

PYRAMIDS

In *AVP*, Sebastian De Rosa studies pyramids from very different places and times – Egyptian, Cambodian and Aztec.

Ancient Egypt (3150 – 31BC)



Ancient pyramids at Giza

The Ancient Egyptian empire first grew around the river Nile in North Africa almost 5000 years ago. The Egyptians put the bodies of their dead kings deep inside their pyramids. They thought that the king could climb up and join the sun god in the sky.

The Great Pyramid of Giza, near Cairo, is one of the most famous buildings in the world. It took about 2,300,000 big stones to make it!

The Khmer Empire (802 – 1327)

Angkor, in present day Cambodia, was the most important city in the Kymer empire. At one time, it was the biggest city in the world.

Much of the city is still there – including its famous temple, Angkor Wat.

This wonderful ancient temple is the biggest religious building ever, with walls 800m long. One million people visit Angkor every year.

Angkor Wat



AROUND THE WORLD

The Aztecs (1248 – 1521)

The Aztec people lived in central Mexico long before any Spanish people arrived there. Their main city, Tenochtitlan, is now Mexico City. The biggest building in the city was the Great Pyramid. Sometimes the Aztecs killed people here and offered them to their gods!

The Aztec empire ended soon after Hernán Cortés and his Spanish men arrived in Mexico in 1519.



The Great Pyramid at Tenochtitlan

The first pyramid?

In the 1970s, the ideas of Erich von Daniken, a Swiss writer, became quite popular for a while. He believed that aliens helped people to build the world's pyramids!

In *AVP*, De Rosa's ideas are almost the same. He thinks that the pyramid under Bouvetoya Island may be the world's first pyramid. He believes that aliens helped men to build it a long, long time ago. It's a great idea for the film, but most people don't agree with von Daniken these days!

Do you know what these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

ancient empire god temple religious

Are there any famous ancient buildings in your country? What do you know about them? Have you visited any of them?