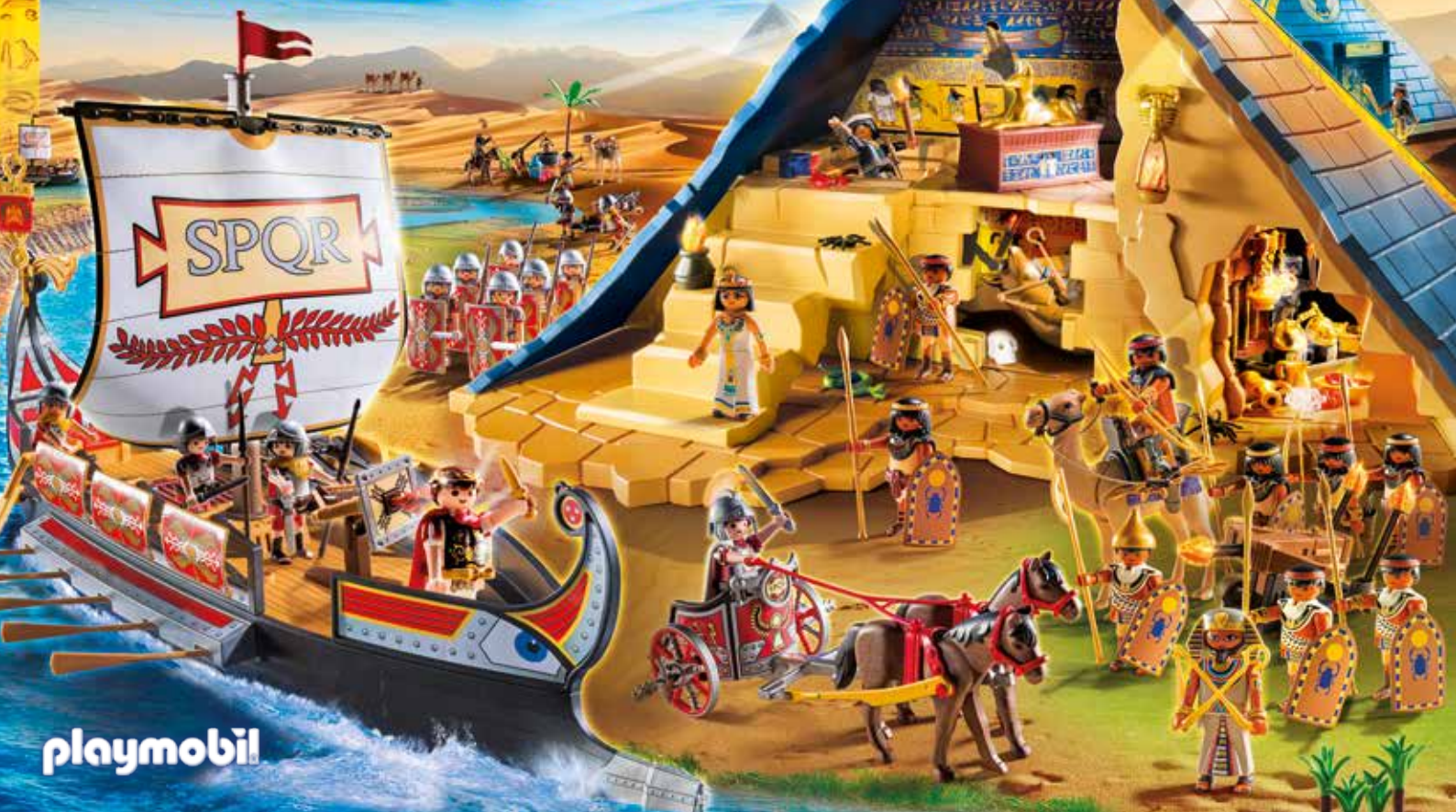


LEARN ALL ABOUT THE ROMANS & EGYPTIANS



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EGYPT ~ THE COUNTRY OF THE NILE



Who created Egypt?

Around 5000 years ago, there were two separate kingdoms: Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. After many battles, the two kingdoms came together. Menes was the first Pharaoh in Egypt, and ruler of what was at that time one of the largest and most powerful countries in the world.

Egypt today:

Egypt is located in Northeast Africa, on the River Nile. The capital today is called Cairo. With over 80 million inhabitants, Egypt has about the same population as Germany, but it is almost three times the size.

What does Pharaoh mean?

The word Pharaoh means “big house, big palace”, which is where the Egyptian king lived. The Pharaoh was the most powerful and important person in Egypt. He made the laws and ruled over the whole land. Only the most

important officials and priests were allowed to see him and speak to him. The Pharaoh represented the god Horus on Earth and was greatly revered by his people.

What did the Pharaoh look like?

The Pharaoh mostly wore linen robes. His chest armour was made up of small gold plates and brightly coloured semi-precious and glass stones. His beard, which was not real and was plaited together with cord, was tied to the Pharaoh’s chin, while his eye make-up was used to protect him from the sun and eye diseases. On his head, the Pharaoh wore a crown or a blue-gold striped headcloth called a nemes. A cobra standing upright shone from the front of the headcloth, and was meant to protect the Pharaoh from evil. In his hands he held the crook and flail. The crook was rather like a shepherd’s crook, because the Pharaoh was meant to protect his people, like a shepherd protected his flock. The flail was a whip that was used to punish enemies.



THE PYRAMIDS

Most pyramids were built as burial places for Pharaohs. The pyramid was intended to be a house for all eternity. Its purpose was to convey the Pharaoh into the sky so that he could ascend to the gods after his death.

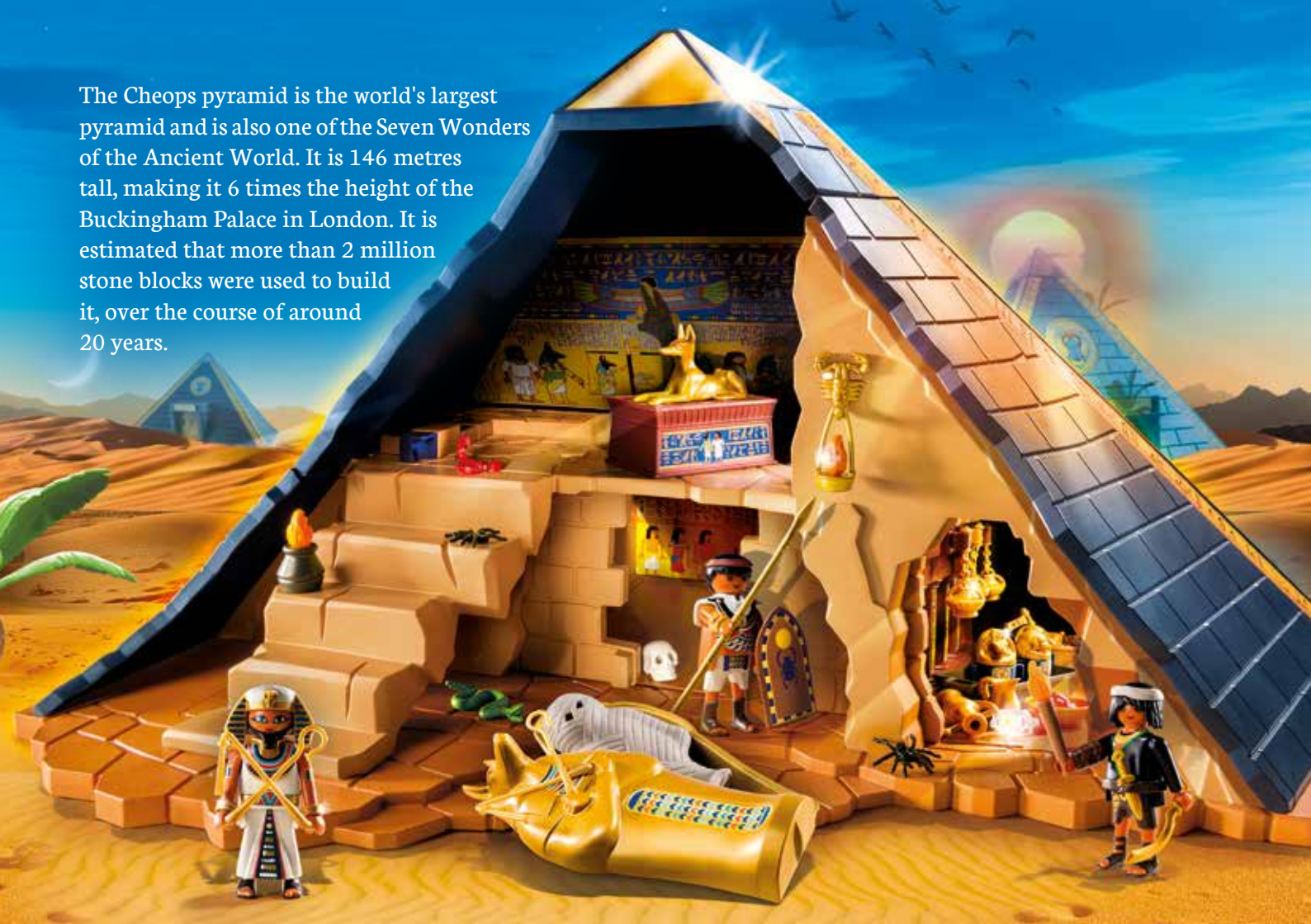
Almost all pyramids were built like a labyrinth inside. There were also traps and secret passageways, intended to keep tomb raiders at bay.

HIEROGLYPHS

The Egyptians had their own script known as hieroglyphs, which were carved into the stones of the pyramids and painted on the walls of the burial chambers. The hieroglyphs consisted of small images that expressed noises or entire words. Although our script reads from left to right, hieroglyphs often read from right to left, or even from top to bottom.

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P L A Y M O B I L

The Cheops pyramid is the world's largest pyramid and is also one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It is 146 metres tall, making it 6 times the height of the Buckingham Palace in London. It is estimated that more than 2 million stone blocks were used to build it, over the course of around 20 years.



BURIAL CHAMBERS

What were burial chambers for?

Burial chambers were located deep within the pyramid, and housed the colourfully painted sarcophagus - the Pharaoh's coffin. The Egyptians placed objects such as food, containers, valuable treasure and weapons in the deceased person's grave to give them a comfortable life after death.

What is a mummy?

The mummy is a body that has not decayed. Ancient Egyptians tried to prevent bodies from decomposing using a special treatment. A mummy can be created by means of fumigation or desiccating and embalming. Mummification was very important to the ancient Egyptians, who believed that it was only possible to live forever in the afterlife if the body was undamaged.



What are canopic jars?

The Egyptians removed the liver, lungs, stomach and bowels from the deceased. They placed the preserved organs in four different jars, known as canopic jars. These were entombed separately from the dead. The organs were under the protection of the children of the god Horus, and that's why the lids of the canopic jars look like the heads of his four sons.





Why did people raid tombs?

The Egyptians' magnificent treasures enticed many tomb raiders. However, the journey to the riches was a dangerous one. Raiders had to pass through many secret passageways, encountering all kinds of traps before they reached the burial chamber. Some lost their way and never found their way out.



CLEOPATRA & CAESAR

Egypt and Rome – allies or enemies?

The last great Egyptian Pharaoh was called Cleopatra. She was in love with the powerful Julius Caesar, ruler of Rome. At that time, he was the most important man in the Roman Empire. Her attempt to unite Egypt and Rome forever, failed.

After Cleopatra died, the land on the Nile was conquered by the Romans. Egypt became a province of Rome ruled by the Roman Emperor.



THE FOUNDING OF ROME

Who founded Rome?

According to mythology, Rome was founded on the seven hills of Rome in the year 753 BC by the twins Romulus and Remus. The myth states that these siblings were abandoned in a basket on the River Tiber, where a she-wolf found them and raised them. The story tells us

that Romulus then became the first king and so the city was named after him, and that Rome was built in a single day. Before Rome was founded, the land was already inhabited by Latins, Sabines and Etruscans - tribes known for their craft and farming.



Rome today:

Today, Rome is the capital city of Italy and is positioned in the heart of the country directly on the River Tiber. With around 2.8 million inhabitants, Rome is also Italy's largest city.

THE ROMAN NAVY

The best-known Roman warship was the Warriors' Ship. The Romans soon ruled huge areas of the Mediterranean with the help of this ship. Long and narrow, the ship had oars and also a sail for high speed. The Warriors' Ship had an underwater ram bow at the front, enabling it to ram enemies. On deck, the soldiers stood ready to board the enemy ships.



SPQR is the abbreviation of the Latin “Senatus Populusque Romanus”, which translates as “The Senate and People of Rome”. Many inscriptions and coins bear these four letters.



THE ROMAN ARMY



The Roman Army was the first professional army in history. The largest unit it contained was the legion, which was composed of ten cohorts of around 500 men each. Each cohort consisted of approximately six centuries.

Each century was the smallest unit, made up of approximately 80 legionaries. The legions' responsibilities were to conquer new territories and secure the empire.

What is a legionary?

Roman soldiers were called legionaries. Anyone who wanted to become a legionary had to be a Roman citizen, be able to read and write, and be built as powerfully as possible. The legionaries wore a helmet with a neck guard and cheek pieces, a breastplate and sandals. They were armed with a short sword known as a gladius, a shield and a heavy javelin.



The chariot:

Chariots were a popular mode of transport among the Romans and were used for battles, chariot races and more. Pulled by horses, their wheels had blades that were used to damage opponents.

Chariot drivers were mostly from the upper classes. For kings and more senior officials, the chariot was considered a sign of wealth and power.

How the Romans fought:

The Roman Army owed its success partly to its very sophisticated approach to battle, and they were particularly well-known for arranging themselves in a tortoise formation. To achieve this, they formed a rectangle shape. The soldiers in the first row then held their shields facing forwards and the following rows held their shields facing up, above their heads. Soldiers marching at the edge faced their shield outwards. This meant that the individual soldiers were better protected against attackers.



THE WORLD OF THE EGYPTIANS



5389 Egyptian Warrior with Camel



5388 Egyptian Troop with Ballista



5387 Tomb Raiders' Camp



5386 Pharaoh's Pyramid

THE WORLD OF THE ROMANS



5394 Caesar and Cleopatra



5392 Legionary with Ballista



5390 Roman Warriors' Ship



5393 Roman Troop



5391 Roman Chariot

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