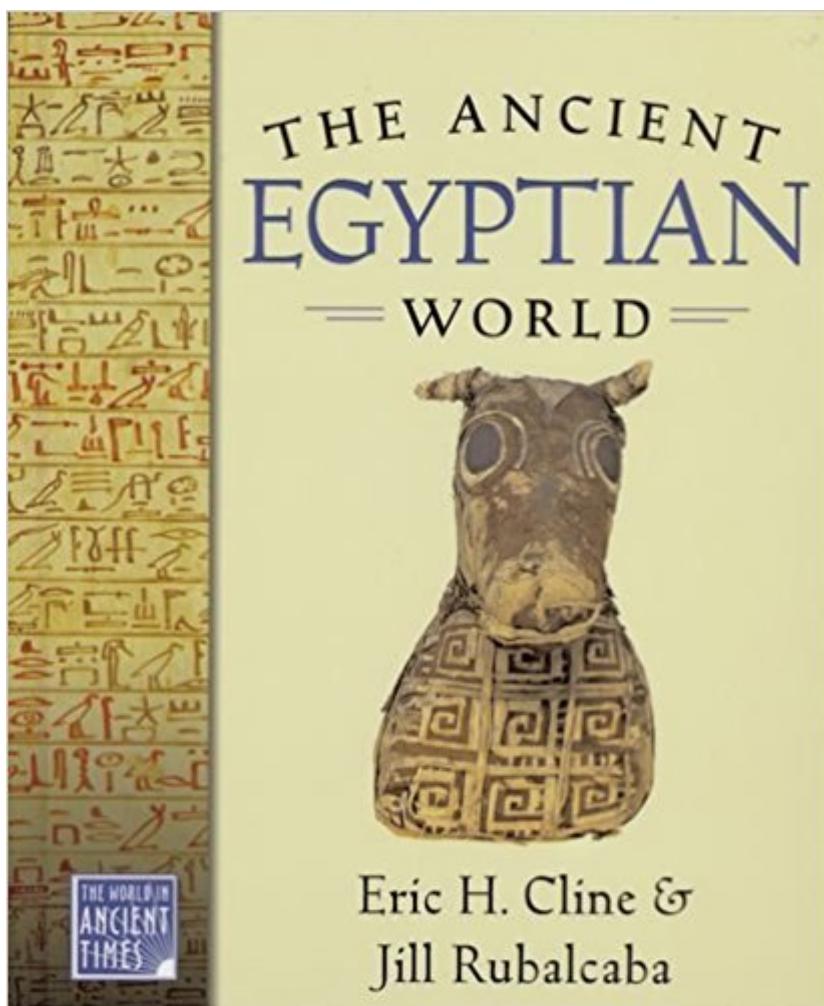


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# The Ancient Egyptian World (The World In Ancient Times)



## Synopsis

Taking readers back 4,000 years, to the fertile land around the Nile River, The Ancient Egyptian World tells the stories of the kings, queens, pharaohs, gods, tomb builders, and ordinary citizens who lived there. Using papyri, scarabs, tomb inscriptions, mummies, and a rich variety of other primary sources, Eric H. Cline and Jill Rubalcaba uncover the fascinating history of ancient Egypt. Scarabs, which scholars call "imperial news bulletins," record important moments in a pharaoh's reign. The Edwin Smith Papyrus details the injuries sustained by the builders of the great pyramids, and the remedies used to treat them. For a worker who has had a stone fall on his head, it suggests: "bind it with fresh meat . . . and treat afterward with grease, honey and lint." A complex recipe for a top-of-the-line mummy describes a process that could take 70 days and involved drawing the brain out through the nose with a crooked piece of iron. These primary sources also tell the stories of the people of ancient Egypt: Pepi II, the six-year-old boy king who commanded armies; Ramesses II, whose mortuary temple boasts of his expertise in battle against the Hittites; Queen Hatshepsut, the only woman to rule Egypt as pharaoh; and Cleopatra, who courted Roman statesman Mark Antony as part of her quest to extend the Egyptian empire. The Ancient Egyptian World honors the history of a civilization whose monuments and tombs still capture the imagination of the world thousands of years later.

## Book Information

Series: The World in Ancient Times

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Age Range: 11 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-10  
This book offers chronologically arranged chapters, each of which addresses an important topic in ancient Egyptian culture or history. Geography, religion, the intersection of medicine and magic, fashion and clothing, the arts, and other subjects are explored. Narmer, Hatshepsut, Tutankhamen, Ramesses II, and Cleopatra are among the prominent personalities profiled. The volume is distinguished by its profuse quotations from ancient monuments and ancient authors. Another plus is its broad scope, reaching from the earliest pre-pyramid dynasties through to the conquest of Egypt by Rome. The mostly color photographs are plentiful and, in all but a few cases, sharp. They are supplemented with newly created maps featuring clean lines but relatively few labeled locations. The inviting and informal narrative tone, sometimes employing the second person, seems occasionally too cute for its own good, though most readers are likely to enjoy it. Complexities of archaeology and the unraveling and reassembling of information are, to be sure, simplified, but there is a lengthy list of suggested titles for students who want to know more. The self-contained nature of the chapters also makes this an accessible resource for reports. Overall, this is a fine replacement for older materials.

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"The volume is distinguished by its profuse quotations from ancient monuments and ancient authors. Another plus is its broad scope.... The mostly color photographs are plentiful.... The self-contained nature of the chapters also makes this an accessible resource for reports. Overall, this is a fine replacement for older materials."--School Library Journal

I ordered this book in the hope that I could potentially use it as a textbook in my 7th grade history class, but unfortunately found it to be too casual in its tone. It typically reaches too far to make jokes by calling on silly pop culture references. The information was solid and concisely presented, but the reading level seems to be more aimed toward the fourth/fifth grade age range rather than the seventh/eighth grade audience that I teach.

The Oxford Ancient series is great. The Egyptian title is one of the most popular in my classroom. This may be because so many kids are already fascinated with Egypt. Or, as I think likely, they just

gobble up this information rich volume because it is readable and interesting. Top recommendation.

This is just about the best, funniest book I've read all year--who would have expected this from a book on the ancient Egyptian World? I'm not an expert on this subject but the writing has the ring of truth and seems to be well-researched. The authors have a gift for making old topics seem this-minute relevant. For instance, Egyptian priesthood: "Plucking out your eyebrows and eyelashes may sound painful., but being a priest had advantages. For one thing, you didn't have to pay taxes..." Or, on fashion: "So what would an Egyptian Fashion magazine look like (other than the fact it would be written on papyrus, need only one issue every thousand years or so, and could only be read by a few people since only about 1 percent of Egyptians could read?)" I think the ho-hum title and amazingly dull cover are like displaying a perfect rose in a milk bottle, but you can't have everything.

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