The Nile River at sunset
The Nile Delta from space
The Flooding of the Nile
Egyptian Chronology
(all dates BCE)

3100-2600  Early Dynastic Period

2600-2150  Old Kingdom
Pyramid Era: 2550-2400

2150-2040  1st Intermediate Period

2040-1650  Middle Kingdom

1650-1567  2nd Intermediate Period: The Hyksos

1567-1069  New Kingdom
Hatshepsut: 1479-1458
Akhenaten: 1352-1338
Ramses II: 1279-1212
Paleolithic Flints
Neolithic flint scraper
Early Ivory Statuette
Hierakonpolis
Abydos: sanctuary of Osiris
Flint Sickle
Badarian Pot
FIGURE 2  Principal Neolithic sites in Egypt.
Examples of Predynastic pottery styles, showing the changes which took place over time.
2. Paintings on pottery. Amratian and Gerzean periods
Naqada I Vase: red-on-white ware
Naqada I Vase: man spearing hippo
Amratian figurine: carved from ivory tusk
Gerzean Pot

New Haven, Yale Art Gallery
Stone Vase
Clay Pot (painted to look like stone ware)
Pressure-flaked Flints
Naqada II
Vase:
multi-oared boat

E1-20
Naqada II Vase: another multi-oared boat

1. Jar
Painted pottery
Ballas, Egypt
Middle Predynastic Period (ca. 3500–3100 B.C.)
E 1399
H. 11.9 cm.
Naqada II Vase: woman dancing
Naqada II Burial
I Knife Handle
Gerzean Period, 
ca. 3600–3200 B.C. Ivory;
L. 4¼ in. (10.5 cm.) Purchase,
Edward S. Harkness Gift,
1926 (26.7.1281)
2 Comb
Gerzean Period,
ca. 3400–3200 B.C. Ivory;
2½ x 1½ in. (5.5 x 4 cm.)
Theodore M. Davis Collection,
Bequest of Theodore M. Davis,
1915 (30.8.224)
Bird-headed Palette (Naqada II)
Early Palette
King Den smiting a foreigner with a mace
2 Maceheads (Naqada I/II)
King Scorpion Macehead
The Crowns of Egyptian Kings

- White crown of Upper Egypt
- Red crown of Lower Egypt
- Double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt
- Atef crown
- Blue crown
12. Scorpion King on a mace-head.
*Oxford, Ashmolean Museum*
Nomess of Egypt
The Narmer Palette (obverse)
Serekh of Raneb
The Narmer Palette (obverse)
The Narmer Palette (reverse)
Cylinder Seal, with long-necked beasts
Horus Hawkhead

This superb gold hawk's head, 37.5 cm (15 in) tall, was found in the main deposit of Hieraconpolis. It was originally mounted on a wooden body sheathed with plates of copper, although these were too badly damaged to survive. It is difficult to give it an exact date. Because it was found near two fine copper statues, one bearing the name of King Pepi I, it is generally believed to be of late Old Kingdom date. It is possible, though, that it was made much later in the New Kingdom. The remarkable piercing eyes of the head are formed from a single rod of obsidian which runs from side to side, each end being shaped and polished.
A rare depiction of the god of disorder Seth, adored by the deputy foreman Aapchty. Late Nineteenth Dynasty, c. 1200 BC. EA 35630.
First Dynasty, c.3100-2890 BC
These eight kings presided over the first united Egyptian state and the emergence of the hieroglyphic script. From this beginning to the end of the indigenous dynasties, kingship, script, art and religion interlocked in the historic fusion that we call Pharaonic civilisation. The tombs of the First Dynasty kings lie in a confined section of the cemeteries at Abydos.

NARMER

Named on the necropolis seal of Den as first ruler of the First Dynasty. His position seems confirmed by the famous votive palette on which he is shown wearing both the crowns of dual Egypt.

AHA

First king under whom a governor built a tomb at Saqqara, the cemetery of Memphis. Aha may then have been the founder of Memphis, the city which came to be the capital of Egypt in the Old Kingdom (Third to Eighth Dynasties).

Djer

The earliest surviving royal jewellery comes from an arm found in the tomb of Djer. In the Middle Kingdom and afterwards the Egyptians thought that this tomb housed the body of Osiris, god of the dead. The king left an inscription near Wadi Halfa, evidence for a military campaign deep into Nubia.