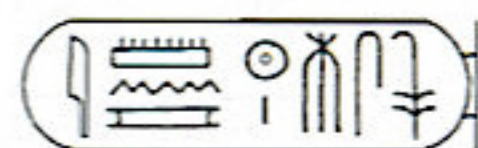


Stop 6: Abu Simbel



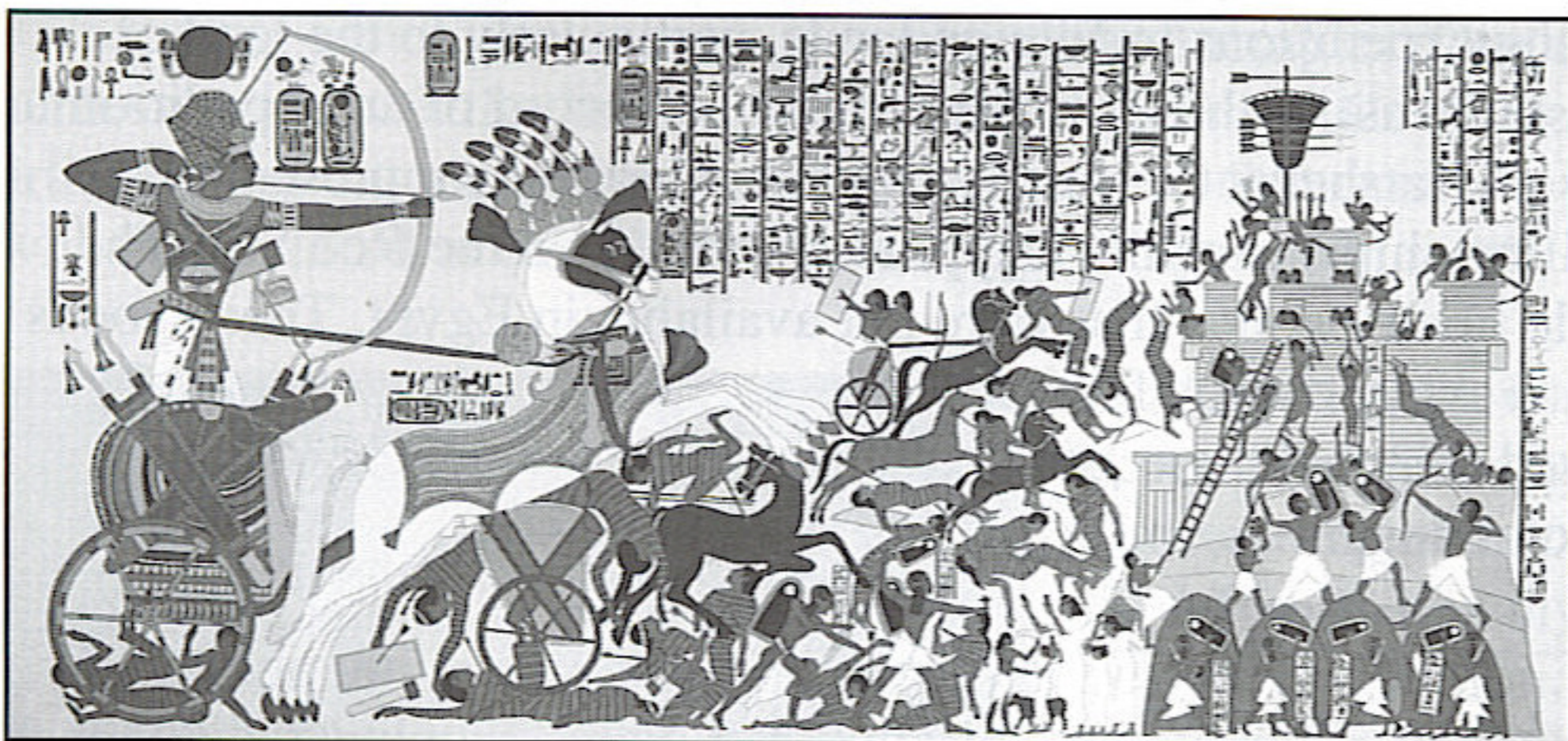
Statue of Ramesses II

Information on Ramesses II



Ramesses II (pronounced RAM-seez), who ruled during the New Kingdom from 1290 to 1224 B.C.E., is considered one of the most important pharaohs in Egyptian history. Often called Ramesses the Great, he lived well into his eighties, had more than 100 wives, and fathered more than 100 children. Ramesses was introduced to power at a young age. In the seventh year of his father's reign, Ramesses was named co-ruler. Together they began huge building projects up and down the Nile, constructing palaces, establishing a new capital, and opening or repairing wells, quarries, and mines. During his own reign, some of Ramesses' most impressive accomplishments were a huge tomb at Thebes, his two

temples at Abu Simbel (pronounced AH-boo-SIM-bul), and the Ramesseum, a giant mortuary temple, in western Thebes.



Ramesses II and his sons attacking a Hittite fortress

In addition to building many great monuments, Ramesses was a courageous military leader. As a young boy, Ramesses took part in several of his father's military expeditions, fighting battles in the Mediterranean and Palestinian regions.

At the age of 22, he

fought a military campaign in Nubia, accompanied by two of his own sons. However, Ramesses' most famous battles were fought against the Hittites. This rival kingdom to the north controlled the city of Kadesh, north of Canaan, and threatened Egypt's power and stability. Ramesses gathered an enormous army of 20,000 troops and set off for Kadesh. The Hittite ruler had gathered an even larger army of close to 40,000 men, with some 2,500 chariots. Though badly outnumbered and at times close to defeat, Ramesses and his army rallied and fought the Hittites to a standoff. Ramesses was able to return home knowing that Egypt's stability was no longer threatened.

Prompt: Create a simple drawing of Ramesses battling with the Hittites. Above the drawing, add a thought bubble to show why he thinks he is Egypt's greatest pharaoh.