

# ANCIENT EGYPT

Watch the video and complete the transcript below.

**NARRATOR:** The West Bank of the River Nile, home to the world's 1) ...  
, the mighty pyramids of Giza. The pyramids once housed the bodies of the  
pharaohs. But though ancient Egyptian 2) ... lasted for nearly 3,000  
years, its kings only built huge tombs like these for a few centuries.  
Egyptologists are still trying to 3) ... why the pharaohs stopped  
constructing giant pyramids. For Egyptologist Chris Norton, the majesty of the  
ancient structures makes the fact that Egyptians gave up building them 4)  
... incredible. 10 miles south of the legendary pyramids of Giza is Saqqara.

**CHRIS NAUNTON:** When we think about pyramids, we tend to think of Giza, I  
think, and the Great Pyramid of Khufu 5) ... . But actually, this is where it  
all began.

**NARRATOR:** Chris has come to the birthplace of pyramid building to search for  
clues to why Egyptians built giant pyramids for less than 500 years. 6) ...  
the iconic pyramids at Giza, Egypt's first pyramid is a 200-foot-tall mausoleum  
of six huge limestone platforms 7) ... to spread the weight  
of rock and prevent collapse. Deep inside is a giant shaft 26 feet wide and 82  
feet deep. At the bottom, the intended 8) ... of the Pharaoh  
Djoser.

**CHRIS NAUNTON:** 9) ... that's what it's all about. That's where the  
body of a king is going to rest in eternity. So you've gone to all this trouble to  
create this incredible monument around the body of that person. It's pretty  
amazing.

**NARRATOR:** To house his mummy, 10) ... of granite were slid down a passage into the shaft and stacked, creating a giant sarcophagus 19 feet long and 11 feet high.

**CHRIS NAUNTON:** My god, these pieces are huge. Wow, it's amazing.

**NARRATOR:** But this wasn't just a tomb designed to secure the pharaoh's physical body for eternity. 11) ... , for success in the afterlife, the pyramid ensured the king was remembered by the living. Completed around 2,650 BC, it sparked an 12) ... . Djoser's six tier giant wasn't just the first pyramid. It was the world's first monumental structure built in stone. Over the next century, Egypt's kings develop the concept, building 13) ... all along the Nile's West Bank, including the first geometrically true pyramid, the Red Pyramid, and the 14) ... , the Bent Pyramid. Then a dynasty of pharaohs built the most iconic monuments in Egypt, the pyramids of Giza. But just a few short centuries after the Great Pyramid of Khufu rose from the desert, a new era was 15) ... .

video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMkoX1kfyDs&t=28s>