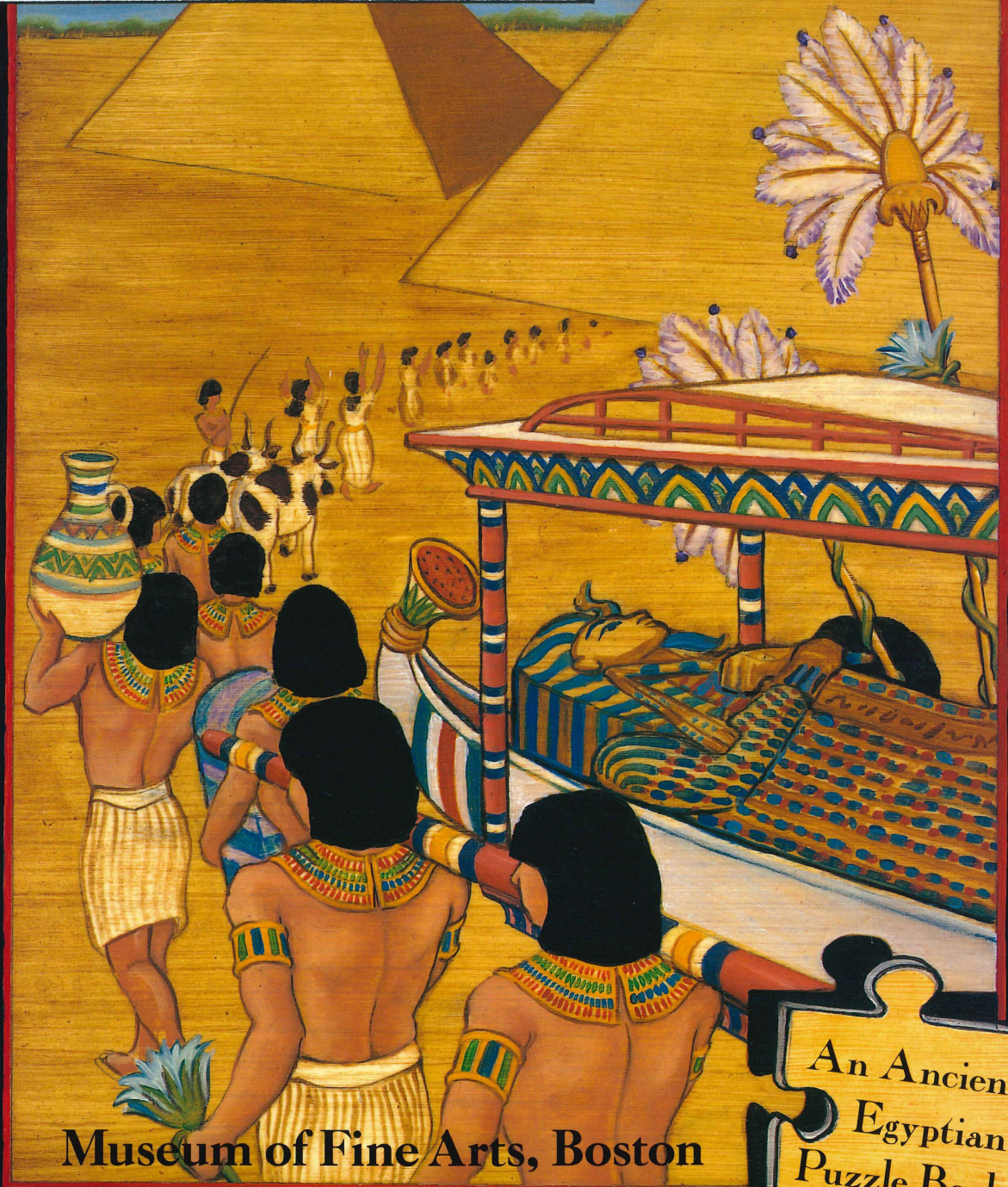


# PYRAMIDS MUMMIES AND FUN

Pyramids, Mummies & Fun

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

An Ancient  
Egyptian  
Puzzle Book

# ANCIENT EGYPT



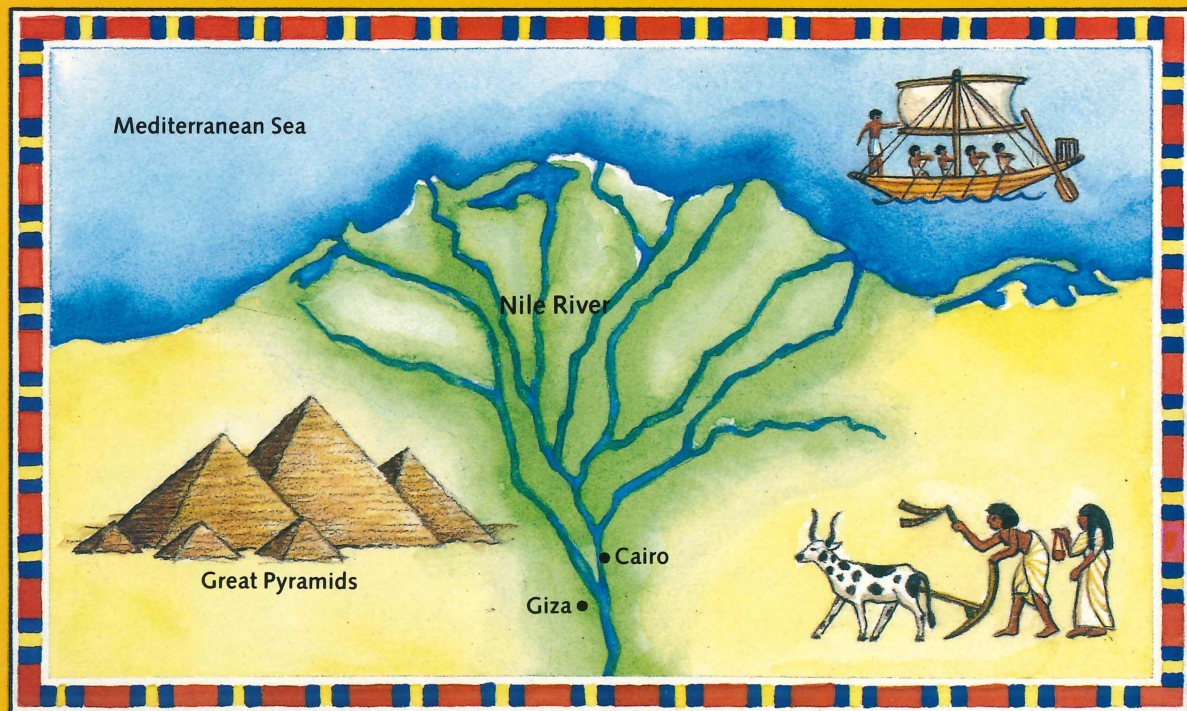
AFRICA

**T**he ancient Egyptian dynastic civilization lasted more than 3,000 years, from about 3,100 B.C. to 332 B.C., the date of the conquest by Alexander the Great. And, if the ancient Egyptians were right, they still exist in the next world because they believed life went on after death. They prepared themselves for the afterlife by building great pyramids as tombs for their pharaohs and queens, and smaller tombs in chambers above ground, cut into the cliffside, or

in burial shafts underground for other people. That way, their bodies would have a place to live. The bodies of the dead were mummified, or preserved, so they could continue to serve as the home for the person's spirit. The Egyptians even left food, clothing, furniture, jewelry, wall paintings and carvings in their tombs—all for use in the afterlife.

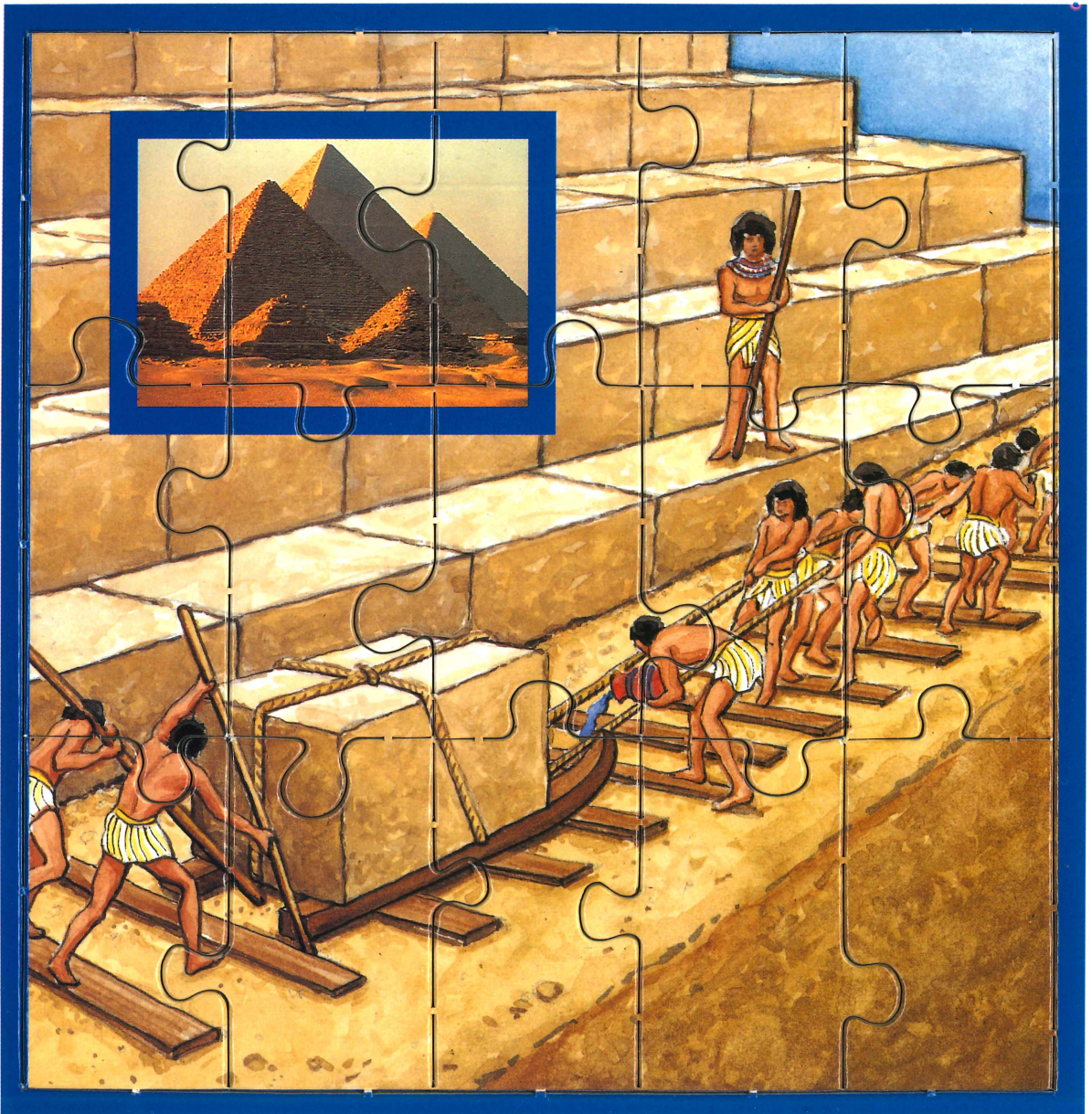
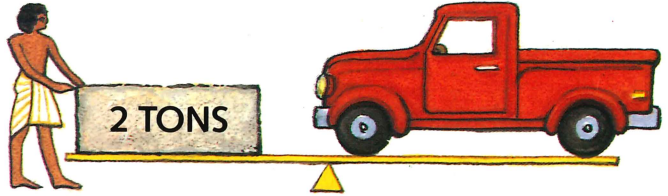
The four puzzles in this book show you scenes from ancient Egypt. First you will see how a pyramid is built, as well as the site of the three pyramids of Giza. One of them belonged to King Mycerinus, who appears in the second puzzle with his wife, Queen Kha-merer-nebty II. The third puzzle shows the outer coffin of Nes-mut-aat-neru, a woman who lived almost 2,000 years after the pyramids were built. Her inner coffin is shown in the fourth puzzle.

**Look under the puzzles and learn some secrets of ancient Egypt!**



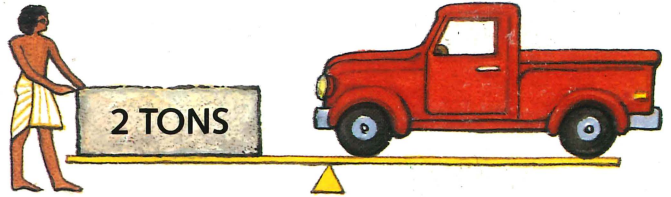
# PYRAMIDS

**T**he pyramids of Giza, just west of modern Cairo, are perhaps the most famous archaeological site in the world. They were built almost 5,000 years ago. It took thousands of Egyptian workers about 20 years to build the Great Pyramid (the one in the background of the small photo). Every year, they moved 100,000 blocks, each weighing about 2 tons, until the pyramid reached a height of 481 feet. That's almost twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty! See the inside of a pyramid under this puzzle.



# PYRAMIDS

**T**he pyramids of Giza, just west of modern Cairo, are perhaps the most famous archaeological site in the world. They were built almost 5,000 years ago. It took thousands of Egyptian workers about 20 years to build the Great Pyramid (the one in the background of the small photo). Every year, they moved 100,000 blocks, each weighing about 2 tons, until the pyramid reached a height of 481 feet. That's almost twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty! See the inside of a pyramid under this puzzle.



# ARCHAEOLOGY

P

pyramids were only one part of a king's or queen's tomb complex. There were also two temples: a pyramid temple and, further away, a valley temple connected by a road. Archaeologists from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

discovered this 5 foot tall statue of King Mycerinus and Queen Kha-merer-nebty II in a trench in the king's valley temple. This was in 1910—about 4,500 years after it had been buried! Archaeologists study ancient cultures to help us understand our past. They



dig up sculptures like this one

(Look at the photos under this puzzle) very slowly, using special tools so they won't damage it. Sometimes they even



have to use a little brush and very patiently dust sand off grain by grain.



# ARCHAEOLOGY

**P**ramids were only one part of a king's or queen's tomb complex. There were also two temples: a pyramid temple and, further away, a valley temple connected by a road. Archaeologists from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

discovered this 5 foot tall statue of King Mycerinus and Queen Kha-merer-nebty II in a trench in the king's valley temple. This was in 1910—about 4,500 years after it had been buried! Archaeologists study ancient cultures to help us understand our past. They



dig up sculptures like this one

(Look at the photos under this puzzle) very slowly, using special tools so they won't damage it. Sometimes they even



have to use a little brush and very patiently dust sand off grain by grain.



# MUMMIES



ncient Egyptians believed in life after death, so they

preserved the dead body by making it into a mummy. First they took the lungs, stomach, intestines and liver out of the body, and saved them in containers called *canopic jars*. Since they believed that people felt and thought with their heart, it was left in the body. They thought the brain was not important so they threw it away. Then the body was covered in *natron*, a kind of salt, for over a month to absorb all its moisture. Finally, the body was wrapped in linen bandages, with protective amulets and jewelry placed between the layers. Put inside one or more coffins, the body was ready for the final burial ceremony.

This coffin belonged to a woman whose name was Nes-mut-aat-neru. She had three coffins, one placed inside the other. Her outer coffin is a simple box with a rounded lid. Her second coffin (the one shown on this puzzle) is made of wood and painted plaster. Her name is painted in hieroglyphs down the front. Look at the *Goddess of the West* painted inside the coffin!



# MUMMIES



ncient Egyptians believed in life after death, so they preserved the dead body by making it into a mummy. First they took the lungs, stomach, intestines and liver out of the body, and saved them in containers called *canopic jars*. Since they believed that people felt and thought with their heart, it was left in the body. They thought the brain was not important so they threw it away. Then the body was covered in *natron*, a kind of salt, for over a month to absorb all its moisture. Finally, the body was wrapped in linen bandages, with protective amulets and jewelry placed between the layers. Put inside one or more coffins, the body was ready for the final burial ceremony.

This coffin belonged to a woman whose name was Nes-mut-aat-neru. She had three coffins, one placed inside the other. Her outer coffin is a simple box with a rounded lid. Her second coffin (the one shown on this puzzle) is made of wood and painted plaster. Her name is painted in hieroglyphs down the front. Look at the *Goddess of the West* painted inside the coffin!



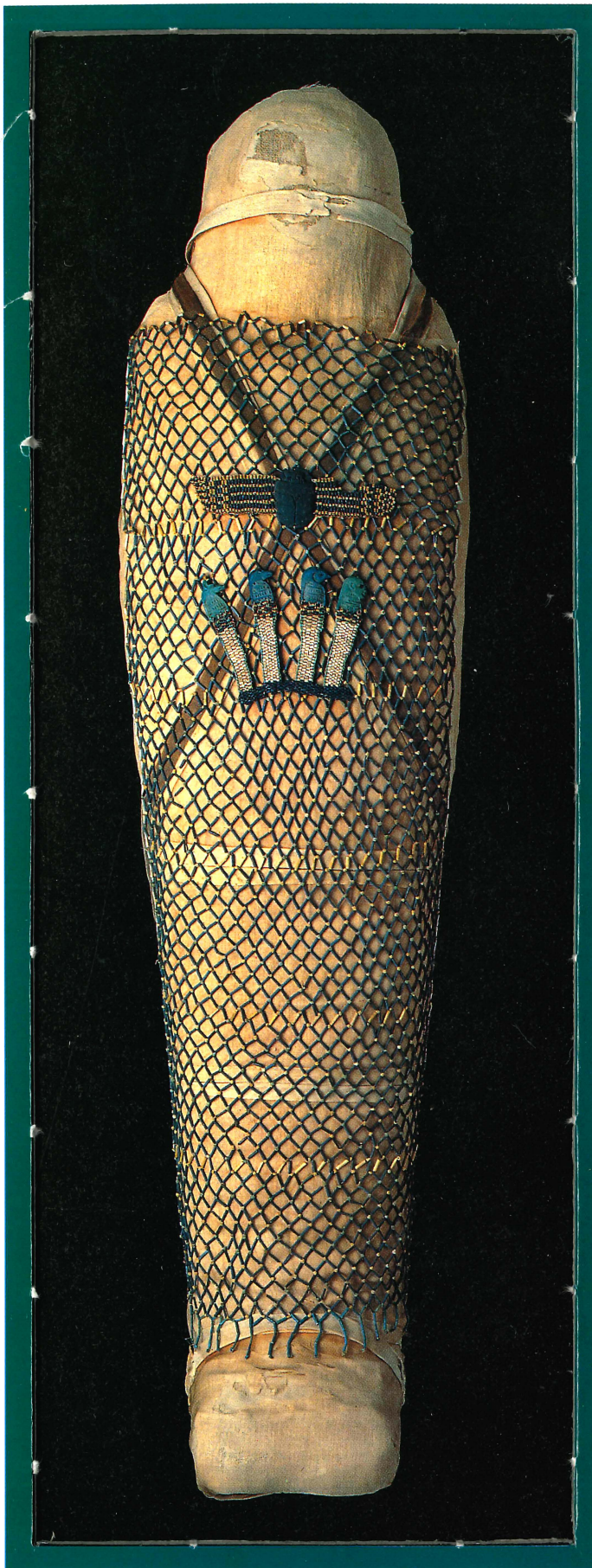


**E**gyptians usually started by wrapping each finger and toe separately, then each arm and leg, and finally the whole body itself.

This puzzle shows the inner coffin of Nes-mut-aat-neru. It is made of plastered linen over two wooden halves. After her mummy was placed inside this coffin, the edges where the two halves join were plastered over. Many different gods and goddesses are painted on the coffin to protect the mummy and the eternal life of Nes-mut-aat-neru. To see the mummy wrapped in linen, look at the picture underneath!

The little figurines of four gods and a winged *scarab* (a sacred beetle) were put over her chest to protect her.

In modern times, scholars and scientists have worked together to make X-rays and CT scans of mummies. CT scans send X-rays through the mummy and then into a computer. The insides of the mummy then appear on the computer screen. This allows us to study the mummies without having to unwrap or damage them. The computer can even show us the face of the person mummified under all those bandages—a face hidden for thousands of years!

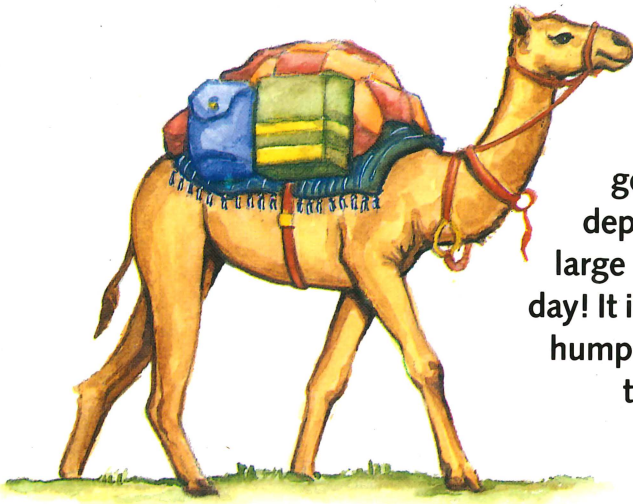


**E**gyptians usually started by wrapping each finger and toe separately, then each arm and leg, and finally the whole body itself.

This puzzle shows the inner coffin of Nes-mut-aat-neru. It is made of plastered linen over two wooden halves. After her mummy was placed inside this coffin, the edges where the two halves join were plastered over. Many different gods and goddesses are painted on the coffin to protect the mummy and the eternal life of Nes-mut-aat-neru. To see the mummy wrapped in linen, look at the picture underneath! The little figurines of four gods and a winged *scarab* (a sacred beetle) were put over her chest to protect her.

In modern times, scholars and scientists have worked together to make X-rays and CT scans of mummies. CT scans send X-rays through the mummy and then into a computer. The insides of the mummy then appear on the computer screen. This allows us to study the mummies without having to unwrap or damage them. The computer can even show us the face of the person mummified under all those bandages—a face hidden for thousands of years!

# Did You Know...?



▲ You may think camels come from Egypt, but there were no camels in Egypt until long after the days of the ancient pharaohs had ended! Camels can go for days or even months without water, depending on the weather. In hot weather, a large camel can drink up to 53 gallons of water a day! It is a myth that camels store the water in their humps. Instead, they retain moisture throughout their body and do not sweat much. Today there are many camels in Egypt, mostly used as pack-animals to carry crops.

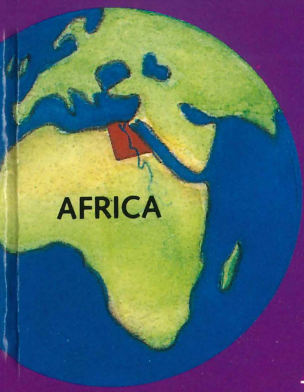
▲ Cats were sacred animals in ancient Egypt. There was a cat goddess named *Bastet*. Many Egyptians kept cats as pets in their homes—just as you do. But wall paintings also show pet dogs and even pet monkeys!



▲ Ancient Egyptians wrote with pictures called hieroglyphs, not with letters like you do. While you only need to learn 26 letters from A–Z, they had thousands of signs! Hieroglyphs can be written from left to right (like English), from right to left (like Arabic and Hebrew), or even from top to bottom (like Chinese). Look at the hieroglyphs carved across the top and down the side of this stone.

# Timeline of Ancient Egyptian History (over 2500–5000 years ago!)

Old Kingdom 2630–2250 B.C.	1st Intermediate Period 2250–2061 B.C.	Middle Kingdom 2061–1784 B.C.	2nd Intermediate Period 1784–1570 B.C.	New Kingdom 1570–1070 B.C.	3rd Intermediate Period 1070–685 B.C.	Late Period 685–332 B.C.
 <p>The pyramids of Giza</p>	 <p>Statue of Wep-wawet-em-hat, an official</p>	 <p>Model of a procession of a priest with bearers carrying offerings</p>	 <p>Provincial wooden coffin</p>	 <p>Shawabti (servant figurine) of Tjay</p>	 <p>Set of model canopic jars with lids shaped like animals</p>	 <p>Statue of Osiris, God of the Underworld</p>
 <p>King Mycerinus and Queen Kha-merer-nebty II</p>	 <p>Stela (a carved piece of stone) of Nubian soldier Nenu with pet dogs</p>	 <p>Statue of Sennuwty, a lady of the upper classes</p>	 <p>Royal pectoral</p>	 <p>Stone head of King Tut-ankh-amun (King Tut)</p>	 <p>Coffin of Nes-mut-aat-neru</p>	 <p>Gilded mummy mask</p>
 <p>The government official Ptah-khenui and his wife</p>		 <p>Model of a butcher shop</p>		 <p>Pair of basketry sandals for a child</p>		 <p>Stone head of a priest</p>



# PYRAMIDS, MUMMIES AND

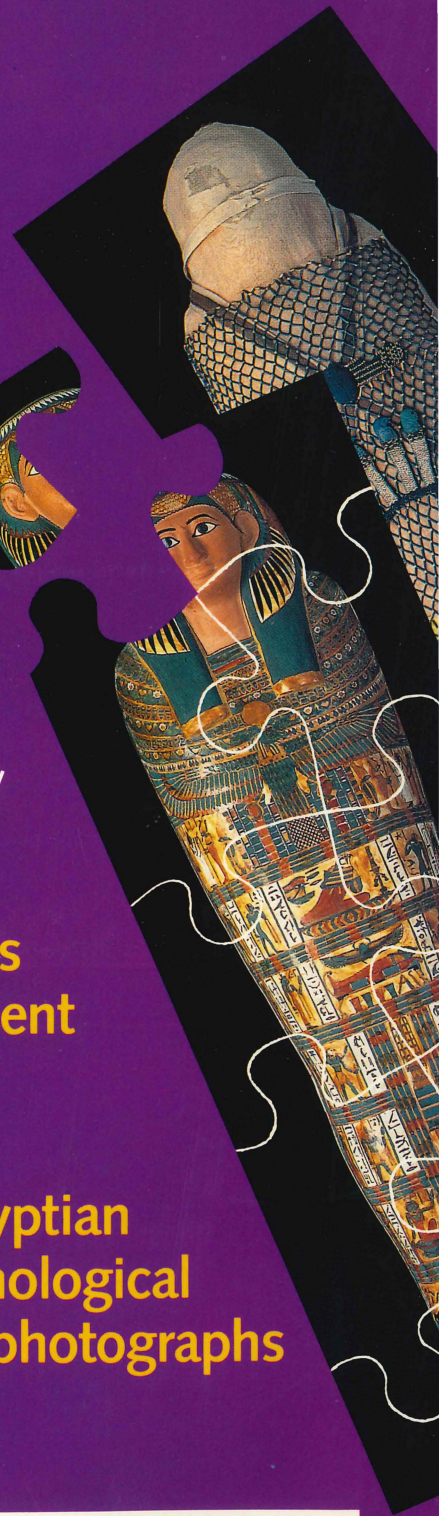
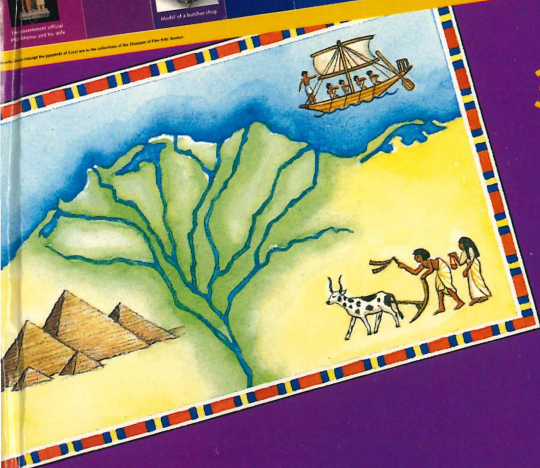
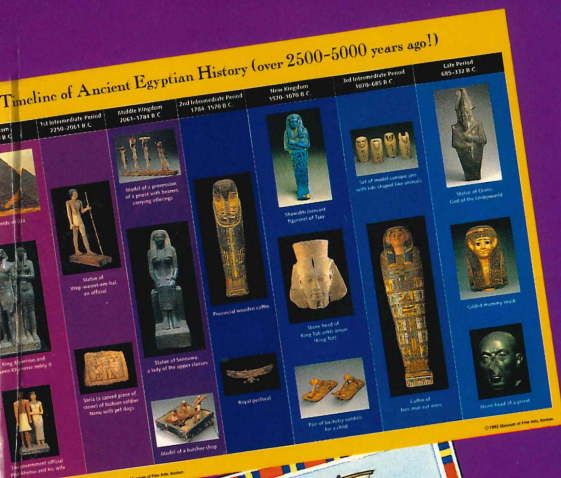
**FUN** brings ancient Egypt to life with images of pyramids, mummies and great works of art.

**Four puzzles with hidden pictures underneath** show

secret glimpses inside pyramids and mummies, as well as royal statues being excavated by archaeologists.

**Surprising facts about the ancient Egyptians!**

**3,000 years of Egyptian history in a chronological timeline, full of photographs from each era!**



Product Development by Gisela Voss and Paula Tibert  
Text by Peter Der Manuelian  
Department of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Illustrations by Suwinn Chan  
Design by Kyung Mi Ahn



© 1992 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
MFA SKU #65361  
Made in Hong Kong