WHO WERE THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS?

The Pharaohs ruled Egypt from about 3000 BC to about 30 BC. Egyptians were clever and inventive. They used tools made of bronze and stone to do whatever they wanted. Ancient Egypt was a wonderful place, attracting people from many lands to visit and to buy and trade goods. Many of these visitors stayed and settled there, marrying Egyptians and worshipping the Egyptian gods. This story takes place around 1249 BC during the reign of a very famous Pharaoh, Ramesses II, also called Ramesses the Great, and in one of the most exciting periods of Ancient Egypt's history called the New Kingdom.



PHARAOH'S KINGDOM

Ramesses II's Egypt is a civilised country and he is a powerful king. Many different people live and have to work hard in the Pharaoh's New Kingdom. Let's look in on some of them as they go about their daily lives.



SUNRISE

This humming chariot, this blur of legs and wheels, is being raced by the Pharaoh himself! His people believe he is a god, powerful enough to make the sun rise and the river flood. This is Ramesses the Great!

Ramesses loves to race his chariot across the desert

The royal chariot thunders along!

Woof! Woof!

The Pharaoh owns the best horses in Egypt.

These pyramids are the tombs of Ancient Egyptian Pharaohs.

Fast hunting dogs known as 'pharaoh hounds'

The Egyptians call themselves 'Blacklanders' after the rich, fertile soil of the Nile valley

The word Pharaoh began as a nickname for the Egyptian king. It means 'great house' because everyone believed the king's human body was home to a god.

The Egyptians believed that Ra, the great sun god, drove his fiery chariot across the sky every day. They even nicknamed themselves 'Ra's Cattle'.

By the time Ramesses II was on the throne, the Pharaohs had not used pyramids as tombs for hundreds of years.

The Great Pyramid at Giza had vents pointing to the constellation of Orion so the mummy's spirit could fly straight up to the gods.