



COUNTRY INTRODUCTION

EGYPT



Welcome To Egypt



Before we dive in, meet Archie and his friends, the Intrepid Explorers. They are five adventurous Aussie kids who travel the world on missions to recover stolen artefacts or protect endangered species. This time, they are headed to Egypt.

Before landing, they have decided to read up on the country's geography, history, and wildlife, and we hope you have fun learning with them!

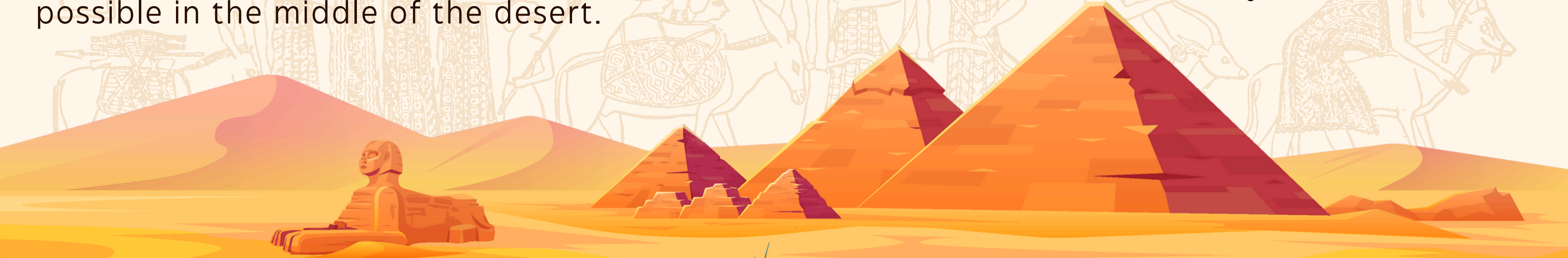
And the adventure does not stop there. On our website, www.thelittleexplorersjournal.com, under the resources page, we've also shared fun resources from their journey, including landmarks, pharaohs and animal cards, interactive activities linked to the country, and brain-teasing games to keep your kids learning and having fun every step of the way.





C O U N T R Y I N T R O D U C T I O N

Egypt is a fascinating country in North Africa, famous for its ancient civilisation and amazing landmarks. It's home to the mighty Pyramids of Giza, built thousands of years ago for powerful pharaohs, and the mysterious Great Sphinx, a giant statue with the body of a lion and the head of a king! The River Nile is the longest river in the world and flows right through Egypt. For thousands of years, it has given people water to drink, helped farmers grow crops, and made life possible in the middle of the desert.



Overview of Egypt

Egypt sits on two continents; mostly in North Africa, but a small part called the Sinai Peninsula stretches into Asia! It's surrounded by two seas: the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the east.

The River Nile, the longest river in the world, flows like a giant blue ribbon through Egypt. Around 5,000 years ago, ancient Egyptians built their civilisation along its banks.

Thanks to the Nile's fertile soil, they could grow food, build cities, and create one of the most powerful kingdoms in history, even in the middle of the desert!

The capital city, Cairo, is huge and full of life. Imagine streets buzzing with people, colourful markets where you can smell spices and freshly baked bread, and ancient treasures just beyond the city, like the Pyramids of Giza, built around 4,500 years ago for powerful pharaohs.

Today, over 11 million people live in Egypt, making it the most populous country in the Arab world.



The story of ancient Egypt

Egypt is one of the oldest civilisations in the world, with a history stretching back more than 5,000 years! Ancient Egyptians were incredible builders, artists, and inventors. They created hieroglyphs, one of the first systems of writing, and built pyramids, temples, and tombs so amazing that many still stand today. The most famous of all is the Great Pyramid of Giza, built around 4,500 years ago. It's one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the only one still standing! In the cities of Luxor and Giza, you can walk among giant statues, mysterious temples, and walls covered in ancient carvings that tell stories from thousands of years ago.



The story of ancient Egypt

Egypt's pharaohs were more than just rulers; they were seen as living gods who shaped the country's incredible history. The very first pharaoh, Narmer, united Upper and Lower Egypt around 3100 BCE, creating one powerful kingdom. Centuries later, Khufu (also known as Cheops) built the Great Pyramid of Giza, an enormous stone masterpiece made of more than two million blocks! Then came Hatshepsut, a remarkable queen who ruled as a king, even wearing a fake beard, and filled Egypt with magnificent temples and trade. Tutankhamun, the young boy king who became pharaoh at just nine years old, is famous today because his tomb was discovered in 1922, packed with glittering treasures and his beautiful golden mask. Ramses II, known as "Ramses the Great," ruled for over sixty years, built massive statues of himself, and even signed the oldest known peace treaties (the Treaty of Kadesh). The last pharaoh, Cleopatra VII, was clever and brave, fighting to keep Egypt free from the growing power of Rome. Together, these legendary rulers turned Egypt into one of the most fascinating civilisations the world has ever known.



Ancient Egypt Timeline

6000 – 4000 BC: Life before the pharaohs

Small farming villages grow along the Nile. People learn to plant wheat and barley, make pottery, and store food. The Nile's flood becomes the rhythm of life, bringing rich soil every year.

1



4000–3100 BC — Early communities & first kingdoms

Villages become towns, and people begin trading goods like pottery, tools, and beads. Two regions form: Upper Egypt in the south and Lower Egypt in the north. Chiefs and early rulers appear, each wanting to control more land.

2

3100–2686 BC — Unification & the First Pharaohs

King Narmer (also called Menes) unifies Upper and Lower Egypt into one kingdom. Egypt gets its first capital, Memphis. Writing (hieroglyphics) becomes organised, and pharaohs gain tremendous power.

3



2686–2181 BC — The old kingdom (Age of the Pyramids)

Pharaohs build giant pyramids as tombs, including the Great Pyramid of Giza. The Sphinx is carved to guard the pyramids. Egypt becomes a strong, wealthy kingdom ruled by powerful pharaohs.

4

2055–1650 BC — The middle kingdom

Egypt grows richer, and farming improves thanks to better irrigation. Pharaohs focus on helping their people and expanding trade. Art, storytelling, and jewellery-making flourish.

5



1550–1077 BC — The new kingdom (Age of Famous Pharaohs)

This is Egypt's "superstar" period with rulers like Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Nefertiti, Tutankhamun, and Ramses II. Egypt becomes an empire, conquering new lands and building huge temples like Karnak and Luxor. Trade, exploration, and the arts reach their peak.

6



1077–664 BC — The third intermediate period

Egypt becomes weaker and breaks into smaller kingdoms. Priests and military leaders gain more power. Foreign groups begin influencing Egyptian life.

7



664–332 BC — The late period

Egypt is invaded several times but tries to restore old traditions. Pharaohs rebuild temples and revive ancient styles of art. Despite challenges, Egyptian culture remains strong.

8



332–30 BC — The greek & Cleopatra era

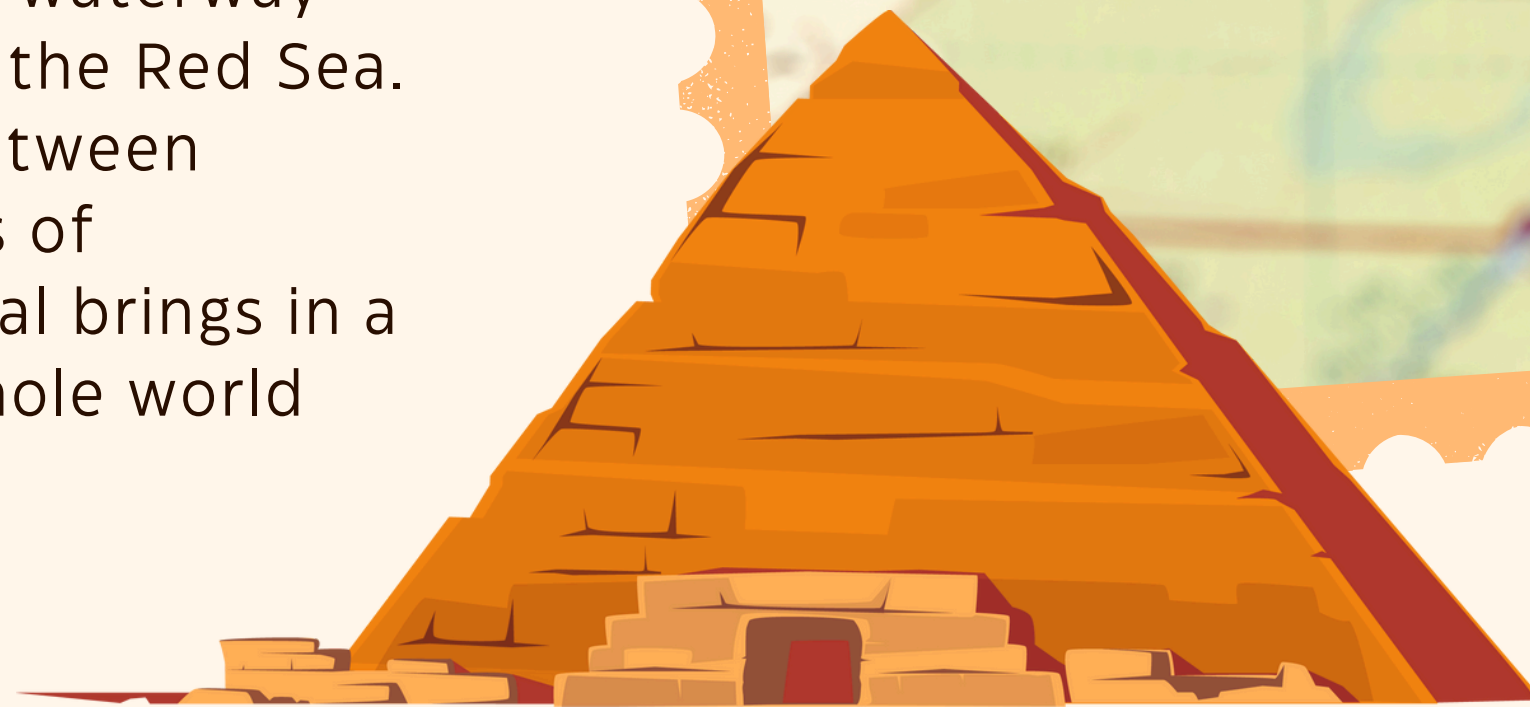
Alexander the Great conquers Egypt, and Greek rulers take over. A new capital, Alexandria, becomes famous for science and learning. The last ruler, Cleopatra VII, tries to protect Egypt but Rome takes control in 30 BC.

9



Egyptian Economy

The country earns money in many ways: from tourism, farming, industry and services. Thanks to the rich soil of the Nile Delta, farmers grow important crops like cotton, rice, and wheat. Cotton from Egypt is especially famous for being super soft and high quality! Egypt also produces and sells textiles, cement, and petroleum products to other countries. One of the most amazing parts of Egypt's economy is the Suez Canal, a man-made waterway that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. It's like a shortcut for ships travelling between Europe and Asia, saving them thousands of kilometres and weeks of sailing! The canal brings in a lot of money for Egypt and helps the whole world trade more easily.



Tourism in Egypt

Tourism is one of Egypt's biggest treasures! Every year, millions of people travel from all over the world to see its amazing sights. Visitors stand in awe before the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx, trying to imagine how ancient Egyptians built them over 4,000 years ago! In Luxor, the Valley of the Kings hides the tombs of powerful pharaohs, including the famous Tutankhamun. But Egypt isn't only about history. It's also a fantastic place for fun and adventure! The Red Sea resorts of Sharm El Sheikh and Hurghada are known for their sparkling blue waters, colourful coral reefs, and some of the best diving and snorkelling in the world. In the capital, Cairo, visitors can wander through bustling bazaars filled with spices and souvenirs, admire grand mosques, and explore fascinating museums that hold real mummies and ancient treasures!



Wildlife in Egypt

Egypt is home to some incredible animals that have learned to survive in very different environments!

In the hot, dry deserts, you'll find camels walking long distances without water, and fennec foxes, tiny foxes with huge ears that help them stay cool. Reptiles like lizards and snakes love basking on the warm sand, blending in with their surroundings.

Along the River Nile, life is completely different. The water is full of creatures, from Nile crocodiles (the biggest reptiles in Africa!) to hippos that spend their days keeping cool in the river. There are also many kinds of fish and birds, like herons and kingfishers, that depend on the Nile to survive.

In the Red Sea, a whole underwater world awaits. Colourful coral reefs are home to clownfish, parrotfish, sea turtles, and even playful dolphins.



Festivals and Traditions in Egypt

Egypt is a country full of colours, music, and celebrations!

All year long, people in Egypt take part in special festivals that bring families and friends together.

One of the most important times of the year is Ramadan, a month when many Muslims fast during the day (that means no food or drink until sunset). When the sun goes down, everyone gathers for a big meal called Iftar, with delicious dishes, sweets, and laughter.

At the end of Ramadan comes Eid al-Fitr, a joyful holiday where people wear new clothes, visit relatives, and share tasty treats. Later in the year, there's another big festival called Eid al-Adha, when families come together again to celebrate kindness, generosity, and sharing with those in need.

Another special celebration is Sham El-Nessim, which actually started thousands of years ago in ancient Egypt! It takes place in spring, when the weather is warm and flowers are blooming. Families go outdoors for picnics by the Nile or in parks.



Egyptian Culture and Cuisine

In Egypt, people love music, dancing, and telling stories, just like they did thousands of years ago. The country has a mix of ancient traditions and modern life, which makes it really exciting to explore.

Egyptian food is delicious and full of flavour. Some popular dishes are koshari, a mix of rice, pasta, and lentils; ful medames, which is a warm stew made from fava beans; and molokhia, a green leafy soup that locals love. And don't forget the desserts! Sweet treats like basbousa (a cake made with semolina), baklava (layers of pastry with nuts and syrup), and om ali (a yummy bread pudding) are perfect for sharing with family and friends.



Curiosities about Egypt

The ancient Egyptians were incredible inventors. They created one of the first calendars to track the Nile's floods and used mathematics to design and build their magnificent pyramids. They also enjoyed board games like Senet, one of the oldest in the world. Some pharaohs (like King Tutankhamun) were even buried with their game boards so they could keep playing in the afterlife. They were also the first to make toothpaste, though theirs was made from ashes and eggshells! And the Great Sphinx, one of Egypt's most famous monuments, still keeps a secret: its nose is missing, and no one knows exactly why.



Egyptian Culture and Cuisine

Football is the most loved sport in Egypt, and match days are full of excitement and cheering fans waving flags. The Egyptian national team has a proud history, having won several African championships. Egypt is also one of the world's strongest countries in squash, producing many champions who have ranked number one globally. In the countryside, people still enjoy traditional sports like wrestling and camel racing, which are fun to watch and remind everyone of Egypt's deep cultural roots.



What People Did for Fun in Ancient Egypt



The Egyptians invented lots of board games.

One of them, “mehen” (the snake game), looks a bit like our Game of the Goose.

The most popular game was “senet”.

It was played with pieces on a board, a bit like our checkers.

Even the pharaohs played senet!

Young children played with clay or cloth dolls, little animals made of faience, and spinning tops.

Kids met outside to play: they raced, juggled sticks or leather balls, and swam in the Nile. Nobles enjoyed bow-hunting. They hunted hares and antelopes.

Some wild animals were captured and kept in enclosures,

a bit like an ancient zoo! During celebrations, musicians played the harp, lyre, flute, and lute. Women danced to the rhythm of drums. A very sacred instrument used in religious ceremonies was the sistrum.



Do you like adventure stories?

Then join Archie and his friends on their biggest mission yet in Australia!

Solve the riddles. Find the stolen artefact. Survive the mission.

When thirteen-year-old Archie signs up for a high-stakes virtual reality game, he has no idea he's about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Thrown together with four unlikely teammates, Archie must decode historical puzzles, defeat dangerous pirates, and survive a cassowary attack...all to recover a priceless painting before it's lost forever.

But just when the team thinks the game is over, a mysterious email changes everything: an ancient and sacred artefact, the royal flute of Makassar, has been stolen. It's time for the Intrepid Explorers to take on a real-world mystery.

From crocodile-infested swamps and an abandoned mine in the Australian desert to a bobby-trapped room in a famous art gallery, the five children will face life-threatening challenges. They'll have to rely on their courage, survival instincts and ability to solve cryptic puzzles to complete their mission before time runs out.

Will they be able to recover the sacred object before it vanishes forever?

This book is the debut instalment in a new mystery-adventure series that takes middle-grade readers on epic quests around the world, exploring cultures, wildlife, and landmarks along the way.

Adventure awaits, so grab your copy here



Perfect for **ages 8+**, this book is packed with:

- ✓ Action & mystery
- ✓ Riddles
- ✓ Beautiful landscapes
- ✓ Facts about Australia's culture and history
- ✓ Courage
- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ Teamwork





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