

## Egypt opens ancient pyramids for first time since 1960s

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Egypt has opened two of its oldest pyramids. The pyramids are in Dahshur, about 40 kilometers south of the Egyptian capital city Cairo. They are now open to the public for the first time since 1965. Hundreds of

people gathered outside the Bent Pyramid at a special opening ceremony on Saturday. The Bent Pyramid was built 4,600 years ago. It was built for the ancient Egyptian pharaoh Sneferu. It is 101 meters high. Builders used new techniques to build it and archaeologists say it was an important step in the development of pyramid building. Tourists can also enter an 18-metre high "side pyramid" next to the Bent Pyramid. This was built for King Sneferu's wife Hetepheres.

The two pyramids are part of the Memphis Necropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Egypt hopes the opening of the pyramids will boost the country's tourism industry. Egypt was a top tourist destination but tourist numbers fell after the 2011 uprising. Ancient sites in Egypt are on the bucket lists of many people around the world. At the Bent Pyramid, tourists will be able to go through a 79-meter narrow tunnel to reach two chambers deep inside. They will also be able to see ancient treasures found inside the pyramid. Egyptian archaeologists uncovered a collection of stone, clay and wooden sarcophagi - the coffins people were buried in. Some of the sarcophagi contained mummies.

Sources: [time.com](http://time.com) / [bloomberg.com](http://bloomberg.com) / [gulftoday.ae](http://gulftoday.ae)

### Writing

The Pyramids in Egypt are the greatest tourist attractions in the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Egypt / pyramids / capital city / public / opening ceremony / builders / techniques / heritage / tourism / destination / uprising / tunnel / treasure / stone / clay / mummies

### True / False

- a) Egypt has opened five newly-discovered ancient pyramids. T / F
- b) The newly-opened pyramids are north of the capital city Cairo. T / F
- c) One of the pyramids is over 4,500 years old. T / F
- d) Tourists and visitors will not be allowed to go inside the pyramids. T / F
- e) Egypt hopes the new pyramids will bring more tourists to the country. T / F
- f) Archaeologists found many ancient buckets at the pyramids. T / F
- g) A 79-meter tunnel leads to two deep chambers inside one pyramid. T / F
- h) Some of the sarcophagi found at the pyramids contain mummies. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>public</b>     | a. methods     |
| 2. <b>techniques</b> | b. go in       |
| 3. <b>ancient</b>    | c. came across |
| 4. <b>enter</b>      | d. decreased   |
| 5. <b>built</b>      | e. people      |
| 6. <b>boost</b>      | f. rooms       |
| 7. <b>fell</b>       | g. very old    |
| 8. <b>chambers</b>   | h. included    |
| 9. <b>uncovered</b>  | i. constructed |
| 10. <b>contained</b> | j. increase    |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Egypt's Pyramids?
- b) How important are the Pyramids?
- c) How were the Pyramids built?
- d) What was the purpose of the Pyramids?
- e) What was life like 4,600 years ago?
- f) What was life as an Egyptian pharaoh like?
- g) Why do people like to visit the Pyramids?
- h) What three adjectives best describe the Pyramids?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Egypt has opened two                  | a. techniques to build it |
| 2. They are now open                     | b. mummies                |
| 3. Hundreds of people gathered           | c. tourism industry       |
| 4. Builders used new                     | d. outside                |
| 5. it was an important                   | e. narrow tunnel          |
| 6. the pyramids will boost the country's | f. lists                  |
| 7. Egypt was a top tourist               | g. of its oldest pyramids |
| 8. bucket                                | h. destination            |
| 9. through a 79-meter                    | i. to the public          |
| 10. Some of the sarcophagi contained     | j. step                   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about pyramids in other countries?
- What UNESCO sites does your country have?
- What are your country's best tourist sites?
- What is on your bucket list?
- Would you like to sleep in a Pyramid at night alone?
- What do you know about mummies?
- What questions would you like to ask the archaeologists?

## Spelling

- the Egyptian pctiaal city Cairo
- open to the ubpilc for the first time
- Hundreds of people aehrtrged outside
- a special opening eremocny
- built for the nicaent Egyptian pharaoh
- an important step in the evldmpoeent
- boost the country's rutiosm industry
- uckbet lists
- a 79-meter arnow tunnel
- etusarres found inside the pyramid
- a llcectooin of stone
- the offcnis people were buried in

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. a	3. g	4. b	5. i
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. c	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids is the world's best tourist site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Machu Picchu, the Taj Mahal or the Eiffel Tower.

### Role B – Machu Picchu

You think Machu Picchu is the world's best tourist site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Pyramids, the Taj Mahal or the Eiffel Tower.

### Role C – The Taj Mahal

You think the Taj Mahal is the world's best tourist site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Machu Picchu, the Pyramids or the Eiffel Tower.

### Role D – The Eiffel Tower

You think the Eiffel Tower is the world's best tourist site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Machu Picchu, the Taj Mahal or the Pyramids.

## Speaking – Tourist Sites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • The Serengeti | • Statue of Liberty  |
| • Taj Mahal     | • The Pyramids       |
| • Mount Fuji    | • Sydney Opera House |
| • Eiffel Tower  | • Machu Picchu       |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.