

*Kids & Schools Tools*

## *The Pyramids at Giza, Egypt*

The Pyramids are one of the 21 finalist candidates in the campaign to choose the New 7 Wonders of the World. The winners of this unique vote will be announced on July 7, 2007 – 07.07.07 and will become part of history. They will be recognized as monuments that have truly global meaning—part of our common cultural heritage. We can be proud of the 21 finalists, since each of them is a unique monument that belongs to its particular culture and country in a very special way. The Pyramids at Giza are, as the only one of the New7Wonders finalists, one of the Ancient 7 Wonders of the World, chosen by Philon of Byzantium in 200 B.C.—the only one that has survived until today.

The Pyramids of Egypt were the phenomenal achievement of Egyptian construction and engineering. Built between 2600 and 2500 B.C., the three pyramids at Giza are made of more than 5 million limestone blocks which were painstakingly transported via timber sleds and by being rolled over the top of logs. As cranes did not yet exist, each block had to be dragged on ramps up to its designated place.

According to Herodotus, the largest of the three pyramids, known as the Great Pyramid, (about 146 meters or 438 feet high) took 20 years to complete and served as the tomb for the Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu (also known as the Pyramid of Cheops). The other two pyramids are the slightly smaller Pyramid of Khafre (or Chephren) and the more modest-sized Pyramid of Menkaure (or Mykerinus). There are also a number of smaller satellite buildings in the ancient Egyptian necropolis (“city of the dead”), called “queen’s” pyramids, causeways and valley pyramids, as well as the Great Sphinx. Of the three pyramids, only the Pyramid of Khafre still shows off part of its original polished limestone coating, up near the top of the structure. It is interesting to see that this middle pyramid appears to be bigger than the Great Pyramid because it is on a slight hill, and because the angle of inclination is steeper. The pyramids represented the link between heaven and earth and were directed at Horus, who was the ancient Egyptian god of the world.



If you want to find out more about the exciting campaign to name the New 7 Wonders of the World, please go to the New7Wonders website at [www.new7wonders.com](http://www.new7wonders.com).

**07.07.07**

**Official Declaration of the New 7 Wonders of the World**

***... be part of the making of history!***

[www.new7wonders.com](http://www.new7wonders.com)