

# Timeline of ancient Egypt

Years	Periods and dynasties	Significant events
Before 3100 BCE	Predynastic period	Egypt divides into Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt.
3100–2686 BCE	Early Dynastic Period Dynasties 1–2	Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt unify. The first pyramid is built – the Step Pyramid at Saqqara.
2686–2181 BCE	Old Kingdom Dynasties 3–6	The Great Pyramids are built at Giza.
2181–2125 BCE	First Intermediate Period	Egypt splits into two smaller states.
2125–1650 BCE	Middle Kingdom Dynasties 11–13	The states of Egypt reunite.
1650–1550 BCE	Second Intermediate Period	The Hyksos kings seize power in the north.
1550–1069 BCE	New Kingdom Dynasties 18–20	Elaborate hidden tombs are built in the Valley of the Kings. The female pharaoh Hatshepsut rules. Akhenaten attempts to introduce worship of a single god. Tutankhamun briefly reigns. Ramesses II rules for 67 years. Deir-el Medina, a workers village, is built near Thebes.
1069–664 BCE	Third Intermediate Period	There is disunity in Egypt. The Nubians and Libyans set up their own dynasties.
664–332 BCE	Late Period Dynasties 26–30	Keku lives in Thebes around 650 BCE.
332–30 BCE	Ptolemaic Period	Alexander the Great conquers Egypt and his general, Ptolemy, founds a dynasty.
30 BCE – 395 CE	Roman Period	Cleopatra dies in 30 BCE and Egypt becomes a province of the Roman Empire. Egypt provides wheat, papyrus, and textiles for the Romans.

This timeline uses the terms BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era), which are interchangeable with BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini). Archaeologists and historians increasingly use the terms BCE and CE over the exclusively Christian BC and AD.

Some of the information above is from the timeline by John Baines, Professor of Egyptology, University of Oxford, on the BBC website ([www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/timeline.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/timeline.shtml)).