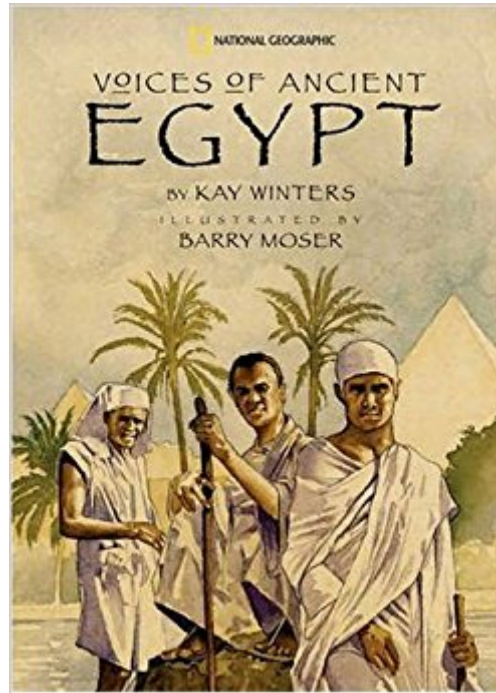




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# Voices Of Ancient Egypt



## Synopsis

Beautiful full-color illustrations and poems tell the stories of different occupations in ancient Egypt, from the farmer to the pyramid builder, from the goldsmith to the embalmer. Based on the latest historical research, *Voices of Ancient Egypt* conveys a dramatic sense of everyday life in this multicultural civilization.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0780 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books; Reprint edition (January 13, 2009)

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #231,609 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Africa](#) #128 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient](#) #1228 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6-This book presents the voices of 13 individuals in various Old Kingdom occupations, ranging from scribe to herdsman. Winters uses first-person, free-verse poems to describe the workers' duties and places in society. Her verse is rich with informative detail: "I am a washer of clothes./Brother to the crocodile,/I spend my days in water./I soak the clothes, beat them with a wooden stave,/then wrap them around a stick/to wring out the wet." The author gives voice to the birdnetter and marshman, whom other authors neglect or lump together under headings such as "Peasants." Women are represented in the occupations of farmer, dancer, and weaver. Moser provides visual context for the selections with delicately textured watercolors. Clothing, tools, and landscapes are imagined with such faithful attention to historical detail that readers will learn as much from the illustrations as from the text. The figures, rendered in warm brown hues, embody the

grace and serene strength often associated with ancient Egyptian culture. Together, text and art lend dignity to each laborer's efforts, working from the assumption that stonecutters and sailors alike took pride in their contributions to Pharaoh's kingdom. A lovely browsing title, *Voices* also contains valuable information for students. The historical notes and bibliography will prove especially helpful for reports. Eve Ortega, Cypress Library, CA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Gr. 3-6, younger for reading aloud. Evocative words and an arresting design bring a long-gone civilization to life. Each two-page spread introduces an essential cog in the Egyptian wheel: a portrait of a scribe, or a pyramid builder, or a dancer, taking up almost a whole page, faces a lyrical yet sturdy first-person introduction. The scribe says, "I study day and night, / learn law, literature, and mathematics, / copy retold tales. / . . . others bear lashes to build tombs / . . . weave cloth in airless rooms, / I unlock secrets in ancient scrolls." Great care has been taken with format. The spreads are seamless; the backgrounds are the color of sand. The words, which stand out against the pages, black marks in the middle of a desert, are simply decorated by a hieroglyph that represents the worker's job. Moser's robust workers, with complexions that reflect the landscape, sometimes appear alone against the background, but they are always engaged in their work. An informative historical note offers more information about each occupation, and a bibliography is appended, but it might have been nice to learn about Moser's artistic sources. A fine choice for social studies classes, where the book can be used for reader's theater. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Purchased for my grandson, which he liked

*Voices of Ancient Egypt* is a book for kids. The left page is filled with a water painting portraying the person who is described on the right page. It tells about different occupations in ancient Egypt, and how life might be like a person of that trade. In the back, it goes into more history of ancient Egypt, and more in depth about each job. I like it because it's full of information, and is written in a way to help kids understand the jobs and lives of people long ago.

We liked the book a lot. It's read in 5 minutes or less, but still great pictures and beautiful book.

Gorgeous watercolor illustrations of workers busy at work accompany text in prose style in this

non-fiction picture book for children. The writing is eloquent and is a fresh change from the usual content of most history books. Using first-person narrative, the worker tells what their job is like. Some examples of the vocations covered are launderer, scribe, farmer, pyramid-builder, embalmer, and dancer. There are two pages of background information about the 13 vocations, and a list of source materials at the back that is helpful for locating more resources to use when learning about life in Ancient Egypt. I can't say enough about the beautiful illustrations by Barry Moser. The cover's illustration is exactly the type of high-quality work that lies inside the book. The background paper for the entire book looks similar to papyrus. A wonderful book! I hope that National Geographic makes this one in a series and that future books have equally high quality writing and illustrations.

This is a beautiful book and will be a great addition to classrooms and libraries, as well as to homes. Children study Egypt in sixth grade, and this book will add to their knowledge. But it is more than an informative book. It is unique in the way it is written. It is told from the point of view of different workers in Ancient Egypt--not the pharaohs we are used to hearing about, but the every-day people who made the kingdom run. And the voices are poetic and lyrical. Kay Winters, the author, has written an excellent book and Barry Moser, the illustrator has painted beautiful pictures. The book makes me want to go to Egypt--or at least to give a piece of Egypt to the children I know. It will be a favorite Christmas gift this year.

Voices Of Ancient Egypt is an extensively researched picture book that presents simple, moving poems by Kay Winters about the daily lives and jobs that Egyptian people once held, including scribe, marshman, birdnetter, weaver, goldsmith, and more. Flowing illustrations by Barry Moser and historical notes complement this excellent and fascinating National Geographic "window" into ancient times for young folks.

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