

# EAST AFRICAN KINGDOMS

## OVERVIEW

### ANCIENT NUBIA: 4800 BC – 300 AD



The Nubian Empire was established in around 4800 BC. The Nubian Empire was located in north-eastern Africa in the area which is today known as Sudan. Nubia was located just south of Egypt and engaged in trade with the Egyptians. The Nubians developed the world's first astronomical device named the Nabta Playa which was used to track calendars, positioning of the stars and the solstices. The Nubian Empire and its royal family are mentioned throughout the Christian Holy Book the Bible in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Some of the key Nubian cities included Kerma, Meroe and Napata. The Nubian Empire designed and constructed over 255 pyramids across their territory. In 760 BC Nubia conquered Egypt and established the 25th Dynasty of Egypt. In 24 BC The Nubian Empire led by Prince Akindad went to war with the Roman Empire and defeated them in battle and returned to the Nubian capital city of Meroe with Roman slaves and treasure after which a peace treaty was signed between the two nations.

### ANCIENT EGYPT: 3100 BC– 342 AD



Ancient Egypt was located in north-eastern Africa alongside the longest river in Africa named the Nile River. In the beginning Early Egypt had been divided into two regions namely Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. The creation of Ancient Egypt can be credited to the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt into a single kingdom by the African King Narmer and from this point onwards the 1st Dynasty of Egypt was established. Egypt was divided into a total of 42 administrative divisions with 20 in Lower Egypt and 22 in Upper Egypt, all tax revenues from each division was managed by the Royal Vizer. Some of the key cities included Memphis, Thebes, Akenhaten (also known as Amarna) and Nekhen. Over a 1000 year period the Egyptians constructed 118 pyramids across their territory some of which are aligned to star systems. The ancient Egyptians established a written language called hieroglyphics which utilized symbols and images. The Egyptians also recorded their mathematical formulas in artifacts such as The Rhind Mathematical papyrus which dates back to 1650 BC.

### THE ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE: 1000 BC – 1975 AD



The Ethiopian Empire was located in eastern africa and has been present as an empire since 1000 BC. The oldest human skeleton in the world was discovered in Herto, Ethiopia and is 160,000 years old. Ethiopia is also the longest uninterrupted nation on earth. Ethiopia is mentioned extensively within the Bible, the Quran and the Kebra Nagast. In around 270 AD Ethiopians established the Kingdom of Aksum and began to issue a new currency for the region and began to mint gold, silver and bronze coins in the capital city of Aksum. The Ethiopians developed the Ge'ez language and also the script from 900 BC which is written left to right. In around 330 AD the official state religion was changed to Christianity by the Ethiopian King Ezana. The Kebra Nagast is written in Ge'ez and provides an account of the Solomonic line of the Emperors of Ethiopia and clear account of the lineage.