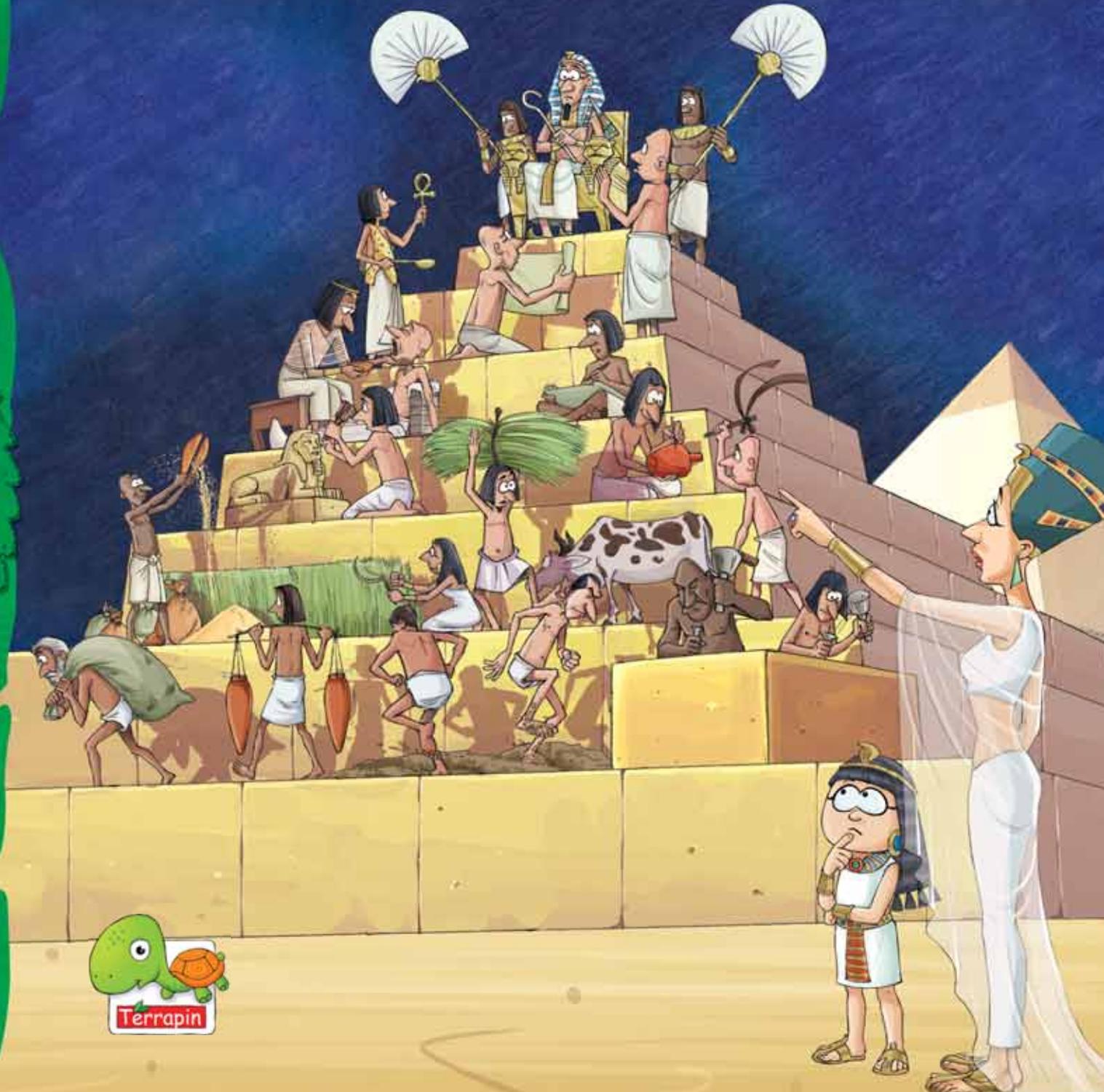


SMART GREEN CIVILIZATIONS

ANCIENT EGYPT

GREEN LESSONS FROM THE PAST





An imprint of The Energy and Resources Institute

The Energy and Resources Institute, 2011

First published in 2011 by

The Energy and Resources Institute

TERI Press

Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003,
India

Tel. 2468 2100/4150 4900, Fax: 2468 2144/2468 2145

India +91 ■ Delhi (0)11

Email: teripress@teri.res.in ■ Website: <http://bookstore.teriin.org>

ISBN 978-81-7993-330-5

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

All export rights for this book vest exclusively with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Unauthorized export is a violation of terms of sale and is subject to legal action.

Author: Benita Sen

Managing Editor: Anupama Jauhry

Series Editor: Arshi Ahmad

Creative Head: Priyabrata Roy Chowdhury

Illustration and Direction: Yatindra Kumar

Colouring Artists: Neeraj Riddlan and Vijay Nipane

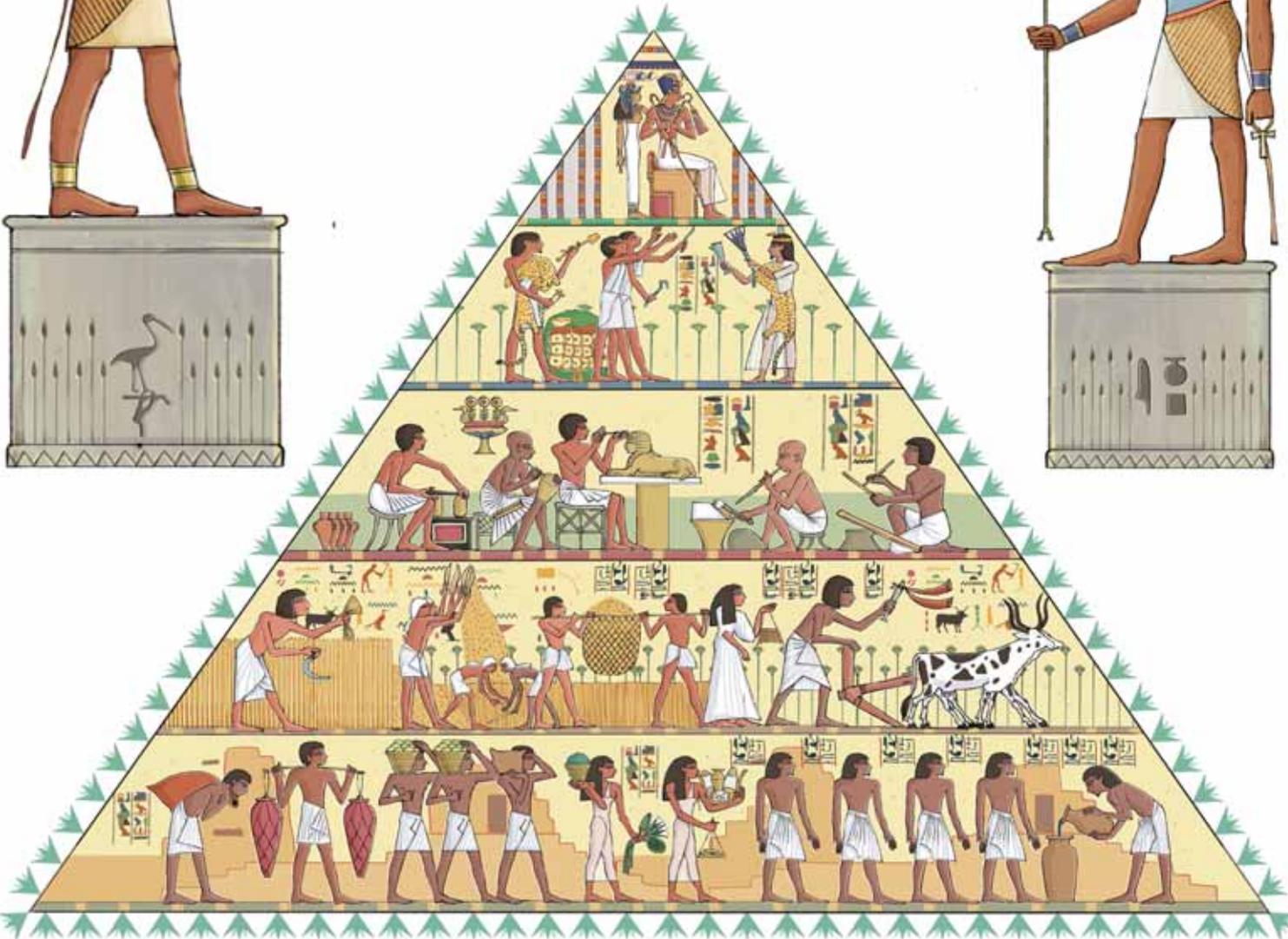
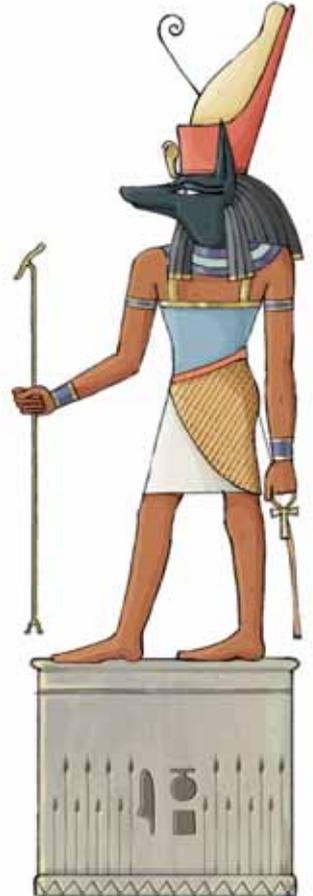
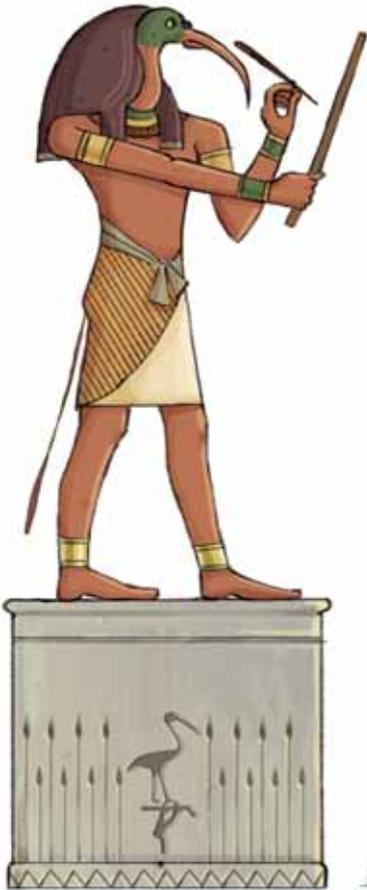
Image Research: Yukti Garg

Production Head: T Radhakrishnan

Printed and bound in India

This book is printed on recycled paper.

ANCIENT EGYPT



A note from Dr R K Pachauri

Human civilization in its race towards progress has at times ignored its adverse effects on nature. With every passing century, man has intensified his quest for a tomorrow better than today, and issues like environment-friendly living, usage of clean energy and preventing the harmful effects of chemicals on nature are becoming increasingly important. Contrary to popular belief, these can be tackled without compromising on our comforts. All we need to do is turn a few pages of history and relearn lessons that civilizations from various parts of the world have left behind.

This series provides a unique and interesting perspective of history from the eyes of an environmentalist. It highlights the environmental wisdom of ancient people. These books bring alive ancient civilizations and their simple, earth-friendly lifestyles—building bright and airy houses from mud bricks, using the sun's energy to heat homes, utilizing plants to make natural dyes, applying manure to grow crops, and many more such techniques.

Exploring the fascinating civilizations of the ancient world and bringing forth little known 'green lessons' from the past, I hope these books will ensure that young readers put to use the knowledge of yesteryears to lay the foundation for a prosperous future.



R K Pachauri

Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Contents

TERI GETS A ROYAL INVITATION!	6
COOL, ANCIENT HOMES	8
DRESS UP LIKE AN EGYPTIAN QUEEN	10
FOOD AND FARMING	12
ANCIENT SCIENCE AND WISDOM	14
THE WRITE WORDS	16
PREPARING FOR THE NEXT LIFE	18
TOWERING OVER THE DEAD	20
LOTS OF WORK TO BE DONE	22
TIME TO SPARE	24
CHILDREN OF MANY GODS	26
END OF GLORY	28
GREEN LESSONS	30

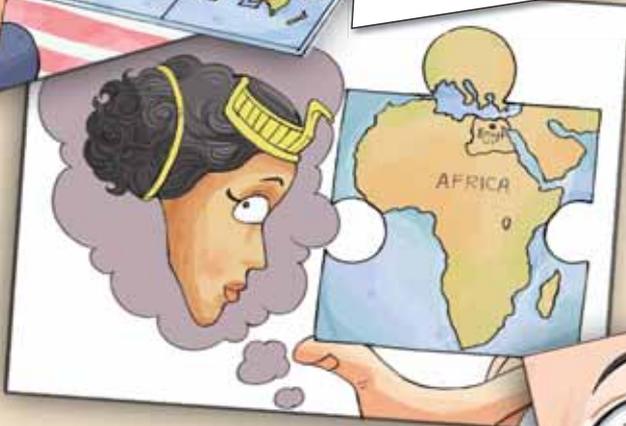
Teri gets a royal invitation!

Like most ancient civilizations, the story of ancient Egypt revolves around a river. This mighty civilization grew along the River Nile before 3000 BC. Around 3100 BC, King Menes brought together Upper and Lower Egypt to make one strong kingdom.

While most of the land was the Red Land or barren desert, strips of land on both sides of the Nile were called the Black Land. The Nile rises in central Africa and flows north to the Mediterranean Sea. Every spring, the Nile flooded its banks, covering them with water and rich soil. When the floodwater left, it left a deposit of fertile black silt on the banks. This area of rich soil, called the Nile Valley, was about 5-10 miles wide on each side of the river.



One evening, Teri sat up in bed with a jigsaw puzzle of the world. She was sleepy, but she thought she'd finish it since she was left with the last piece. It was Africa.



Was she woozy with sleep? Or did Africa really look like a beautiful queen?



Before she could decide if she was awake or dreaming, she found herself in a strange house. Four palanquin bearers loudly announced, 'Her majesty, Queen Nefertiti has invited you!'

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

NILE DELTA

ALEXANDRIA

TANIS

GIZA

SAQQARA
MEMPHIS

HELIOPOLIS

TURAH

HERMOPOLIS

RED SEA

ABYDOS

KARNAK

DENDEREH

THEBES (LUXOR)

VALLEY OF KINGS

ASWAN

ABU SIMBEL

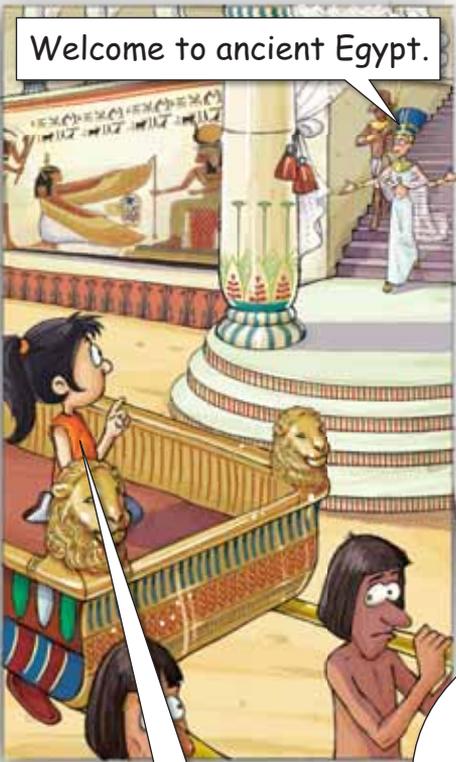
► Early Egypt was divided into two kingdoms, one in Upper Egypt (Nile Valley), and one in Lower Egypt (Nile delta). The largest 'niwts', or settlements, were in Memphis, Thebes, Tanis, and Alexandria.

The Nile Valley was the only terrain in Egypt where crops could be grown. Although the scorching deserts of the Red Land were too dry to support any life, they protected Egypt from most invaders. The mountains to the south were also a barrier against enemies. But had it not been for the Nile, the glorious civilization of ancient Egypt may never have existed.

and NOW

In spite of technological advancements, it is still difficult to live in a desert. Even today, nine out of ten people in Egypt live in the Nile Valley.

Welcome to ancient Egypt.



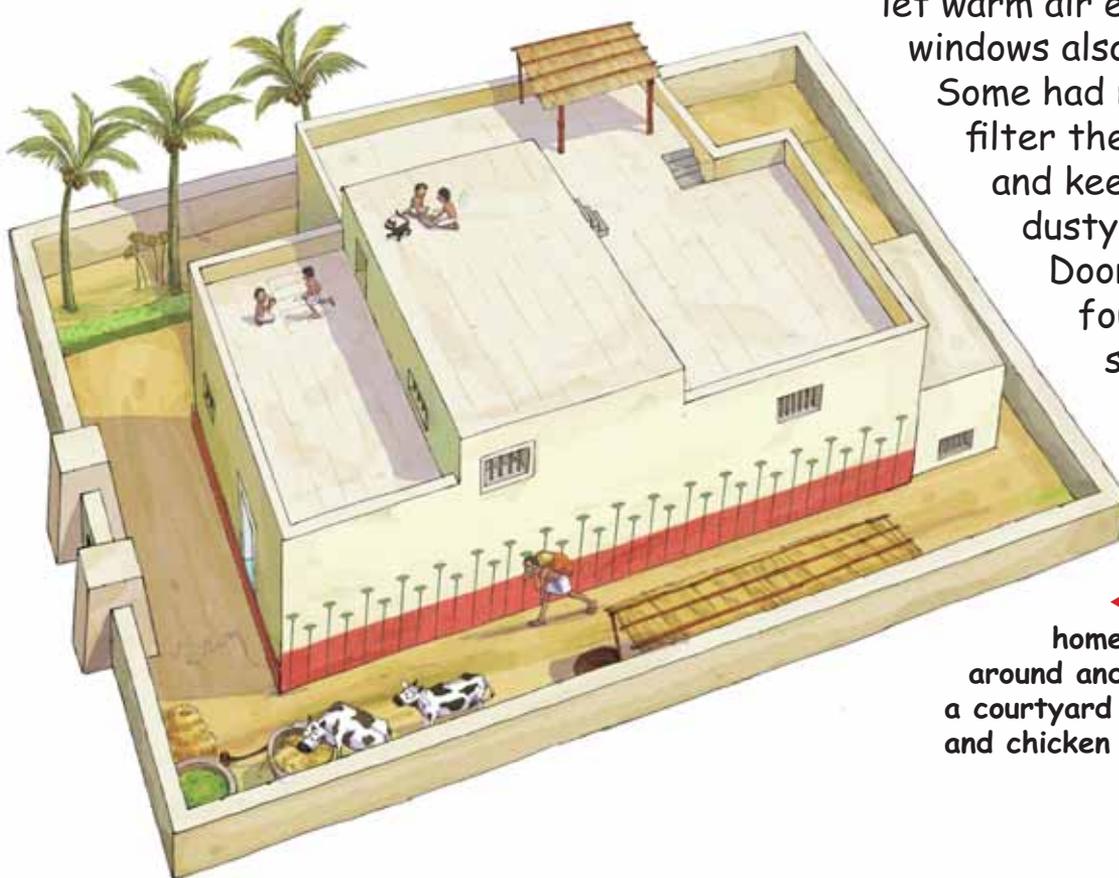
Cool, ancient homes

Ancient Egyptians built homes using materials available in the region. Clay from the Nile banks and sand were mixed with straw. These were baked into bricks using sunlight, an endless source of energy. This saved making burnt bricks in a wood kiln. Since Egypt is mostly desert, wood was always hard to find.

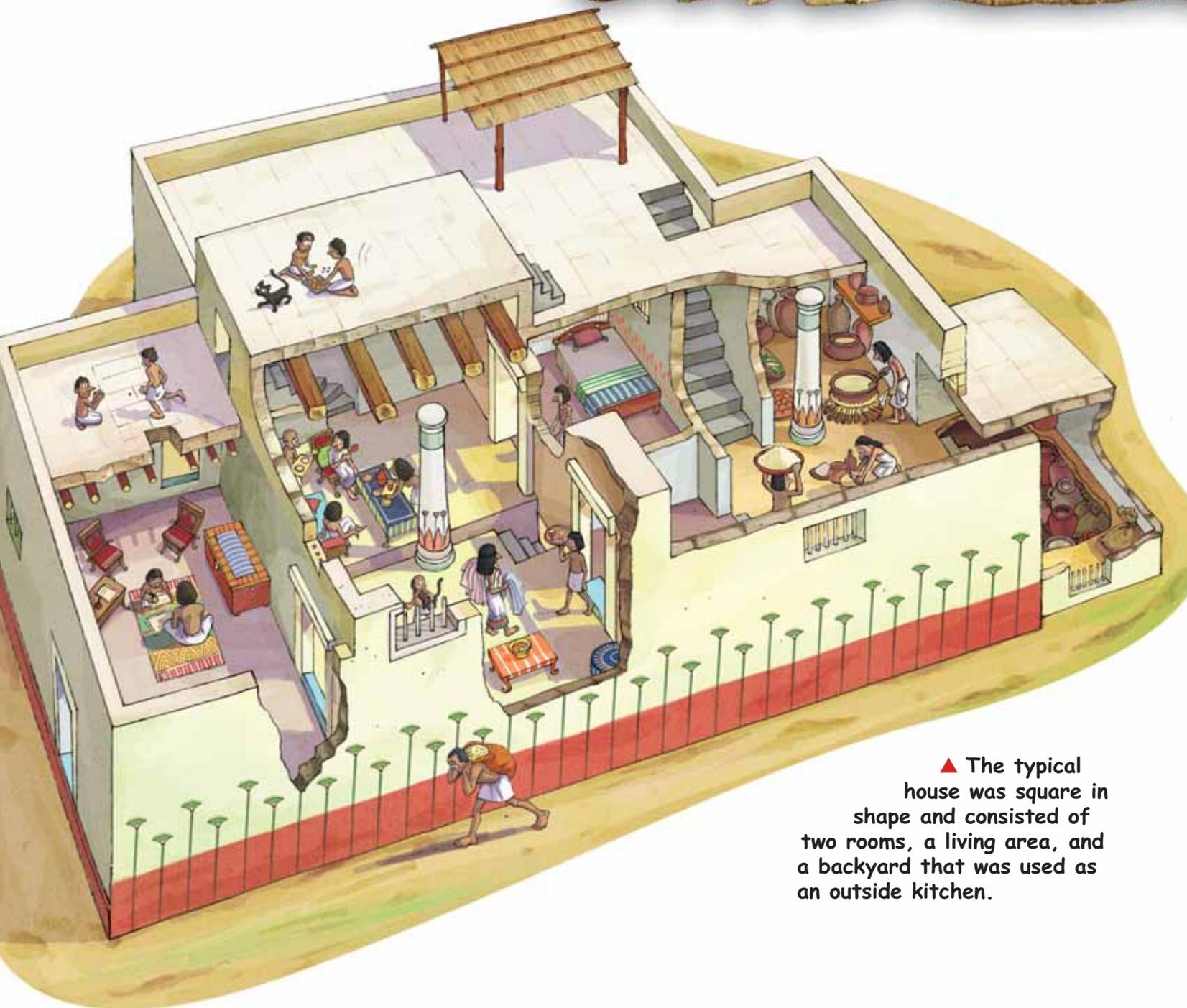
Many houses were built on platforms to keep them above floodwaters. Homes of the rich had bathrooms and drains. Windows were built high up. Since hot air rises, and cool air descends, the windows drew in cool air and let warm air escape. The high windows also kept sand out. Some had mud lattices to filter the strong sunlight and keep out the dry, dusty khamsin winds. Doors were built four feet off the street to keep sand out and were approached by steps.

Ours is an old civilization but we were such good builders that there's still lots to see after thousands of years.

What a grand building!



◀ Ancient Egyptian homes had high walls all around and flat roofs. Most had a courtyard where cattle, goats, and chicken were kept.



▲ The typical house was square in shape and consisted of two rooms, a living area, and a backyard that was used as an outside kitchen.

Houses were whitewashed with lime to keep them cool. They were coated with a natural paint of a milk product called casein, clay, and natural colours. The Egyptians used tempera paint, a mixture of egg and paints. Tempera dries fast and is still used. Since Egypt gets little rain, houses had flat thatched roofs. Children played on the roof, and families would go up in the evening to catch the cool breeze or have dinner. The roofs had vents directing cool breeze into the house.

Most homes had a millstone to grind grain, a silo to store wheat, and a hearth to bake bread.

and NOW

THEN

Mud bricks and lime, used in ancient Egyptian houses, were natural and did not harm the environment. Modern homes use synthetic materials like vinyls and paints that harm our health. Some use fly ash bricks made of harmful factory waste.

Smart Green Civilizations : Ancient Egypt



Publisher : **TERI Press**

ISBN : **9788179933305**

Author : **Benita Sen**

Type the URL : <http://www.kopykitab.com/product/8453>



Get this eBook