

Name _____

Who Built The Pyramids?

The early ancient Greeks described those who built the pyramids as slaves. New evidence shows us that this is just not true. Surprisingly, almost everyone in the Egyptian society had a hand in building the pyramids, directly or indirectly. Ancient pyramid builders were really Egyptians who lived in villages run by the pharaoh's supervisors. The nearby villages were well organized with many of the things that we find in a city or town today. These things included bakers, butchers, pubs, houses, cemeteries, and even some kind of hospital care. The shops did a good business providing food for the large workforce needed to build the pyramids.

Although there are no hieroglyphics showing women as pyramid builders, some female skeletons have been found showing signs of wear due to working with heavy stone over a long period of time. Some of the builders had permanent jobs building pyramids, while others worked part time. They worked in teams and often competed against one another on the project.

It took thousands of workers and many years of backbreaking labor to build a pyramid. While many workers were unskilled, some of the work was done by farmers during the Nile floods, when they could not tend to their fields. Also, surveyors, engineers, carpenters, and stonecutters were part of each pyramid project. Finally, priests and experts on astronomy were called upon to help choose the right spot for a pyramid. Some of the pyramids face true north and are aligned with the constellations.

These amazingly large, stone structures could not have been completed by one group in the Egyptian society. It took the knowledge and physical labor of an entire civilization.



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Who Built the Pyramids – Questions

1. Who built the pyramids according to the ancient Greeks?
2. Who actually built the pyramids?
3. What things were found in the villages that were used to build the pyramids?
4. How do we know that some women may have been hired to build pyramids?
5. Did the workers have permanent or part time jobs?
6. How were the workers organized?
7. What types of people actually worked on the pyramids?
8. What were the priests and nobles used for?
9. What special location do some of the pyramids have?
10. Overall, these great structures were completed by the entire Egyptian

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