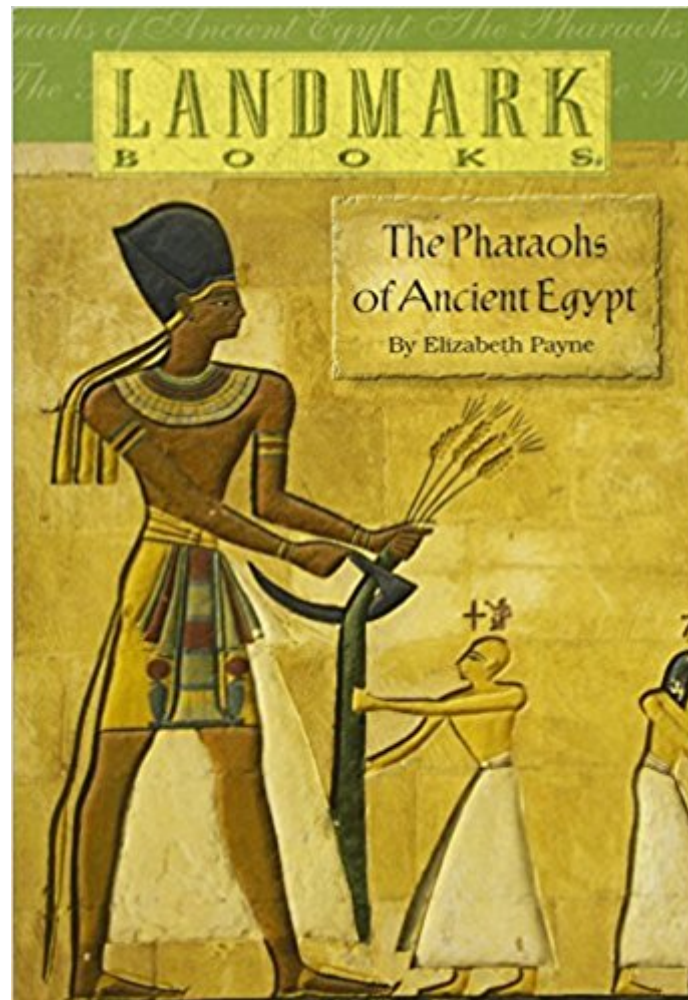




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# The Pharaohs Of Ancient Egypt (Landmark Books)



## Synopsis

For more than 3,000 years, Egypt was a great civilization that thrived along the banks of the Nile River. But when its cities crumbled to dust, Egypt's culture and the secrets of its hieroglyphic writings were also lost. *The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt* explains how archaeologists have pieced together their discoveries to slowly reveal the history of Egypt's people, its pharaohs, and its golden days.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For more than 3,000 years, Egypt was a great civilization that thrived along the banks of the Nile River. But when its cities crumbled to dust, Egypt's culture and the secrets of its hieroglyphic writings were also lost. *The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt* explains how archaeologists have pieced together their discoveries to slowly reveal the history of Egypt's people, its pharaohs, and its golden days.

Elizabeth Payne was born in Nettleton, Mississippi, and grew up to become a history professor and author. Her books include *The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt*, *Meet the Pilgrim Fathers*, and *Meet the North American Indians*.

This book was published in 1964. The copyright renewed in 1992, but it doesn't appear that any text

was added or changed. I don't know how much the state of our knowledge about ancient Egypt has changed in the last fifty years or if anything that was thought we knew then has since been proven wrong. I'm no expert on Egyptology, so I guess I'll have to take it on faith that the book is accurate. In any case, this book is an eminently readable introduction to ancient Egyptian history. It takes a very narrative style, so each chapter is more like a story with identifiable characters and plot, rather than just a series of historical events, figures and dates. The reader gets a real sense of the Pharaohs and some of the other historical figures as actual people with individual personalities. Also, the stories often open nearer the present day with stories of the archeologists, thieves or peasants who made the discoveries which broadened our knowledge of particular historical eras. For instance, a peasant woman digging in the desert stumbled upon carved tablets which turned out to be messages to a Pharaoh whose existence had previously only been speculated. Excavations at that site led to the uncovering of a whole city dedicated to a different god which marked a brief unusual interlude in Egypt's otherwise slow-changing ancient history. This book also focuses on Egyptian culture and lifestyle as well as its history. One can almost feel oneself in the Nile Valley, adapting to the seasonal repetition of flood, farming and harvest which marked Egyptian life for thousands of years. Because of the annual flood, in which farming was not really possible, Egyptians had more leisure time than many other early civilizations. Therefore, they had time to create enormous monuments, cities and temples, nearly every inch of which were often inscribed with hieroglyphs and other writing and artwork carved into the stone. Nearly the entirety of their earthly existence was spent preparing for their life in the next world. For pharaohs, that meant elaborate tombs complete with all the necessities and luxuries they had become accustomed to in this world, in order to accompany them to the next world. For other Egyptians, in the early days, preparation for the afterlife meant serving Pharaoh and being near him in this life so as to make yourself indispensable to him in the next. In later Egyptian civilizations, some of the nobility developed the idea of entering into the next world in their own right and, hence, they built their own elaborate tombs. I recommend this book to kids and adults alike as a good introduction to ancient Egypt, but if using it as a part of a schooling curriculum, I would recommend adding more modern supplemental material to see how our knowledge of ancient Egypt has advanced.

Interesting and educational, I added this book to our homeschool library.

Great book

A must have - for ANY age reader.

Easy to read product description. Exactly what I was looking for. Thank you for shipping so quickly.

nice book

for son

I am enjoying this book tremendously. I wish the pictures were in color, but that's not an issue for me. This book is an easy read and would be great for someone in the early stages of learning about ancient egypt.

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