

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

# The Stuff They Left Behind

*Understanding History through Artifacts and Architecture*

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From the Days of

## Ancient Egypt



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# The Stuff They Left Behind From the Days of Ancient Egypt

Use these beautiful photographs of artifacts and architecture either *before* you read from a living history book, to create interest in a time period, or *after* you read, to clarify and elaborate on what was read. The leading thoughts and discussion questions below will give you some ideas, but be careful to allow plenty of time for careful looking and encourage students to share their own observations and make their own personal connections.

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## Narmer Palette

Royal Ontario Museum

Photo Credit: Captmondo



This shield-shaped stone, or palette, has been carved to tell a story. Long ago the villages along the Nile River were divided into Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. One man, Narmer, conquered them all and became king of both lands. What details of that conquest do you see depicted on the front and back of this palette? Which character do you think represents Narmer on each side?

The people of the ancient world often carved records of important events and depictions of their achievements in stone. Why do you suppose they did that?

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## Ziggurat of Ur

Photo Credit: Tla2006



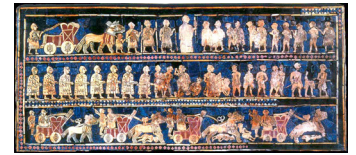
This building was constructed in the center of the ancient city of Ur, dedicated to the god they worshiped there, Nanna. This style of ancient temple is called a ziggurat. The original structure would have had additional smaller levels stacked on top of this one.

Look closely at the construction of this temple. Can you determine how many steps a person had to climb to reach that first level? Each brick was made of mud and is about three inches thick. How tall do you think that staircase is? Can you find the other two staircases? What else do you notice about this ziggurat?

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## Standard of Ur

British Museum



Ur was one of the earliest cities of civilization, resting on the plains of Mesopotamia. And in its Royal Cemetery, excavators found this scene made from shell, limestone, and other types of stone. The king of Ur, the central figure on the top, is leading his army into battle. What does the scene tell you about that battle? What do you notice about this ancient army's weapons and equipment?

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## 3 Pyramids

Djoser Step Pyramid

Photo Credit: Jerzy Strzelecki

Snefru Bent Pyramid

Photo Credit: Ivrienen

Khufu Pyramid at Giza

Photo Credit: Janusz Reclaw



If you will look closely at these three pyramids, you will see three tries at building a monument that was considered elaborate enough for an Egyptian pharaoh's grave. For Pharaoh Djoser they made this Step Pyramid. Can you tell what gives it that name? How do you suppose it was constructed?

For Pharaoh Snefru they thought they had figured out how to convert a step pyramid into a smooth-sided pyramid, but partway up they realized their calculations were off. Can you tell at what point they had to change their design on this Bent Pyramid?

On the third try they succeeded, building Khufu's great pyramid. At more than 450 feet tall, Khufu's pyramid was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Do you have any guesses as to how it was constructed?









