

Making Pyramids

Amazing Fact

Cleopatra lived closer in time to the invention of the iPhone than she did to the completion of the Great Pyramid.

Challenge

Answer the pyramid questions on the sheet provided.

You could also try to find out:

- when the pyramids were finished and how long they took to build;
- about Cleopatra's life;
- whether you can create any more surprising time difference comparisons like this one.



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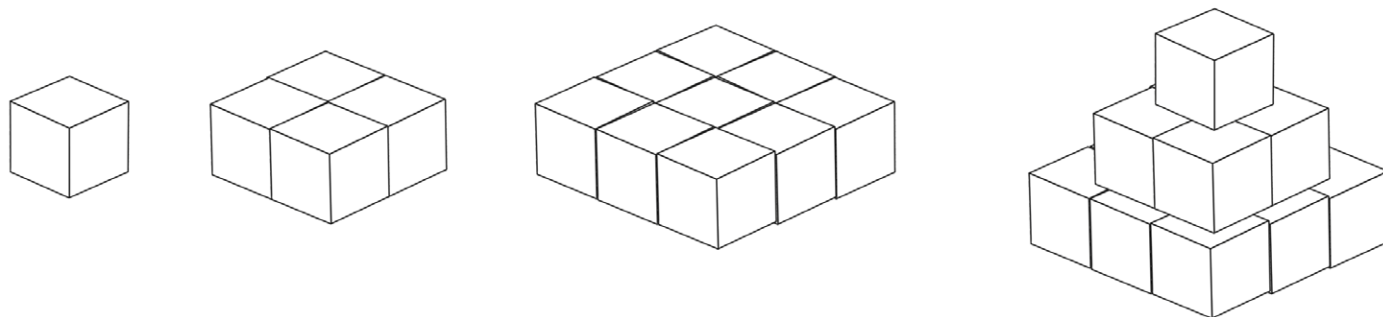
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Making Pyramids

The Egyptians made their pyramids by cutting stone into blocks and placing them in layers in a square arrangement, one layer on top of another, getting smaller and smaller as they got to the top. They would need to predict how many blocks they would need to make pyramids of different sizes.



You might find it helpful to use cubes to make these pyramids first.

Questions

1. In the pyramid which is 3 blocks high, how many blocks are needed all together?

Answer

2. How many blocks would you need to make a pyramid that was 4 blocks high?

Answer

3. How many would be needed to make the pyramid 5 blocks high?

Answer

4. Fill in the table below.

Height of pyramid	2 blocks	3 blocks	4 blocks	5 blocks	6 blocks	7 blocks	8 blocks	9 blocks	10 blocks
Total number of blocks needed									

Extra Challenges

Can you work out how many blocks would be needed to make a pyramid 20 blocks high? Check your answer by drawing a diagram like the ones above or making it with cubes.

What about 30 blocks high?

Making Pyramids **Answers**

Height of pyramid	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total number of blocks needed	5	14	30	55	91	140	204	285	385