

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

017. Great Pyramids (Menkaura, Khafre, Khufu) and Great Sphinx (2 images)

Giza, Egypt

Old Kingdom, Fourth Dynasty, ca. 2550-2490 BCE

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Pyramids: Stepped, balanced and each corner points to a cardinal direction, ordered & permanent

Sphinx: ordered & permanent, sits nobly, colossus

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

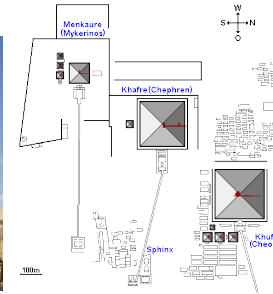
Pyramids: Cut & dressed limestone laid in courses, ashlar masonry

Sphinx: carved in situ (in place) from a large desert stone

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Subjects: the Kings Menkaura, Khafre, and Khufu
Made for their tombs after their death

Symbolizes tremendous royal power and obsession with immortality & afterlife



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Built for the tombs of three kings of the 4th dynasty, intended to protect them and display their wealth & power, the face of the Great Sphinx is one of the kings

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Intended to protect the tombs and display power, was constructed for the kings listed above for them and their families, construction workers could be slaves or hired contractors

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Refined technique and style, larger Great Sphinx made in place (couldn't be done without large stable civilization)

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Like the Stepped Pyramid of Djoser by Imhotep
Same technique of bricked architecture and sculpting

8. THEME(S):

Power & perpetuity; immortality/afterlife

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Ziggurats & pyramids – both were structures aligned with cardinal directions, however ziggurats served as temple platforms while pyramids were tombs and served to protect the deceased and display their wealth and power (sphinx made of king, who was seen as divine)