THE GREAT PYRAMID

The largest of the pyramids built at Giza was the Great Pyramid. It was built for King Khufu. The Great Pyramid was originally 480 feet (146 m) tall. It contained more than 2 million stone blocks that averaged 2 1/2 short tons (2.3 metric tonnes) each. The base of the pyramid was about 13 acres (5 hectares).

The ancient Egyptians used no machines or iron tools. They cut the limestone blocks using copper chisels and saws. They built long ramps and dragged the stones up as they built each new layer. After all the blocks were in place, men carefully covered them with white casing stones. They polished the stones to make them shine.

Today, the Great Pyramid still stands at Giza. Some of the upper stones are gone, so it now stands 450 feet (137 m) tall. The Great Pyramid is one of the three pyramids at the site that millions of tourists visit yearly. The Pyramids at Giza are the only remaining wonder of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Students learn about the Great Pyramid when they make their own pyramid of facts.

MATERIALS

- page 43, reproduced for each student
- crayons
- scissors

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Show a picture of the Great Pyramid at Giza as you discuss the facts about it with students.
2. Have students read the facts on the pyramid pattern.
3. Direct students to cut out the pyramid pattern.
4. Students then turn the pyramid over and draw blocks of stone.
5. Have students fold on the lines to make the pyramid stand up. The pyramid is not glued together so that it can be folded to fit into the pocket.
The Great Pyramid was built 4,500 years ago for King Khufu.

Inside the pyramids were rooms called chambers. This is where they buried the pharaoh with all his treasures.

The Great Pyramid is 480 feet (146 m) tall and made of blocks weighing more than 2 million pounds.

The Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid.

The pyramid was 750 feet (229 m) wide.

It took 100,000 men to build the Great Pyramid. The men worked four months a year for 20 years to finish it.