

Grand tombs and gateways to the afterlife—the pyramids of Egypt are among the world’s most magnificent monuments. Their massive size and simple shape fascinate people.

ROYAL RESTING PLACES

Pyramids were tombs built only for royalty and other high-ranking people. The ancient Egyptians believed that the spirits of dead people could live on only if their bodies survived. So they preserved dead bodies by making them into mummies. The ancient Egyptians buried the mummies inside pyramids.



Many treasures were buried with royal mummies. The ancient Egyptians believed that all of the items a person used in life would also be needed after death. They buried thousands of items with pharaohs and other important people. These items were made of the richest materials, such as gold and jewels. Some mummies even had coffins made from solid gold!

Pyramids were holy places, where spirits passed into the afterlife. Hieroglyphs (picture writing) were carved inside to guide each spirit on its journey. Priests made offerings at nearby temples to help the spirits.

BUILDING A PYRAMID

Building a pyramid was an enormous project. The largest, the Great Pyramid of King Khufu, is 50 stories high! Thousands of laborers worked for years to build it. They cut millions of huge stone blocks. These blocks could weigh as much as 15,000 kilograms. Inside, each pyramid there are rooms for the dead person and the treasures to be used in the afterlife. Entrances were hidden by secret passages and doors. The robbers found most of the hidden rooms and stole the treasures.



Good luck : Pakheirian.A