who studies ancient times and ancient people

who studies ancient times and ancient people is a fascinating inquiry into the professionals and disciplines dedicated to uncovering the mysteries of our distant past. This article explores the various experts who examine ancient civilizations, cultures, artifacts, and human history. Readers will learn about archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, and other specialists who reconstruct ancient life through evidence and scientific methods. The article delves into the tools and techniques these experts use, the importance of understanding ancient people for modern society, and the educational pathways for aspiring researchers. Whether you are curious about the origins of humanity or considering a career in the field, this comprehensive guide will provide valuable insights into who studies ancient times and ancient people, their roles, and the impact of their work.

- Understanding the Experts: Who Studies Ancient Times and Ancient People
- The Disciplines Unveiling Ancient History
- Key Methods and Tools Used to Study Ancient Peoples
- The Importance of Studying Ancient Civilizations
- · Education and Careers in Ancient Studies
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Understanding the Experts: Who Studies Ancient Times and

Ancient People

Researching ancient times and ancient people requires a multidisciplinary approach involving various professions. These specialists dedicate their careers to uncovering evidence, interpreting findings, and reconstructing the lives of those who came before us. Their work helps us understand ancient societies, technological advancements, belief systems, and daily life. By analyzing remnants from the past, these professionals piece together historical narratives that shape our understanding of humanity's journey.

Archaeologists

Archaeologists are the primary experts who study ancient times and ancient people. They excavate sites, analyze artifacts, and interpret physical remains from past civilizations. Their research spans prehistoric periods to more recent historical eras, often focusing on material culture such as pottery, tools, bones, and structures. Archaeologists use scientific methods to date findings and reconstruct ancient environments, providing crucial insights into how people lived, worked, and interacted.

Historians

Historians investigate written records, oral traditions, and other documented sources to understand ancient societies. While their focus is often on interpreting texts, they collaborate closely with archaeologists to corroborate material evidence. Historians explore political events, social structures, economic systems, and cultural practices, constructing detailed narratives of ancient civilizations and their development over time.

Anthropologists

Anthropologists study ancient people by examining their cultures, social organization, and evolution. Physical anthropologists analyze human remains to reveal insights about health, diet, migration, and

adaptation. Cultural anthropologists explore belief systems, customs, and societal roles. Together, anthropologists provide a holistic view of humanity's ancient past, bridging the gap between biological and cultural evolution.

Other Specialists

Several other experts contribute to the study of ancient times and ancient people. Paleontologists investigate fossils and prehistoric life, while linguists research ancient languages and scripts.

Geologists date archaeological layers and environmental changes, and art historians interpret artworks and iconography. Together, these professionals collaborate to expand our understanding of ancient civilizations from multiple angles.

The Disciplines Unveiling Ancient History

The study of ancient times and ancient people is divided into several academic disciplines, each contributing unique perspectives and methods. These fields work together to answer fundamental questions about human origins, societal development, and cultural diversity. Understanding these disciplines is essential for appreciating the complexity of reconstructing the distant past.

Archaeology

Archaeology is the scientific study of material remains left by past human societies. Archaeologists conduct excavations, analyze artifacts, and use dating techniques such as radiocarbon dating to establish chronological frameworks. Their research covers a wide range of topics, including urbanization, trade, religion, and technology. Archaeology often uncovers information unavailable in written records, offering a tangible connection to ancient people.

History

The discipline of history focuses on interpreting written and recorded evidence from ancient times. Historians examine chronicles, inscriptions, manuscripts, and primary sources to reconstruct political events, social changes, and cultural achievements. By synthesizing material and textual evidence, history provides context and meaning to archaeological discoveries.

Anthropology

Anthropology explores the origins, development, and diversity of ancient peoples. Physical anthropology analyzes skeletal remains and genetic material, while cultural anthropology investigates traditions, rituals, and social structures. This field is crucial for understanding how ancient societies adapted to their environments and interacted with neighboring cultures.

Paleontology

Paleontology contributes to ancient studies by examining fossils and prehistoric life forms. While it is distinct from archaeology, paleontology provides important data on human evolution and the natural environments inhabited by ancient peoples. Fossil evidence helps trace the development of early humans and their adaptation to changing climates.

Epigraphy and Linguistics

Epigraphers and linguists study ancient inscriptions, texts, and languages. Deciphering scripts such as Egyptian hieroglyphs or Sumerian cuneiform reveals information about governance, religion, and daily life. Linguistic analysis also tracks the evolution and spread of languages among ancient populations.

Key Methods and Tools Used to Study Ancient Peoples

Experts who study ancient times and ancient people rely on a variety of methods and tools to gather and interpret evidence. These techniques have evolved significantly, enabling more accurate reconstructions of the past. Technological advancements have expanded the scope and precision of ancient studies.

Excavation Techniques

- Stratigraphic excavation for dating layers
- Use of trowels, brushes, and sieves for artifact recovery
- · Remote sensing and geophysical surveys to locate buried features

Careful excavation is essential for preserving context and avoiding damage to fragile artifacts.

Stratigraphy helps archaeologists establish chronological sequences and understand site formation processes.

Laboratory Analysis

- Radiocarbon dating for organic materials
- DNA analysis for human remains
- Microscopic analysis of pottery, textiles, and bones
- Stable isotope analysis for diet and migration studies

Laboratory techniques provide detailed information about the age, origin, and composition of archaeological finds. Advances in genetic analysis have revolutionized our understanding of ancient populations and their movements.

Interpretive Frameworks

Experts use various theoretical models to interpret evidence, including cultural evolution, social stratification, and symbolic analysis. Collaboration between disciplines ensures a comprehensive understanding of ancient times and ancient people.

Digital Technologies

- 3D scanning and modeling of artifacts and sites
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for spatial analysis
- · Database management for cataloging finds

Digital tools enhance the documentation, analysis, and sharing of archaeological data. Modern technologies allow researchers to visualize ancient environments and test hypotheses with unprecedented accuracy.

The Importance of Studying Ancient Civilizations

Studying ancient times and ancient people offers profound benefits for modern society. Understanding the origins and development of human cultures provides context for contemporary issues and fosters

appreciation for cultural heritage. The insights gained from ancient studies influence education, identity, and global awareness.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Ancient studies contribute to the preservation of artifacts, monuments, and traditions. Protecting archaeological sites and historical records ensures that future generations can learn from the achievements and mistakes of the past.

Understanding Human Evolution

Research on ancient peoples sheds light on the biological and cultural evolution of humanity. By tracing migration patterns, technological innovations, and social changes, experts reveal the adaptability and diversity of human societies.

Informing Modern Society

- · Lessons from ancient environmental management
- Understanding the roots of social and political systems
- Comparing ancient and modern technological solutions

Ancient studies inform current debates on sustainability, governance, and cultural interaction. By analyzing historical precedents, researchers help policy makers and educators address contemporary challenges.

Education and Careers in Ancient Studies

Pursuing a career in the study of ancient times and ancient people requires specialized education and training. Universities and research institutions offer degrees in archaeology, history, anthropology, and related fields. Aspiring professionals gain practical experience through fieldwork, laboratory research, and internships.

Academic Pathways

- Bachelor's degrees in archaeology, history, or anthropology
- Master's and doctoral programs for advanced specialization
- Field schools and excavation projects for practical training

Higher education equips students with analytical skills, research methods, and theoretical knowledge.

Graduate students often focus on specific regions, periods, or cultures, contributing original research to the field.

Professional Opportunities

- University teaching and research positions
- · Museum curation and exhibition design
- Cultural heritage management and conservation
- Government and private sector archaeology

Professionals who study ancient times and ancient people work in academia, museums, cultural organizations, and governmental agencies. Their expertise supports preservation, education, and public outreach initiatives.

Skills and Qualities Needed

- · Attention to detail and analytical thinking
- · Strong writing and communication skills
- Teamwork and interdisciplinary collaboration
- · Adaptability to diverse fieldwork conditions

Success in ancient studies requires a combination of technical expertise and passion for discovery.

Professionals must be able to synthesize information from multiple sources and communicate findings to diverse audiences.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who are the main professionals that study ancient times and ancient people?

A: The primary professionals include archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, paleontologists, epigraphers, and linguists. Each specializes in different aspects of ancient studies, working together to reconstruct the past.

Q: What is the difference between archaeology and anthropology?

A: Archaeology focuses on physical remains such as artifacts and structures, while anthropology studies human cultures, social organization, and evolution. Both fields often overlap in the study of ancient people.

Q: How do experts date ancient artifacts?

A: Experts use methods like radiocarbon dating, stratigraphy, dendrochronology, and thermoluminescence to determine the age of artifacts and archaeological layers.

Q: Why is it important to study ancient civilizations?

A: Studying ancient civilizations helps preserve cultural heritage, understand human evolution, and inform modern society through lessons from the past.

Q: What educational background is required to study ancient times professionally?

A: A bachelor's degree in archaeology, history, anthropology, or related fields is typically required, with advanced degrees needed for specialization and research positions.

Q: What tools do archaeologists use in fieldwork?

A: Archaeologists use trowels, brushes, sieves, GPS devices, and remote sensing equipment during excavations, along with laboratory tools for analysis.

Q: Can studying ancient times help solve modern problems?

A: Yes, insights from ancient studies can inform solutions for environmental management, social organization, and technological innovation in today's world.

Q: What is the role of museums in ancient studies?

A: Museums preserve, display, and interpret artifacts from ancient civilizations, supporting education, research, and public engagement.

Q: Are there career opportunities outside academia for ancient studies specialists?

A: Yes, professionals work in museums, cultural heritage management, government agencies, and private sector archaeology.

Q: How do experts reconstruct ancient languages?

A: Linguists and epigraphers analyze inscriptions, texts, and comparative language studies to decipher and reconstruct ancient languages and scripts.

Who Studies Ancient Times And Ancient People

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Who Studies Ancient Times and Ancient People? Unraveling the World of Archaeology and History

Have you ever gazed at an ancient artifact, a crumbling ruin, or a faded inscription, and wondered about the lives of the people who created them? The mysteries of the past captivate us, sparking curiosity about civilizations long gone. But who are the dedicated individuals who dedicate their lives to uncovering these secrets and interpreting the stories etched in time? This comprehensive guide explores the fascinating world of those who study ancient times and ancient people, detailing the various disciplines involved and the skills required for these rewarding yet demanding careers.

What is involved in Studying Ancient Times and Ancient People?

The study of ancient times and people isn't confined to a single discipline. It's a collaborative effort involving experts from a variety of fields, each contributing their unique expertise to piece together a comprehensive understanding of the past.

1. Archaeologists: Unearthing the Physical Past

Archaeologists are perhaps the most readily associated with the study of ancient times and people. They are the "detectives" of the past, meticulously excavating sites, analyzing artifacts, and interpreting the physical remains of past civilizations. Their work goes far beyond simply digging up treasures. It involves:

Systematic Excavation: Employing precise techniques to uncover artifacts and structures while documenting their context—crucial for accurate interpretation.

Artifact Analysis: Studying the material culture of ancient societies, from pottery shards and tools to monumental architecture. This often involves collaborating with specialists in material science. Environmental Archaeology: Examining the relationship between ancient people and their environment, analyzing pollen, animal bones, and other environmental indicators to reconstruct past ecosystems.

Interpretation and Publication: Analyzing findings, drawing conclusions about past cultures, and sharing their discoveries through publications and presentations.

2. Historians: Interpreting Written and Oral Records

While archaeologists focus on material remains, historians delve into written and oral accounts of the past. Their expertise is crucial for understanding the social, political, economic, and intellectual aspects of ancient societies. Historians:

Analyze Primary Sources: Scrutinize original documents, inscriptions, and other materials from the period being studied.

Evaluate Secondary Sources: Critically assess the work of other historians and scholars to create a

comprehensive narrative.

Develop Historical Narratives: Construct compelling and accurate accounts of past events, considering multiple perspectives and biases.

Specialize in specific historical periods or regions: This allows for deeper understanding and more detailed analysis.

3. Anthropologists: Understanding Ancient Cultures

Anthropologists contribute a crucial cultural perspective to the study of ancient times. They focus on the social organization, beliefs, and customs of past societies, bridging the gap between archaeological findings and historical records. Their skills include:

Cultural Anthropology: Studying the cultural aspects of ancient societies, including social structures, religion, and belief systems.

Biological Anthropology: Applying biological and evolutionary principles to understand human evolution and the physical characteristics of ancient populations.

Linguistics: Analyzing ancient languages and writing systems to understand the communication and knowledge systems of past civilizations.

4. Other Related Disciplines

Numerous other disciplines play vital supporting roles in understanding ancient times and people. These include:

Geologists: Providing insights into the geological context of archaeological sites.

Paleobotanists and Paleozoologists: Studying ancient plant and animal life.

Conservators: Preserving fragile artifacts for future study.

Museum Curators: Managing and exhibiting archaeological and historical collections.

Skills Required for Studying Ancient Times and Ancient People

A successful career in these fields requires a unique blend of academic knowledge and practical skills:

Strong analytical and research skills: The ability to critically evaluate evidence and draw informed conclusions.

Meticulous attention to detail: Essential for careful excavation, artifact analysis, and historical research.

Problem-solving abilities: Archaeology and history often involve complex puzzles that require creative solutions.

Communication skills: The ability to effectively communicate findings to both academic audiences and the general public.

Teamwork and collaboration: These fields are inherently collaborative, requiring effective communication and teamwork.

Conclusion:

Understanding ancient times and ancient people requires a multifaceted approach, involving expertise from a wide range of disciplines. The dedication and skills of archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, and others allow us to connect with our past, learn from previous civilizations, and gain a deeper appreciation for the human experience across time. Their work enriches our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world.

FAQs:

- 1. What kind of education is needed to become an archaeologist? A minimum of a bachelor's degree in archaeology or a related field is required; a master's or doctoral degree is often necessary for advanced positions.
- 2. Is it possible to specialize in a particular ancient civilization? Absolutely! Many archaeologists and historians focus their research on specific regions, cultures, or time periods.
- 3. What is the difference between archaeology and paleontology? Archaeology focuses on human history and culture, while paleontology studies ancient life forms, including extinct plants and animals.
- 4. Are there job opportunities in this field? Yes, but they can be competitive. Opportunities exist in academia, museums, government agencies, and cultural heritage organizations.
- 5. How can I get involved in archaeological digs or historical research as a volunteer? Many universities, museums, and archaeological organizations offer volunteer opportunities; search online for local groups and projects.

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physicians, power brokers and panderers of ancient times.

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Philip Norrie, 2016-06-25 This book shows how bubonic plague and smallpox helped end the Hittite
Empire, the Bronze Age in the Near East and later the Carthaginian Empire. The book will examine
all the possible infectious diseases present in ancient times and show that life was a daily struggle
for survival either avoiding or fighting against these infectious disease epidemics. The book will
argue that infectious disease epidemics are a critical link in the chain of causation for the demise of
most civilizations in the ancient world and that ancient historians should no longer ignore them, as is
currently the case.

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who studies ancient times and ancient people: *Physical Anthropology of European Populations* Ilse Schwidetzky, Bruno Chiarelli, Olga Necrasov, 2011-06-01

who studies ancient times and ancient people: The Dawn of Everything David Graeber, David Wengrow, 2021-11-09 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A dramatically new

understanding of human history, challenging our most fundamental assumptions about social evolution—from the development of agriculture and cities to the origins of the state, democracy, and inequality—and revealing new possibilities for human emancipation. For generations, our remote ancestors have been cast as primitive and childlike—either free and equal innocents, or thuggish and warlike. Civilization, we are told, could be achieved only by sacrificing those original freedoms or, alternatively, by taming our baser instincts. David Graeber and David Wengrow show how such theories first emerged in the eighteenth century as a conservative reaction to powerful critiques of European society posed by Indigenous observers and intellectuals. Revisiting this encounter has startling implications for how we make sense of human history today, including the origins of farming, property, cities, democracy, slavery, and civilization itself. Drawing on pathbreaking research in archaeology and anthropology, the authors show how history becomes a far more interesting place once we learn to throw off our conceptual shackles and perceive what's really there. If humans did not spend 95 percent of their evolutionary past in tiny bands of hunter-gatherers, what were they doing all that time? If agriculture, and cities, did not mean a plunge into hierarchy and domination, then what kinds of social and economic organization did they lead to? The answers are often unexpected, and suggest that the course of human history may be less set in stone, and more full of playful, hopeful possibilities, than we tend to assume. The Dawn of Everything fundamentally transforms our understanding of the human past and offers a path toward imagining new forms of freedom, new ways of organizing society. This is a monumental book of formidable intellectual range, animated by curiosity, moral vision, and a faith in the power of direct action. Includes Black-and-White Illustrations

who studies ancient times and ancient people: Battling the Gods Tim Whitmarsh, 2015-11-10 How new is atheism? Although adherents and opponents alike today present it as an invention of the European Enlightenment, when the forces of science and secularism broadly challenged those of faith, disbelief in the gods, in fact, originated in a far more remote past. In Battling the Gods, Tim Whitmarsh journeys into the ancient Mediterranean, a world almost unimaginably different from our own, to recover the stories and voices of those who first refused the divinities. Homer's epic poems of human striving, journeying, and passion were ancient Greece's only "sacred texts," but no ancient Greek thought twice about questioning or mocking his stories of the gods. Priests were functionaries rather than sources of moral or cosmological wisdom. The absence of centralized religious authority made for an extraordinary variety of perspectives on sacred matters, from the devotional to the atheos, or "godless." Whitmarsh explores this kaleidoscopic range of ideas about the gods, focusing on the colorful individuals who challenged their existence. Among these were some of the greatest ancient poets and philosophers and writers, as well as the less well known: Diagoras of Melos, perhaps the first self-professed atheist; Democritus, the first materialist; Socrates, executed for rejecting the gods of the Athenian state; Epicurus and his followers, who thought gods could not intervene in human affairs; the brilliantly mischievous satirist Lucian of Samosata. Before the revolutions of late antiquity, which saw the scriptural religions of Christianity and Islam enforced by imperial might, there were few constraints on belief. Everything changed, however, in the millennium between the appearance of the Homeric poems and Christianity's establishment as Rome's state religion in the fourth century AD. As successive Greco-Roman empires grew in size and complexity, and power was increasingly concentrated in central capitals, states sought to impose collective religious adherence, first to cults devoted to individual rulers, and ultimately to monotheism. In this new world, there was no room for outright disbelief: the label "atheist" was used now to demonize anyone who merely disagreed with the orthodoxy—and so it would remain for centuries. As the twenty-first century shapes up into a time of mass information, but also, paradoxically, of collective amnesia concerning the tangled histories of religions, Whitmarsh provides a bracing antidote to our assumptions about the roots of freethinking. By shining a light on atheism's first thousand years, Battling the Gods offers a timely reminder that nonbelief has a wealth of tradition of its own, and, indeed, its own heroes.

who studies ancient times and ancient people: Understanding Early Civilizations Bruce G.

Trigger, 2003-05-05 Sample Text

who studies ancient times and ancient people: An Environmental History of Ancient Greece and Rome Lukas Thommen, 2012-03-08 Lively and accessible account of the relationship between man and nature in Graeco-Roman antiquity. Describes the ways in which the Greeks and Romans intervened in the environment and thus traces the history of tension between the exploitation of resources and the protection of nature.

who studies ancient times and ancient people: Man Bac Marc F. Oxenham, Hirofumi Matsumura, Nguyen Kim Dung, 2011-05-01 The site of Man Bac in the Red River Delta of Vietnam, one of the most meticulously excavated and carefully analysed of Southeast Asian archaeological sites in the past few years, is emerging as a key site in the region. This book carefully analyses the human and animal remains and puts them into context. The authors describe in detail the health status, the unusual demographic profile and the interestingly divergent affinities of the cemetery population, and discuss their meaning, particularly in association with evidence for the use of marine and terrestrial animal resources; they argue convincingly that the site documents a time when the face of the region's population was undergoing a fundamental shift, associated with a changing economic subsistence base. Physical anthropologists and archaeologists have argued for years over the timeline, the manner and the very nature of Southeast Asian population history, and this book is essential reading in this debate. Two supporting appendices describe the individual remains in detail.

who studies ancient times and ancient people: Ancient Lives Brian M. Fagan, 2016-07-15 Focusing on sites of key significance and the world's first civilizations, Ancient Lives is an accessible and engaging textbook which introduces complete beginners to the fascinating worlds of archaeology and prehistory. Drawing on their impressive combined experience of the field and the classroom, the authors use a jargon-free narrative style to enliven the major developments of more than three million years of human life. First introducing the basic principles, methods and theoretical approaches of archaeology, the book then provides a summary of world prehistory from a global perspective, exploring human origins and the reality of life in the archaic world. Later chapters describe the development of agriculture and animal domestication and the emergence of cities, states, and pre-industrial civilizations in widely separated parts of the world. With this new edition updated to reflect the latest discoveries and research in the discipline, Ancient Lives continues to be a comprehensive and essential introduction to archaeology.

who studies ancient times and ancient people: The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man Henri Frankfort, John A. Wilson, Thorkild Jacobsen, William A. Irwin, 1946 An Oriental institute essay. Contains lectures given as a public course in the Division of the humanities of the University of Chicago.--Pref. Includes bibliographies. Introduction: Myth and reality, by H. and H.A. Frankfort. -- Egypt: The nature of the universe. The function of the state. The values of life. By J.A. Wilson. -- Mesopotamia: The cosmos as a state. The function of the state. The good life. By Thorkild Jacobsen. -- The Hebrews: God. Man. Man in the world. Nation, society, and politics. By W.A. Irwin. Conclusion: The emancipation of thought from myth, by H. and H.A. Frankfort.

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who studies ancient times and ancient people: Archaeology Anita Yasuda, 2017-04-17 How do we learn more about the people of the past? Through archaeology! Archaeologists are great detectives. They look for clues from the past, called artifacts, that have been buried for hundreds, even thousands of years. They investigate sites at the bottom of the sea, on land, and on mountain peaks. Archaeologists look closely at objects and where they were found on a site to discover who,

what, when, where, why, and how people lived, from thousands of years ago to the recent past. In Archaeology: Cool Women Who Dig, children ages 9 through 12 learn about this amazing field and meet three dynamic women who are working in archaeology around the world. Chelsea Rose is a historical archaeologist with Southern Oregon University, Alexandra Jones runs Archaeology in the Community in Washington, DC, and Justine Benanty is a maritime archaeologist from New York City. Children will also be introduced to several pioneering female archaeologists, including Jane Dieulafoy, Gertrude Bell, and Harriet Boyd Hawes. These are people who strived to be successful in a field that wasn't always welcoming to women. Nomad Press books in the Girls in Science series supply a bridge between girls' interests and their potential futures by investigating science careers and introducing women who have succeeded in science. Compelling stories of real-life archaeologists provide readers with role models that they can look toward as examples of success. Archaeology: Cool Women Who Dig uses engaging content, links to primary sources, and essential questions to whet kids' appetites for further exploration and study of archaeology. This book explores the history of archaeology, the women who helped pioneer field research, and the multitude of varied careers in this exciting and important field. Both boys and girls are encouraged to find their passion in the gritty field of archaeology.

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who studies ancient times and ancient people: Origins of the Sphinx Robert M. Schoch, Robert Bauval, 2017-03-16 New research and evidence that the Sphinx is thousands of years older than previously thought • Contrasts what Egyptologists claim about the Sphinx with historical accounts and new research including reanalysis of seismic studies and updates to Schoch's water

weathering research and Bauval's Orion Correlation Theory • Examines how the Sphinx is contemporaneous with Göbekli Tepe, aligned with the constellation Leo, and was recarved during the Old Kingdom era of Egypt • Reveals that the Sphinx was built during the actual historical Golden Age of ancient Egypt, the period known in legend as Zep Tepi No other monument in the world evokes mystery like the Great Sphinx of Giza. It has survived the harsh climate of Egypt for thousands of years and will remain long after our own civilization is gone. According to orthodox Egyptology, the Sphinx was built around 2500 BCE as a memorial to the pharaoh Khafre. Yet this "fact" has scant to no supportive evidence. When was the Sphinx really built and, most importantly, why? In this provocative collaboration from two Egyptology outsiders, Robert M. Schoch, Ph.D., and Robert Bauval combine their decades of research to show how the Sphinx is thousands of years older than the conventional Egyptological timeline and was built by a long forgotten pre-Pharaonic civilization. They examine the known history of the Sphinx, contrasting what Egyptologists claim with prominent historical accounts and new research, including updates to Schoch's geological water weathering research and reanalysis of seismic studies. Building on Bauval's Orion Correlation Theory, they investigate the archaeoastronomical alignments of the monuments of the Giza Plateau and reveal how the pyramids and Sphinx were built to align with the constellations of Orion and Leo. Analyzing the evidence for a significantly older construction phase at Giza and the restoration and recarving of the Sphinx during the Old Kingdom era, they assert that the Sphinx was first built by an advanced pre-Pharaonic civilization that existed circa 12,000 years ago on the Giza Plateau, contemporaneous with the sophisticated Göbekli Tepe complex. The authors examine how the monuments at Giza memorialize Zep Tepi, the Golden Age of legend shown here to be an actual historical time period from roughly 10,500 BCE through 9700 BCE. Moving us closer to an understanding of the true age and purpose of the Great Sphinx, Schoch and Bauval provide evidence of an early high civilization witnessed by the Great Sphinx before the end of the last ice age.

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