

# Ramses the Great

## How Could a Ruler Achieve Fame That Would Last 3,000 Years?

**When did he live?** the late 1300s and early 1200s BC

**Where did he live?** As pharaoh, Ramses lived in a city he built on the Nile Delta. The city's name, Pi-Ramesses, means the "house of Ramses."

**What did he do?** From a young age, Ramses was trained as a ruler and a fighter. Made an army captain at age 10, he began military campaigns even before he became pharaoh. During his reign, Ramses greatly increased the size of his kingdom.

**Why is he so important?** Many people consider Ramses the last great Egyptian pharaoh. He accomplished great things, but the pharaohs who followed could not maintain them. Both a great warrior and a great builder, he is known largely for the massive monuments he built. The temples at Karnak, Luxor, and Abu Simbel stand as 3,000-year-old symbols of the great pharaoh's power.

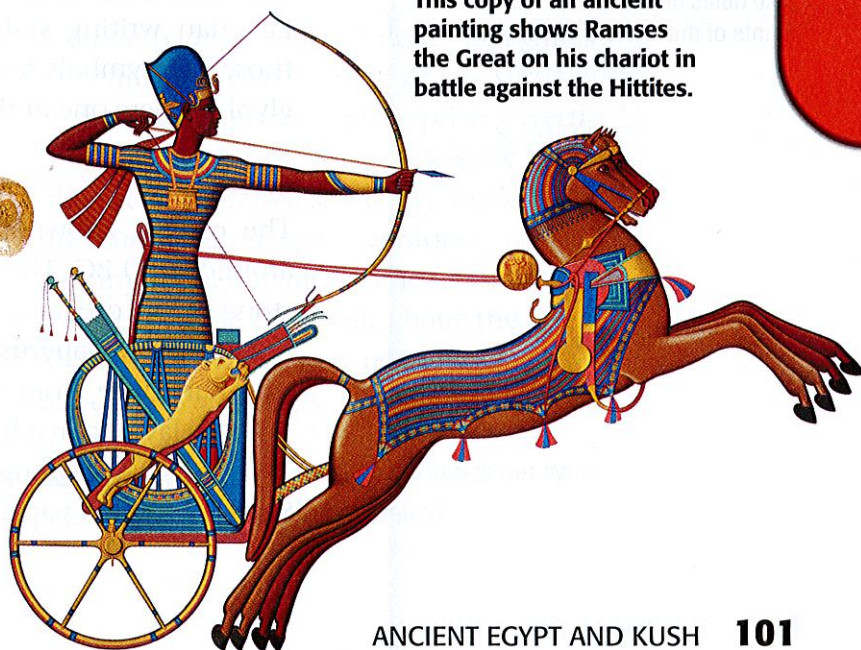
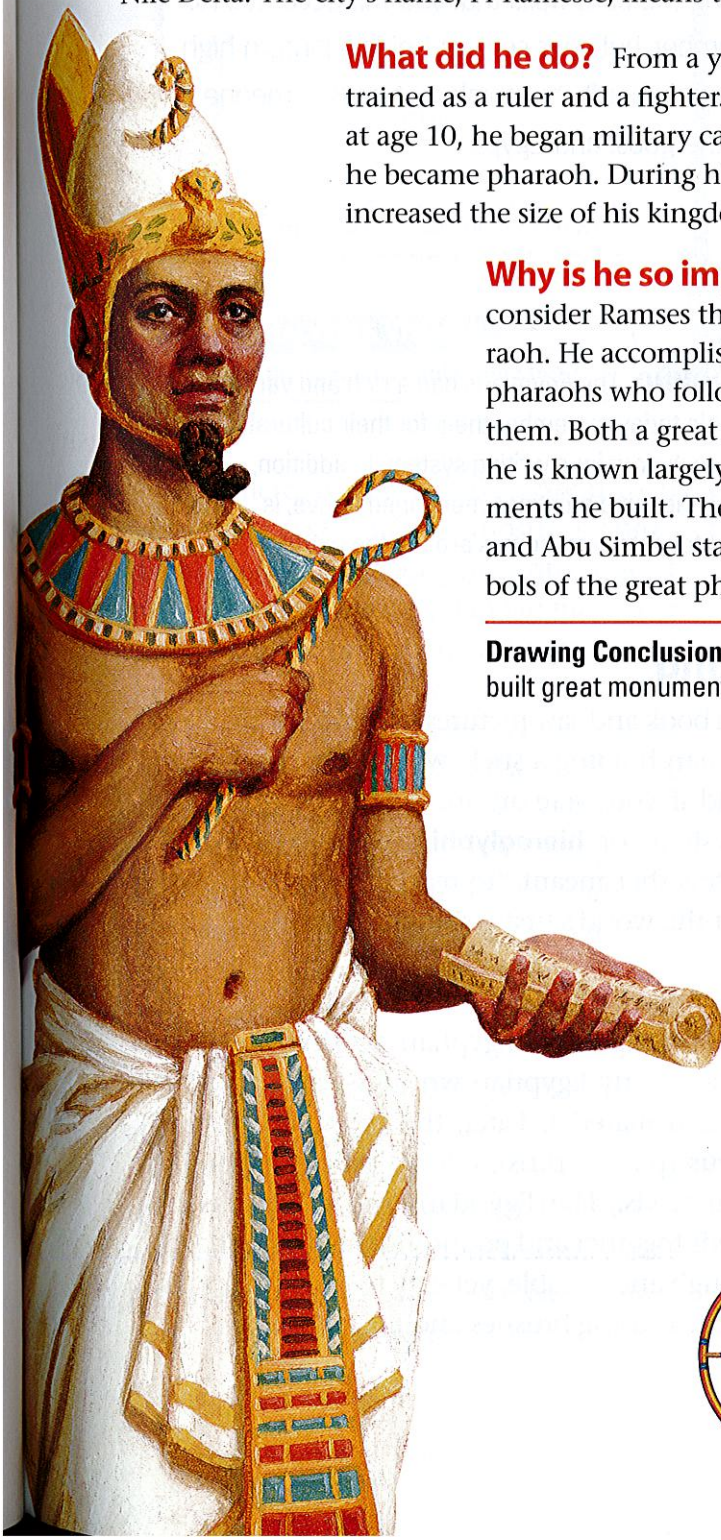
**Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think Ramses built great monuments all over Egypt?

### KEY IDEAS

● **Ramses** had a poem praising him carved into the walls of five temples, including Karnak. One verse of the poem praises Ramses as a great warrior and the defender of Egypt.

Gracious lord and bravest king,  
savior-guard  
Of Egypt in the battle, be our  
ward;  
Behold we stand alone, in the  
hostile Hittite ring,  
Save for us the breath of life,  
Give deliverance from the  
strife,  
Oh! protect us Ramses  
Miamun!  
Oh! save us, mighty king!

—Pen-ta-ur, from *The Victory of Ramses over the Khita*, in *The World's Story*, edited by Eva March Tappan



This copy of an ancient painting shows Ramses the Great on his chariot in battle against the Hittites.

**H**  
HISTORY

**VIDEO**

Let's Move a Mountain

[hmsocialstudies.com](http://hmsocialstudies.com)