Ramses II

Quick Facts
Born: 1303 BC
Died: 1213 BC
Meaning of Name: “Keeper of Harmony and Balance”

Early Life
Ramses II was the third pharaoh of the nineteenth dynasty of ancient Egypt. He was named after his grandfather, Ramses I. He was around five when his father became Pharaoh. He had an older brother who was supposed to succeed his father, but he died around the time Ramses II was fourteen. This made Ramses II the heir to the throne.

Reign
Ramses II was a great military leader. He was leading troops into battle by the young age of 22. He was the third pharaoh of the nineteenth dynasty of ancient Egypt. He was named after his grandfather, Ramses I. His father became pharaoh when he was around the age of five. His older brother was supposed to succeed his father, but died around the time Ramses II was fourteen. This made Ramses II the heir to the throne.

He took the throne when he was around the age of 25 after his father’s death. He expanded Egypt’s borders and rebuilt many temples. Known for his military accomplishments, long reign, and building accomplishments, he is often regarded as the “greatest pharaoh”. Along with building extravagant new temples, Ramses II also rebuilt almost every standing temple in Egypt at the time. He is perhaps most well known for the temple complex at Abu Simbel, which still stands today.
Reign (cnt.)

While some suspect that Ramses II may have been the pharaoh from the book of Exodus, there is no historical evidence to prove this assumption.

It has been said that Ramses II had over 200 children during his lifetime. He died around the age of 96, which was pretty rare in ancient Egypt. The life expectancy was only 40! He was buried in the Valley of the Kings. His mummy was found and it was deduced that he stood about six feet tall and likely died from heart disease, or some other similar problem relating to old age. His mummy also tells us that he had arthritis, also a common problem in people that age.

1. When was Ramses II born?
2. When did he die?
3. Why was he not supposed to be pharaoh?
4. Why is he often regarded as the “greatest pharaoh”?
5. He is most well known for building which temple complex?
6. What do some suspect about Ramses II?
7. Is this true?
8. What did he likely die from?
9. Why was it strange that he was in his nineties at the time of his death?

Sources
www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_egypt/ramses_ii.php
www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/newkingdon/ramesses.html