

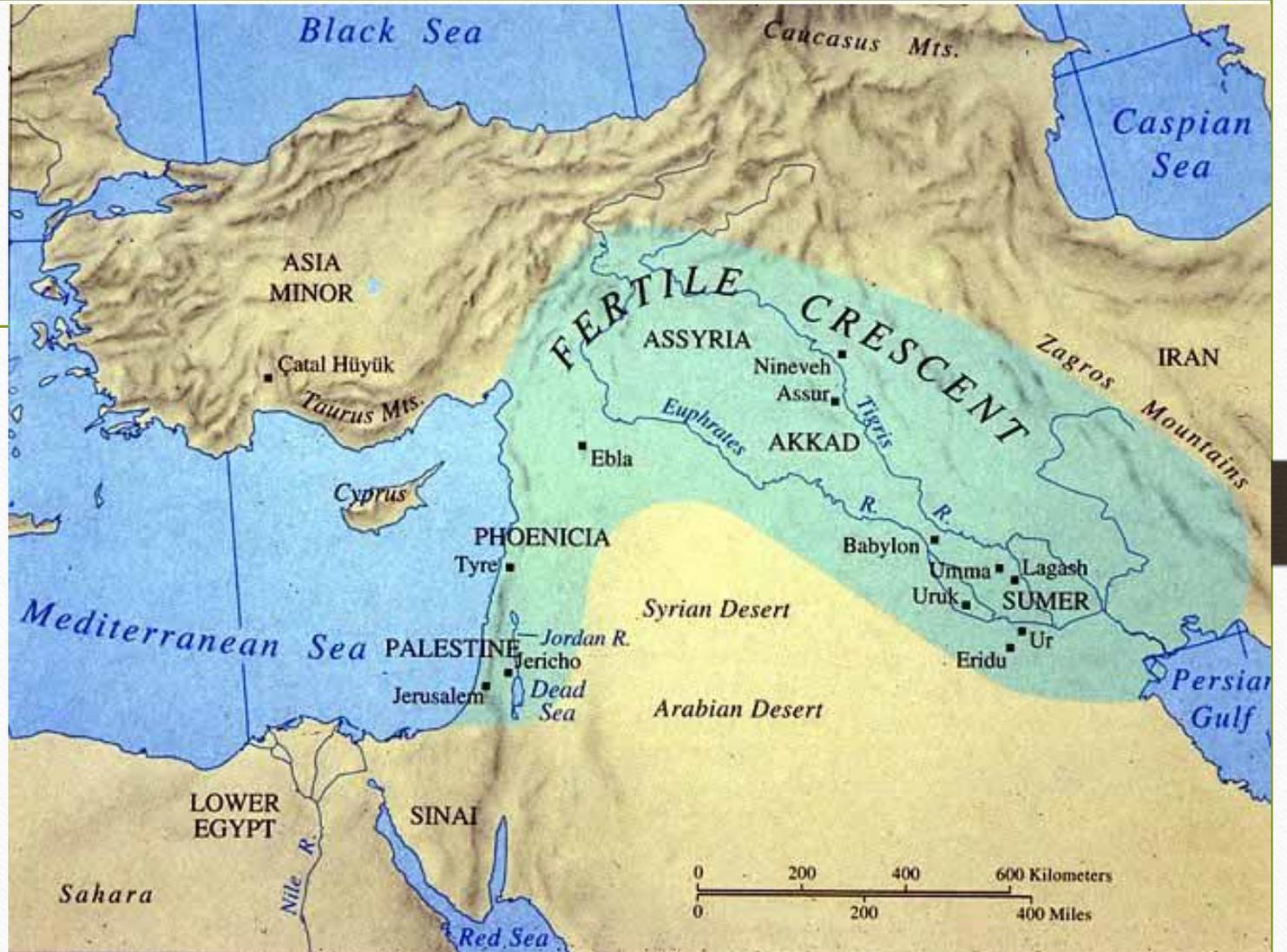
Ancient Mesopotamia

SSWH1a - Compare and contrast Mesopotamian and Egyptian societies, include: religion, culture, economics, politics, and technology.

Vocabulary

- 1. **Fertile Crescent** – the boomerang-shaped region of the Middle East that was home to some of the earliest human civilizations. Also known as the “Cradle of Civilization,”
- 2. **Mesopotamia** – Greek word meaning, “land between two rivers.” The world’s first civilization.
- 3. **Cuneiform** – The first form of writing invented by the Sumerians around 2500B.C.E. that was written on clay tablets
- 4. **Scribes** – People trained to write cuneiform and record many of the languages spoken in Mesopotamia.
- 5. **Polytheism** – the belief and/or worship of more than one god
- 6. **Hammurabi’s Code** – the most famous written law codes, founded by Hammurabi in Babylon. Written on Clay Tablets or Stone Pillars so that everyone in public could see.
- 7. **Sumer** - The first major civilization in Mesopotamia
- 8. **Ziggurats** – a religious temple built to house the gods. Were the religious and economic centers of early Sumerian city-states
- 9. **Civilization** - are complex societies. They have cities, organized governments, art, religion, class divisions, and a writing system.

Geography of Mesopotamia



Timeline of Ancient Mesopotamia

- **5000-3500 BCE:** The first city-states gradually develop in southern Mesopotamia. This is the achievement of the Sumerian people.
- **BCE. 3500:** Writing begins to be developed. At first this is based on pictograms, and takes about a thousand years to evolve into a full cuneiform script.
- **BCE. 2300:** King Sargon of Akkad starts conquering the first empire in world history. The empire reaches its height in c. 2220.
- **BCE 1792-49:** King Hammurabi of Babylon conquers a large empire. Hammurabi is famous for the law code which he issues. His empire begins to decline immediately after his death.

Religion

- Mesopotamian religion was **polytheistic**; more than 2,000 gods and goddesses have been identified.
- The chief of the gods varied from period to period. For the Sumerians, it was **Enlil, the Sky God**.
- The **Babylonians** worshipped **Marduk** above all others, and **Ashur** was the supreme god of the **Assyrians**.
- Other notable gods and goddesses were **Ishtar**, goddess of love and fertility, **Tiamat**, god of the sea and chaos, and **Sin**, the moon god.
- Everything that happened on Earth had a divine dimension to it – was at least as much the result of the wishes of gods as of men and women.
- The overriding purpose of man was to serve the gods.

The Ziggurat Temple

- The overriding purpose of man was to serve the gods. This meant not just tending the gods' sanctuaries and burning incense at their altars, it meant feeding them and providing them with all their material needs.
- In early Mesopotamian times this meant that the entire economic life of a city-state was geared to the service of the temple.
- **Ziggurats were built to house the gods.**



Government

- **Sumerian Government:**
- Politically, the each Sumerian city formed its own **city-state**, composed of the city itself and the farmland for several miles around.
- These **city-states** were fiercely independent from one another, and warfare between them was frequent.

- **Kings:**
- By the mid-third millennium, the political dominance of the temple was seriously modified by the **rise of kingship** in all the Mesopotamian city-states. In many cases, **these kings sought and succeeded in unifying all of Mesopotamia.**
- Two Famous Kings who succeeded in unifying Mesopotamia were:
2300 B.C. –Sargon, the ruler of Akkad, conquered Sumer and built the first known empire.

1790 B.C.–Hammurabi, King of Babylon, united the Babylonian empire.

Art and Culture

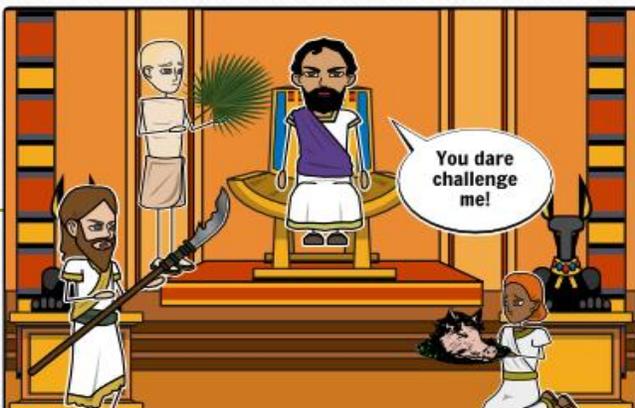
- A large amount of ancient Mesopotamian libraries has come down to us, much of it found in royal libraries dating from Assyria and late Babylonian times.

- The literature is written in **cuneiform script**, and contains prayers, hymns, myths, epic poetry, collections of proverbs, works on theology, philosophy, politics and astrology, books of spells, historical records and many other kinds of texts.

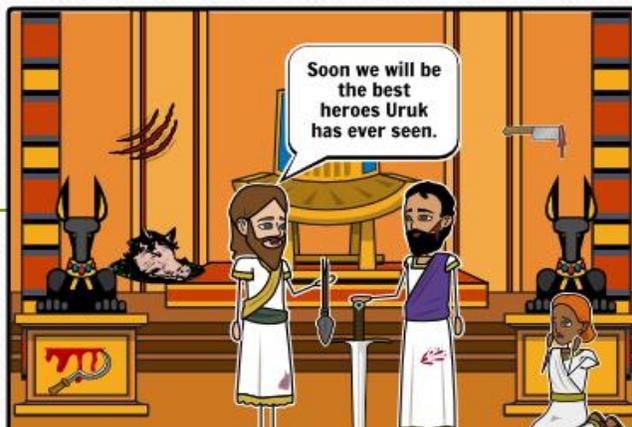
- The best-known piece of Mesopotamian literature is the *Gilgamesh Epic*, which, in the form it has come down to us, dates to around 2000 BCE; this long poem is famous for pre-dating the Biblical story of Noah's Ark by telling of a world-wide flood.

- Most of the writings from this time period were kept in the royal libraries within the temples of major cities.





Gilgamesh was a cruel king who ruled the city of Uruk. After years of cruelty, the people of Uruk prayed to the gods asking for them to stop Gilgamesh. The gods sent them a wild man named Enkidu. Enkidu was just as skilled as Gilgamesh and challenged him to a battle.



As they were battling, they found out they were evenly matched and became friends. Enkidu told Gilgamesh that they should use their powers for good and become heroes. Gilgamesh gave in and they went on breath taking adventures.



On one of their last adventures, Gilgamesh and Enkidu went to the Cedar woods to fight the vicious ogre, Humbaba. They killed the beastly monster with ease, but the gods were not happy with their decision.



The gods punished Gilgamesh and Enkidu by taking Enkidu's life. This upset Gilgamesh very much because he had lost his best friend and by the fact that one day he would die to. So Gilgamesh set out to find Utnapishtim, the one man to achieve eternal life.



Gilgamesh went Utnapishtim begging for eternal life. Utnapishtim told him that only the gods can grant immortality, not mortals. Gilgamesh was crushed but would not take no for an answer. Utnapishtim told Gilgamesh about a plant at the bottom of the ocean that could grant him eternal life.



After Gilgamesh retrieved the plant from the bottom of the ocean, he fell into a deep sleep. While he was sleeping, a snake came up and ate the plant. As Gilgamesh woke up and saw the snake shed its skin and get reborn, he learned something. After learning his lesson, Gilgamesh went back to Uruk as a humble and better king. He never hurt another innocent person again. And now he was okay with death, he knew it has to happen to every living thing.

Language & Writing

- Cuneiform was at first written in the Sumerian language around 2500 BCE.
- For more than a millennium Sumerian retained importance as the language of administration, religion and high culture.
- Learning to write in cuneiform was a long and rigorous process, and literacy was confined to a small elite of priests and officials.
- The Writings were primarily used to keep track of legal and economic documents on clay tablets which

Development of Cuneiform, 3000 B.C.–600 B.C.

	Meaning of Pictograph					
	Ear of Barley	Head and Body of Man	Fish	Bird	Bowl of Food	Stream of Water
Pictographs c. 3000 B.C.						
Rotated Position Pictographs c. 2800 B.C.						
Cuneiform Signs c. 600 B.C.						

Economics

- **Agriculture – The Beginning of the Agricultural Revolution**
- The Mesopotamian economy, like all pre-modern economies, was based primarily on **agriculture**.
- The Mesopotamians grew a variety of crops, including **barley, wheat, onions, turnips, grapes, apples and dates**. They kept **cattle, sheep and goats**; they made beer and wine. Fish were also plentiful in the rivers and canals.
- The rivers **Tigris and Euphrates**, and their numerous branches, made farming possible in **Mesopotamia**. However, they could be wild rivers, and floods were frequent. At the same time, the hot, dry climate meant that year-round irrigation was needed to grow crops.
- The **Mesopotamians were the first people** to attempt to **control water** on a large scale by the use of an **integrated system of dykes, reservoirs, canals, drainage channels and aqueducts**.
- The water control system was built up generation by generation, covering an ever wider area and involving an ever denser network of waterways.

Irrigation & Farming

Irrigation allowed the farmers to grow plenty of food and support a large population = People living in one place = Cities = Beginning of Civilization



Trade

- The plain of Mesopotamia was created in comparatively recent times (from an geological point of view) by the mud brought down by the rivers.
- This means that the region is very short of useful minerals such as stone for building, precious metals and timber.
- This had the effect of stimulating trade with neighbouring regions, and beyond.
- Early in Mesopotamia's history food surpluses and craft goods were exchanged for mineral resources.
- Later, Mesopotamian merchants ventured further afield, with trading contacts being developed with peoples in [Syria](#) and [Asia Minor](#) in the west, and in Iran and the [Indus civilization](#), in the east.
- Trade was based on a regulated system of exchange – a given amount of seed would be worth so many ounces of silver, for example. These relative values were enshrined in the law codes.

Hammurabi's Code

- Hammurabi's code was the first attempt by a ruler to **codify**, or arrange and set down in writing, all of the laws that would govern a state.
- One section codified **criminal law**, the branch of law that deals with offenses against others, such as robbery and murder.
- Another section codified **civil law**, the branch that deals with private rights and matters, such as business contracts, taxes, and property inheritance.
- Law 5: If a judge makes an error through his own fault when trying a case, he must pay a fine, be removed from the judge's bench, and never judge another case.
- Law 195: If a son strikes his father, the son's hands shall be cut off.

Social Classes

- Social Classes were a major sign or factor that a civilization has been established.

 Upper class - kings, scribes, priests, warriors, and government officials.

 Middle class - artisans, merchants, farmers, and fishers. These people made up the largest group.

 Lower class - enslaved people who worked on farms or in the temples.

- The elite was greatly restricted in size by the difficulty, length of time and expense it took to acquire literacy and numeracy.
- The cuneiform script had hundreds of symbols to master, which took long years of hard schooling – and one can be sure that access to such schooling was available only to the children of elite families.

Inventions and Innovations

 wagon wheel

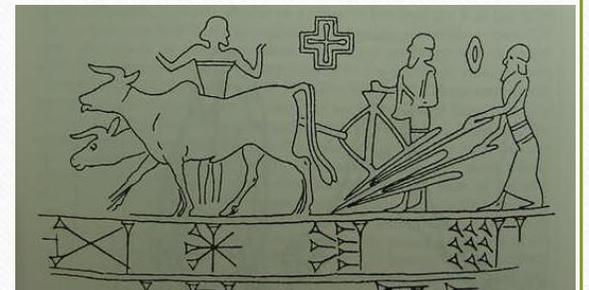
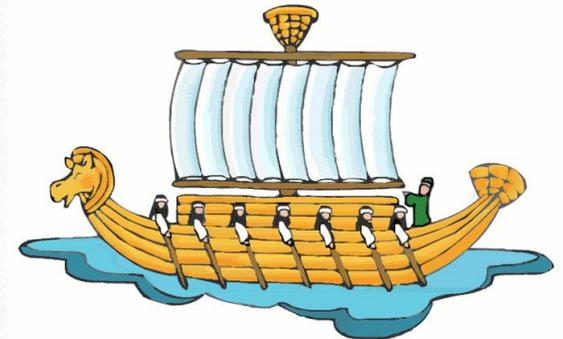
 plow

 sailboat

 number system based on 60

 geometry

 12 month calendar



4 Empires of Mesopotamia

- **1. Sumer**

- A. ~~First civilization of Mesopotamia~~
- B. Separated into individual city states
- C. First to develop cuneiform
- D. Capital = Ur**

- 2. Assyria**

A. The kingdom of Assyria emerged as a major regional power in the second millennium BCE; however, it was in the early first millennium BCE that it expanded into a huge empire, covering much of the Middle East.

B. Group of fierce warriors

C. The original capital, **Ashur**, was also the centre of the worship of the chief god of the same name

- 3. Babylon**

A. **1792-49:** King Hammurabi of Babylon conquers a large empire. Hammurabi is famous for the law code which he issues. His empire begins to decline immediately after his death.

B. Famous for literary piece, Epic of Gilgamesh

C. **Capital = Babylon**

Empires Cont'd

- 4. **Phoenicia**

- **A.** Occupied string of cities along the eastern Mediterranean coast.
- **B.** Made glass from sand and purple dye from a tiny sea snail.
- **C.** Called “carriers of civilization” because they spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean.
- **D.** Sea Faring Civilization
- **E.** Invented the alphabet. An **alphabet** contains letters that represent spoken sounds.



Ancient Egypt

- SSWH1a - Compare and contrast Mesopotamian and Egyptian societies, include: religion, culture, economics, politics, and technology.



Vocabulary

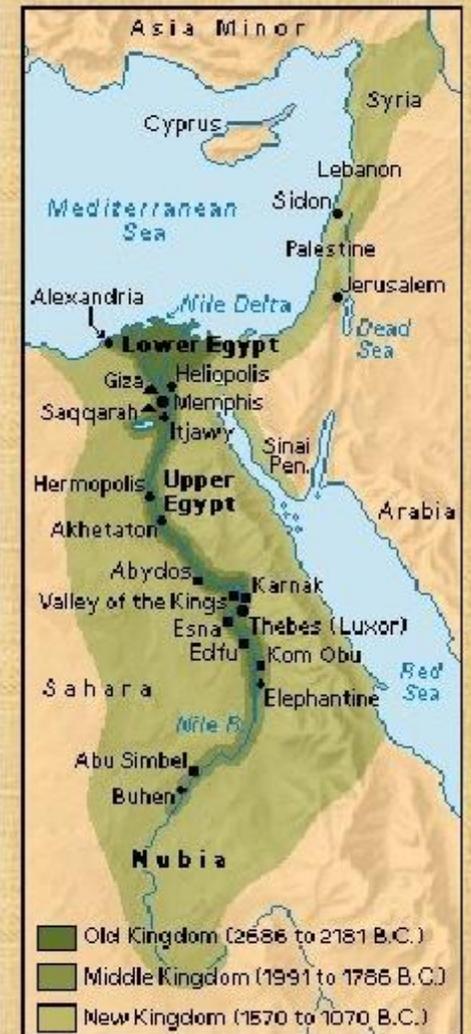
- 1. hieroglyphics – **the Ancient Egyptian system of writing** that used pictures and symbols to represent words. Often Written on papyrus
- 2. pharaohs -**a ruler in ancient Egypt** often referred to as **Egyptian god-kings**
- 3. pyramids - a large structure built especially in ancient **Egypt** that usually has a square base and four triangular sides meeting at a point and that **contains tombs of the pharaohs.**
- 4. mummification - The methods of embalming, or treating the dead body, that the ancient Egyptians used to preserve the body for the afterlife.
- 5. Nile River – The longest river in the world that **flows south to north in Africa.**
- 6. papyrus - a reed that grows in marshy areas around the Nile river. In **ancient Egypt**, the wild plant was used for a variety of uses, and specially cultivated **papyrus**, grown on plantations, **was used to make paper.**

Geography of Ancient Egypt

- Egypt is located on the Nile River
 - The Nile begins in the Highlands of Ethiopia with two branches:
 - The White Nile and the Blue Nile
 - These rivers unite and flow north where they empty into the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Where the river empties into the Nile it forms the Nile Delta, a rich area of alluvial soil.

Geography

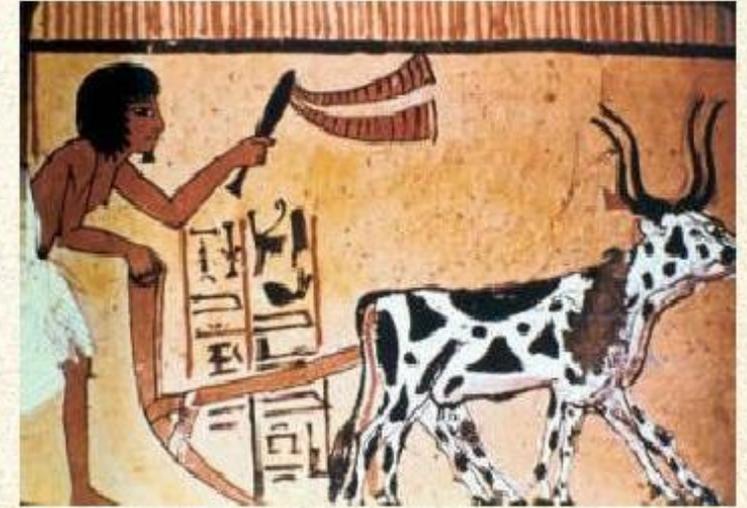
- Egypt is placed in northeastern Africa.
- The Nile River runs along the country from south to north.
- Ancient Egypt was divided into two regions: Upper and Lower Egypt .
- The climate is hot and dry, part of the Sahara Desert



Economics

Economics

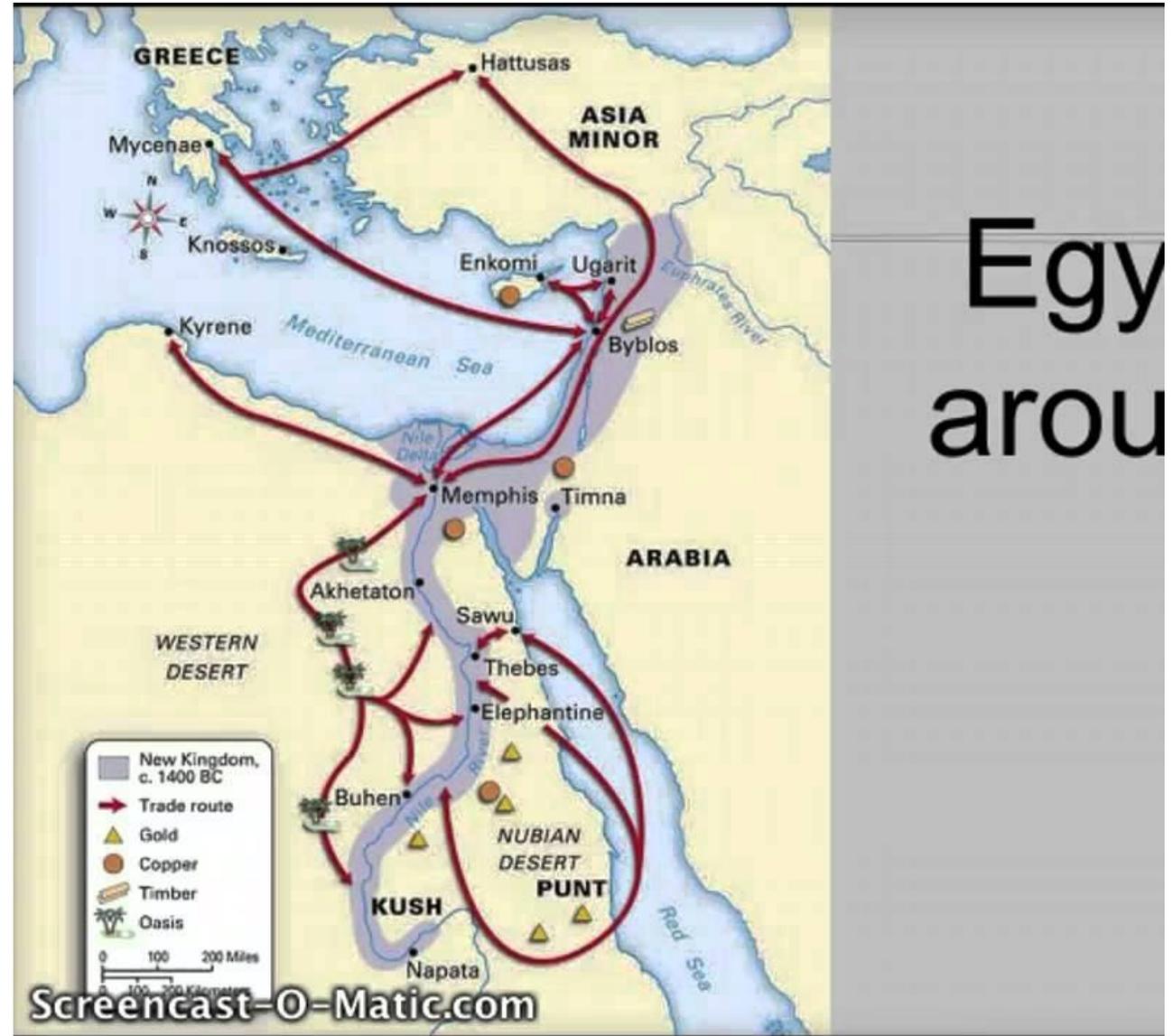
- Economy was based on farming and fishing
- Most people used what they produced, relatively little was taken by the authorities as taxes
- Annual flooding of the Nile produced fertile soil which allowed farmers to maintain high yields despite primitive techniques
- Most farmers were kept in near serfdom



- Farmers grew Wheat, barley, lettuce and beans
- Produced linen in Cottage industries
- Barter system was prevalent though there was a unit of currency called the Deben, about half an ounce of copper

Trade Routes

1400 BCE



Egypt
around

Timeline of Ancient Egypt

7,500 BC



The first settlers arrived in the Nile Valley.

3,200 BC



Hieroglyphs are used to keep trade records.

2,640 BC



The first pyramid is built.

2,555 BC



The Giza pyramids are built for the kings Kufu, Kharfe and Menkaure.

2,520 BC



The Great Sphinx is built.

2,200 BC



First ploughs are attached to oxen.

ink

Religion

- For the Egyptians, religion was closely tied to daily life.
 - The Egyptians were polytheistic, worshipping many different gods.
 - The most important god was the god of the sun, Re, also sometimes referred to as Ra or Amon-Re.
 - It was believed that the Pharaoh was connected to this god.

Egyptian Deities

- Re (Ra)
- The Chief Egyptian god. Was seen as the god of the sun.

- Anubis was the patron of embalming. He was also the keeper of poisons and medicines. Anubis performed the **Opening of the Mouth** ceremony which was performed at the funeral to restore the senses of the deceased. The ceremony was done by touching the mouth of a mummy or statue of the deceased, it was believed to restore the senses in preparation for the afterlife.



Egyptian Deities

- **Osiris** Supreme god and judge of the dead. The symbol of resurrection and eternal life. Provider of fertility and prosperity to the living.
- When you die, your soul or KA, goes to the underworld to be judged by Osiris. Your heart is weighed against a feather, so if it is light or guilt free, you move to the afterlife.
- **Isis** As a winged goddess she may represent the wind. In the Osiris legend there are references to Isis wailing and moaning like the wind. She restores life to Osiris by flapping her wings and filling his mouth and nose with air.
- Isis was a great enchantress, the goddess of magic. She was the embalmer and guardian of Osiris. She is often rendered on the foot of coffins with long wings spread to protect the deceased.



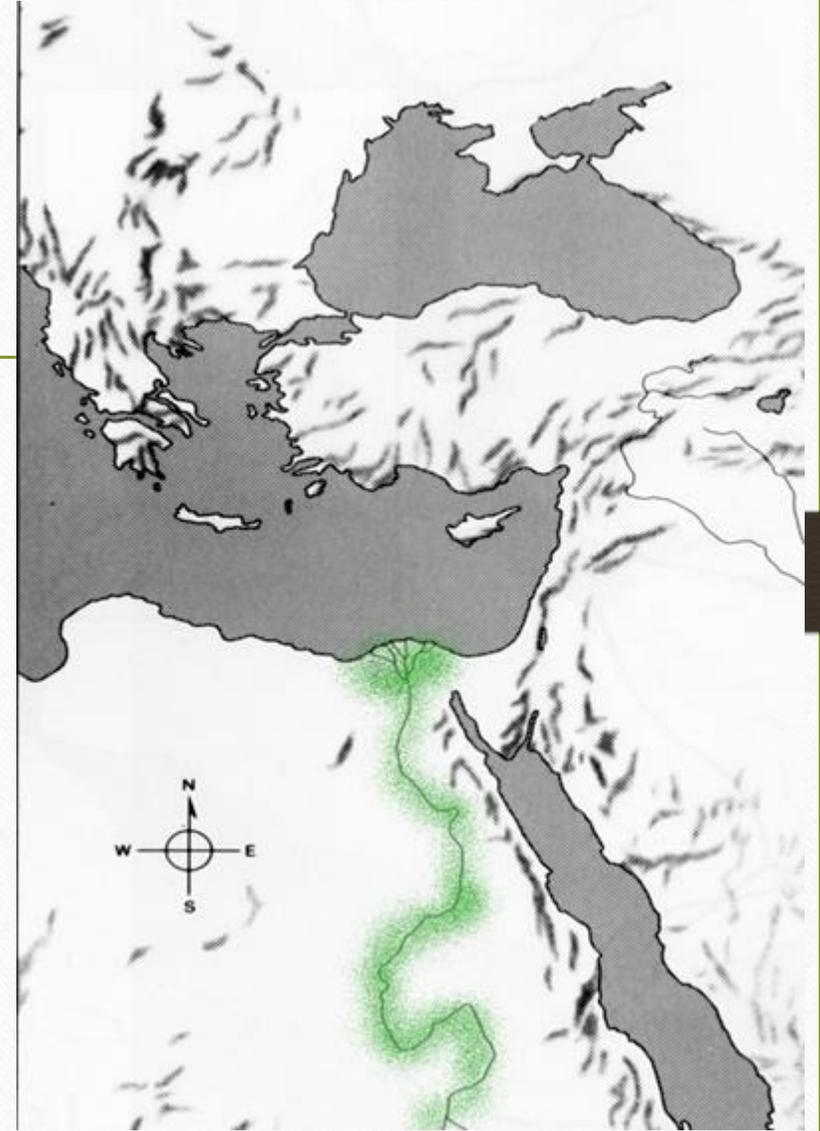
Egyptian History

- Egyptian History is divided into three main periods
- The Old Kingdom
- The Middle Kingdom
- The New Kingdom



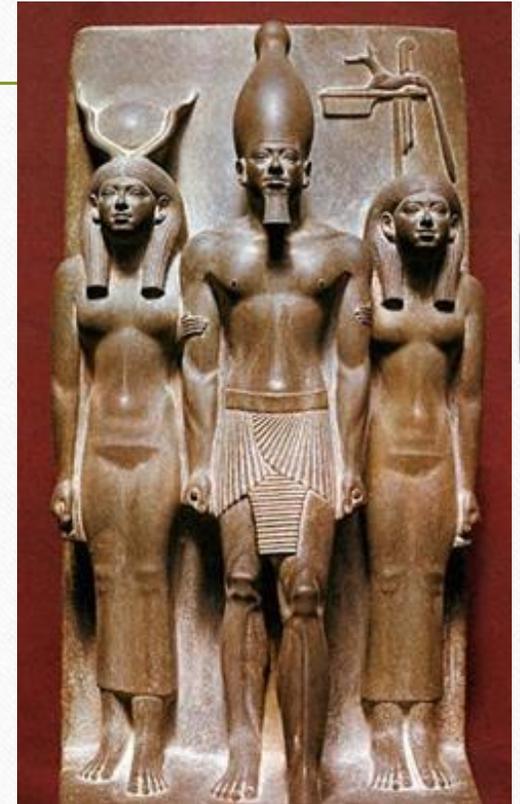
The History of Egypt begins with Menes

- Menes Unites upper Egypt and Lower Egypt, joining the two into a united kingdom
- In doing this, Menes establishes the first Egyptian Dynasty



The Old Kingdom 2700-2200 B.C.

- The Old Kingdom was a period of great prosperity.
- This time is also called the pyramid age, because the great pyramids were built during this time.
- Egyptian kings came to be known as Pharaohs.
- The Pharaoh was seen as divine, or godlike. The people believed that the Pharaoh controlled many things including the flooding of the Nile itself.
- The Pharaoh wielded absolute power, but used advisors to help them.
- The Chief advisor to the Pharaoh was the **Vizier.**



The Pyramids and Sphinx

- Pyramids were built during the Old Kingdom
- They were designed to be tombs for the Pharaoh
- Originally there were step pyramids, then the pyramids evolved into the ones we see at Giza
- The Pyramids were designed to protect the mummies of the Pharaohs, but they ultimately failed. They were robbed and pillaged.



Mummification

- To preserve the body so that the soul could stay in the afterlife, the Egyptians perfected the process of mummification. Mummification was expensive, however, and during the Old Kingdom was a luxury of the rich.
- First the body was washed and the internal organs including the lungs, stomach, liver and intestines were removed. The heart was left in the body because the Egyptians viewed it as the center of emotion.
- The Brain was removed through the nose and thrown away. The Egyptians didn't think it served any purpose
- The Body was packed in **Natron** (a drying agent) and left for 70 days. After that the body was wrapped in linen with tree resin for glue. Magical amulets and other treasures were buried with the body.



Mummies

What are your thoughts on mummification?



The Middle Kingdom

2050-1652 B.C

- After the fall of the Old Kingdom there was a period of chaos for about 150 years
 - A new dynasty took over in Egypt, bringing a period of stability.
 - Egypt expanded into Nubia to its south.
 - The government also sent troops into Palestine and Syria and sent traders to Kush, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Crete
 - In the new kingdom the Pharaoh took new interest in the common people. The Pharaoh also implemented many public works projects.

The New Kingdom

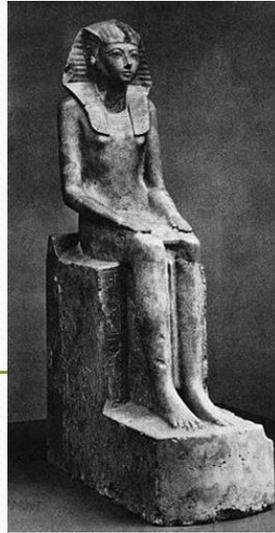
1567-1085 B.C.

- The Middle Kingdom ended with the invasion of a people called the Hyksos
- The Hyksos had Chariots and superior weapons to the Egyptians. The Egyptians were easily defeated.
- Eventually the Egyptians overthrew the Hyksos and established the
- New Kingdom
- The Pharaohs of the New Kingdom took a more aggressive ruling style
- Egypt became the most powerful state in Southwest Asia
- This is the period in history in which the Egyptians enslaved the Jews according to the Old Testament



Hatshepsut

- Hatshepsut was the first woman to be Pharaoh
- She was the daughter of a Pharaoh and the mother and regent of a Pharaoh.
- She took power for herself
- She had to pose as a man to cement her authority.
- She built many monuments and temples.





Akhenaton

- Akhenaton wanted Egypt to worship the god of the sun, Aton, as the only god.
- He closed all of the temples to the other gods and caused major social and political problems. He and his wife, Nefertiti, became unpopular rulers.
- After his death Tutankhamen (King Tut) restored the old ways of worship.

King Tut: Tutankhamen

- Became pharaoh at the age of 9-10 years old
- Became Pharaoh after the death of Akhenaton.
- Restored the old religious practices
- Has the only tomb to be found intact

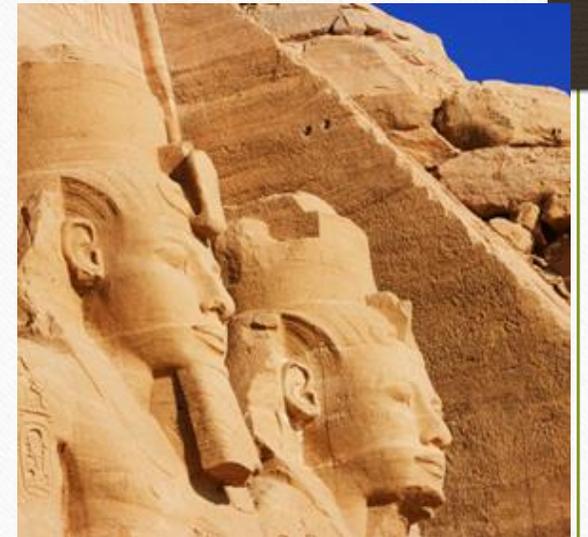
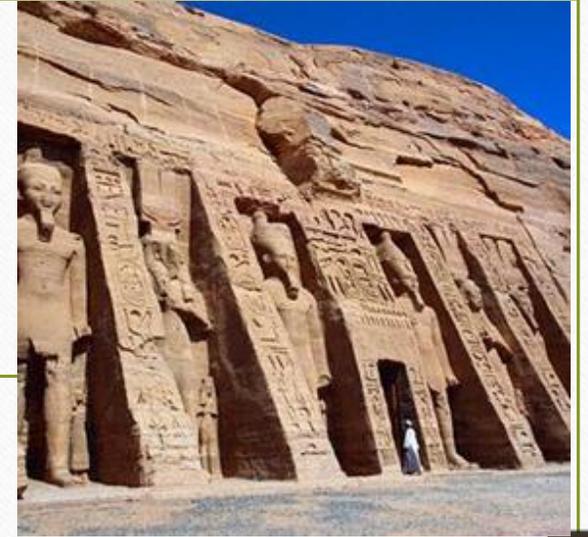
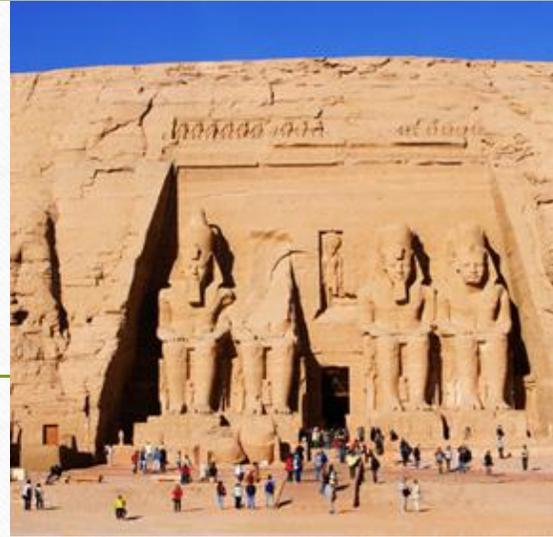




Ramses II (The Great)

- Ramses II, reigned from 1279 until 1213 B.C. One of the longest reigns in Egyptian History
- He sought to increase the size of the empire and went on many military conquests, but he was unsuccessful. He was only able to gain the area of Palestine.
- He fathered over 100 children
- Some think that he is the Pharaoh of the Hebrew Exodus

Abu Simbel: Temple of Ramses the Great





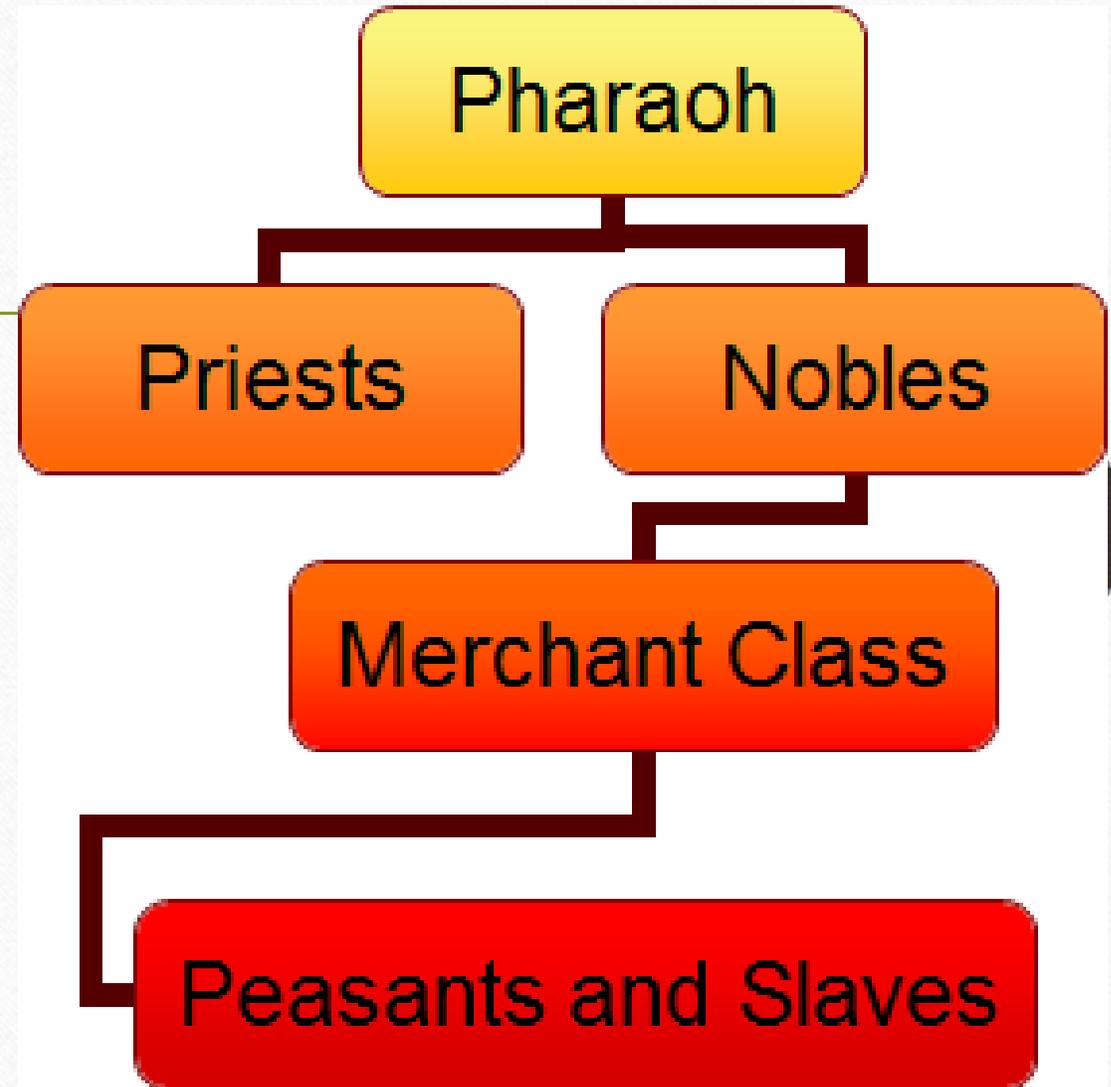
Decline

- Egypt fell into a period of decline and foreign invasion.
- Egypt was ruled by many different people and eventually defeated by the Romans.
- The last Pharaoh of Egypt was Cleopatra VII, who committed suicide rather than surrender to the Romans.

Egyptian

Society

- Daily Life ----
- Egypt had a hierarchical social structure.
- The people had a positive attitude toward life.
- Monogamy was the rule, and women had more rights in Ancient Egypt than the rest of the Ancient world.
- Women could own property, business, and request a divorce.



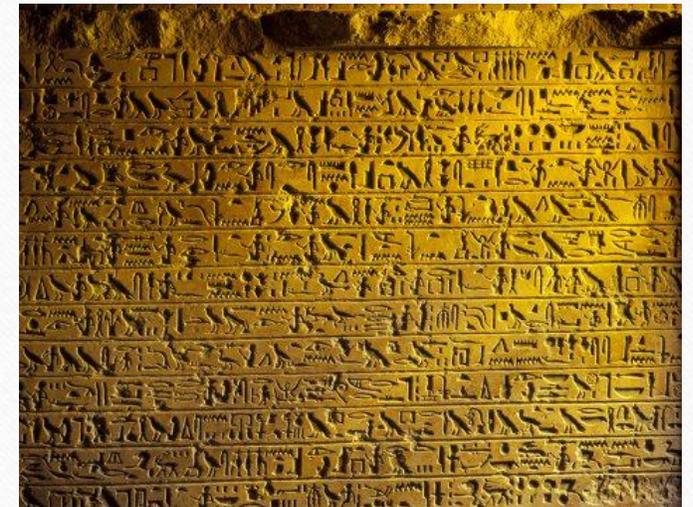
Hieroglyphics

- Writing began in Egypt around 3000 B.C.
- There were different types of writing for different occasions.
- Hieroglyphics were ideograms used for formal writing
- Hieratic Script (Demotic) was a simplified version of Egyptian writing.
- The Egyptians carved their writing on stone, or wrote on papyrus, a form of paper made from a reed that grew along the Nile River.

What are three letters you can't live without?

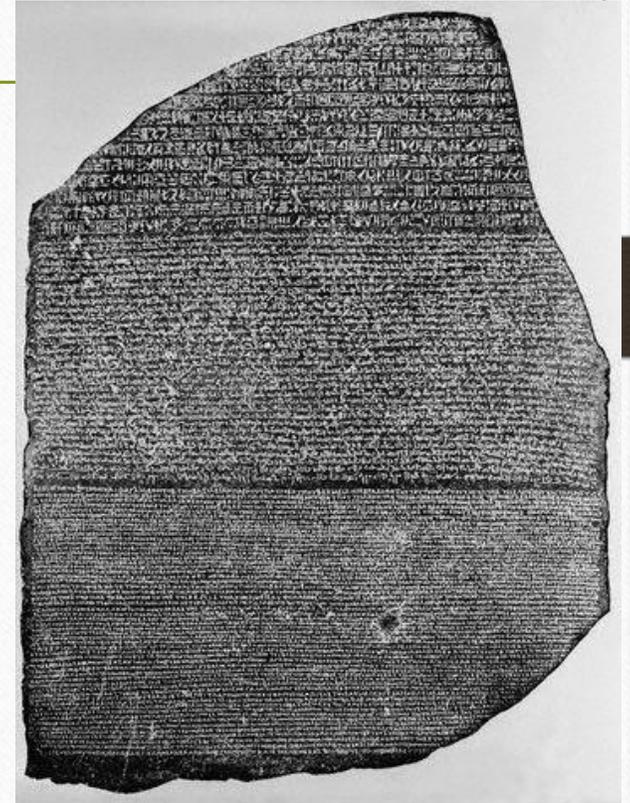
	A	vulture		L	lion		W	chick
	B	leg		M	owl		X	cloth
	C	cup		N	water		Y	feathers
	D	hand		O	chick		Z	bolt
	E	feather		P	stool		CH	tether
	F	viper		Q	hill		KH	sieve
	G	pot		R	mouth		SH	basin
	H	wick		S	cloth		MAN	
	I	feather		T	loaf		WOMAN	
	J	cobra		U	chick		ANKH	
	K	cup		V	viper			

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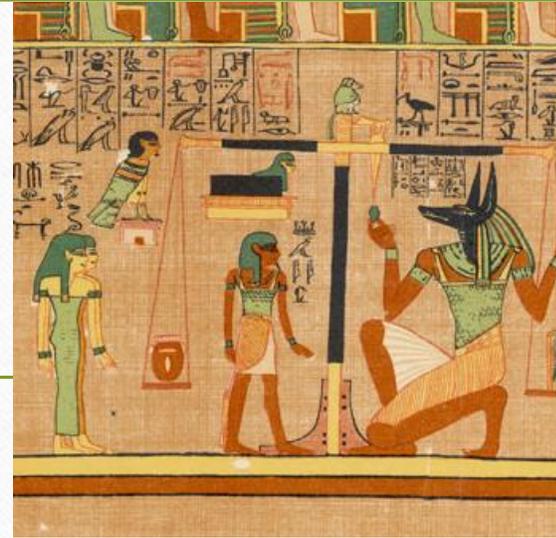
The Rosetta Stone

- For a long time archaeologists were unable to translate hieroglyphics
- The discovery of the Rosetta stone allowed for the translation of Hieroglyphics
- It contained the same passage in three languages
- Hieroglyphics
- Greek
- Demotic



Egyptian Art

- In Egyptian art the human body is usually shown in profile or partial profile



Egyptian Advancements in Math and Science

- The Egyptians used math to calculate area and volume in building the pyramids and in surveying flooded land for farming
- The Egyptians developed an accurate solar (365 day) calendar.
- The practice of mummification and embalming led to advances in medical knowledge including how to set broken bones, wounds, and disease.
- Clocks - In order to tell the time Egyptians invented two types of clock. **Obelisks were used as sun clocks** by noting how its shadow moved around its surface throughout the day. From the use of obelisks they identified the longest and shortest days of the year.
- Wigs/Makeup



Egyptian Monuments

Top and Bottom of right = Pyramids at Giza

Bottom Left - **Step Pyramid of Zoser**

Top Left - Obelisk of Hatshepsut

