



Chapter 2: Ancient Middle East and Egypt 3200-500 BCE

1. City States of Ancient Sumer
2. Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders
3. Kingdom of the Nile
4. Egyptian Civilization
5. Roots of Judaism

2.1 City-States of Ancient Sumer:

- Understand how geography influenced the development of civilization in the Fertile Crescent
- Outline the main features of Sumerian civilization
- Explain how the advances in learning made by the Sumerians left a lasting legacy for later peoples to build on

Terms, People, and Places

- Fertile Crescent
- Mesopotamia
- Sumer
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Hierarchy
- Ziggurat
- Cuneiform

Fertile Crescent



- Area in the middle east that is made up of rich soil
- Many have settled here due to few natural barriers
- Considered the “Cradle of Civilization”

Geography Influences the Fertile Crescent

- Starts in the Persian Gulf and goes to the Mediterranean Sea
- Mesopotamia: Means land between rivers
- Area between Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- Southern region of Mesopotamia called Sumer



Organizing for Flood and Irrigations

- Sumer was the first civilization to develop between the Tigris and Euphrates
- Flood Control key development
- Flood would deposit soil for farming
- *Epic of Gilgamesh* – Mesopotamian narrative, discusses a flood that wipes out the Earth.
- During Dry season would use irrigation to water crops

Sumerians Build Thriving Cities

- Built buildings out of clay from the river beds
- Shaped bricks and dried them in the sun
- Subject to floods
- Worlds first great cities Ur, Uruk
- Could have invented the Wheel

Checkpoint

- What Geographic characteristic made the Fertile Crescent a good place for civilization to develop?
- Rich soil, wheat fields, Tigris and Euphrates rivers and Clay

Sumerian Civilization Takes Shape

- Sumer made of 12 City-States
- Often fought for control of water
- Hereditary rule grows out of Warrior Class
- Ruler responsible for the City

Sumerians Structure Their Society

- Each City-State had a distinct social hierarchy
 1. Ruler and high priests
 2. Lower priest, scribes, artisans
 3. Peasant Farmers (majority)

Role of Women in Sumer

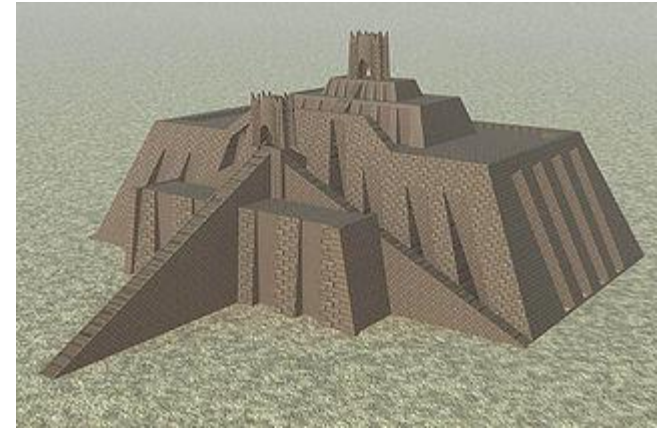
- Role changed over time
- Women held higher social standards than later societies
- Did not have legal rights equal to men
- Some ruler wives had supervisory powers
- Wrote poetry and music
- Some were able to inherit property

Checkpoint

- How was Sumerian Society structured?
- By class, the highest class included the rulers and the priest, the middle class included the lesser priest and scribes and artisans, and the lower class included the farmers

Sumerians Practice Religion

- Believed in a Polytheistic religion
- Priest highest duty was to keep gods happy
- Worshiped at a ziggurat
- Ziggurat –large stepped platform topped by a temple to a god



Sumerian Afterlife

- Believed all people lived in a grim underworld after they died

Epic of Gilgamesh

“the place where they live on dust, their food is mud./...and they see no light, living in blackness/ on the door and door-bolt, deeply settled in dust”

Sumerians Invent Writing

- Sumerians invented Cuneiform
- *Cuneus* means wedge
- Grew out of a system of Pictographs
- Scribes – people skilled in writing



Lasting Legacy of Sumer

Astronomy

- Discovered moving objects in the sky
- Able to develop a calendar
- Predict eclipses
- Able to know when to plant and when to expect floods

Mathematics

- Developed system based on number 6
- 360 degrees
- 60 minutes in an hour
- Babylonians later developed Algebra based on the Sumerian math

Decline of the Sumerian Civilization

- 2500 BCE conquering armies swept across the region
- By 1900 BCE the Sumerians had been replaced by other civilizations
- Left a lasting legacy for later civilizations

Checkpoint

- What advances did the Sumerians make in math and astronomy?
- Established a number system based on Six. Allowed the Babylonians to develop algebra and geometry. Recorded the movements of the planets and stars to create accurate calendars

Section Review 2.1

2. What were the characteristics of the world's first civilization?

Sumer included twelve separate city-states led by a central government that oversaw large scale building projects, had a social hierarchy and a polytheistic religion; developed cuneiform writing and began to understand math and astronomy

Section Review 2.1

3. Sumerians faced significant geographic challenges, such as floods. How do you think facing these challenges played a role in the formation of a strong government?

Leaders had to be strong that is why they evolved from the warrior class.

Section Review 2.1

4. How might the invention of cuneiform writing have strengthened the Sumerian government and its religious practices?

Government: By allowing it to create records, laws, and achievements

Religious: by allow priest to preserve traditions about prayers, rituals and beliefs about gods

Section Review 2.1

5. Describe ways in which later peoples built on Sumerian learning. Would this have been possible without the invention of writing?

Because of written records people could see what Sumerians did and improve on techniques.

2.2 Invaders, Traders and Empire Builders

- Outline the achievements of the first empires of Mesopotamia
- Understand how conquests brought new empires and ideas into the Middle East
- Describe how the Persians established a huge empire
- Summarize the contributions the Phoenicians made to the ancient Middle East

Terms, People, and Places

- Sargon
- Hammurabi
- Codify
- Civil law
- Criminal law
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Barter economy
- Money economy
- Zoroaster
- Colony
- alphabet

First Empires in Mesopotamia

- 2300 BCE Sargon ruler of the Akkad invaded Sumer
- This was the first Empire in history
- Installed local rulers or kings in each conquered territory
- After his death other conquering peoples swept across the region

Hammurabi Brings Babylon to Power

- 1790 BCE Hammurabi brought Mesopotamia under his control of Babylon
- Created Hammurabi Code set of laws and guidelines
- First attempt to Codify the law
- Codify – arrange in writing laws that govern a state



Establishing Civil Law

- Civil law – Deals with private rights of citizens
- Dealt with property, inheritance, taxes marriage,

For example-

- Right of women to pass on inheritance
- Rights a woman has in a marriage – if she is not at fault for problems in a marriage she can leave

Criminal Law

- Law that deals with crimes against people or government
- Took justice out of the hands of the people and set out a specific punishment

For Example –
“*An eye for an eye*”

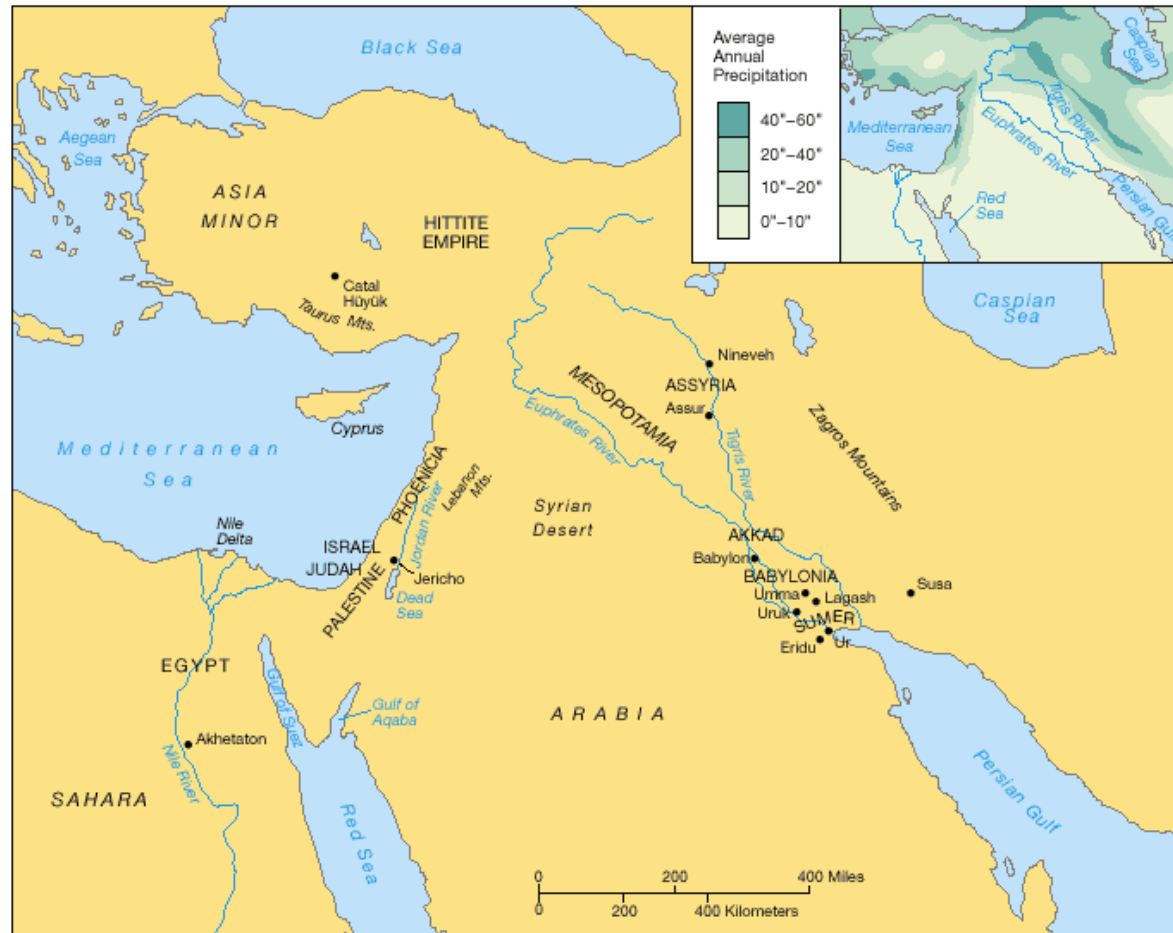
If a house collapses and killed the owner then the builder was put to death


Other Accomplishments



- Improve irrigation
- Organized an army
- Encouraged religious unity
- Promoted worship of Marduk

Ancient World of Middle east



 The Ancient World. The earliest civilizations in the West arose in river valleys of Northern Africa and Western Asia where life depended on control of water.

Checkpoint

- How did civil law and criminal law differ?
- Civil law deals with private matters like contracts and marriage
- Criminal law deals with offences committed against other people

Conquest Brings New Empires and Ideas

Hittites 1400 BCE
came to Mesopotamia
from Asia

- Learned how to extract Iron
- Developed advanced weapons, chariot
- Technology defused as the empire collapsed



Assyrian Warriors



- Assyrians lived on the upper Tigris
- Were most feared warriors in history
- Encouraged well organized society
- First to come up with laws governing Royal Family
- Founded early library

Nebuchadnezzar Revives Babylon

- Leader of Assyrian Empire, Assurbanipal, dies.
- Conquered people join forces and remove the Assyrians
- Babylon was revived under Nabolassar
- His successor was Nebuchadnezzar
- Established a new empire
- Rebuilt the cities, surrounded Babylon with a moat
- Built the Hanging Gardens

Hanging Gardens Of Babaylon



Checkpoint

- Name a significant contribution made by the Hittites, Assyrians, and Babylonians after each group's conquest of the Middle East
 - Hittites-iron working, stronger weapons
 - Assyrians – laws regulating life and royal families, library
 - Babylonians – large cities

The Persians Establish a Huge Empire



- 539 BCE Babylon fell to the Persians
- Persians created the largest empire to date
- Persians pursued a policy of acceptance and tolerance

Darius Unites Many People

- Policies unified the people of Persia
- Set up a bureaucracy
- Divided the empire into provinces called Satrapy
- Adapted laws and cultures from conquered people
- Built roads connecting the empire

Improving the Economy

- Darius set up a common set of weight and measures
- Encouraged the use of coins
- Shifted from barter economy to money economy
- Barter economy – economy based in trade
- Money economy - economy based on exchange of a token

New Religion Takes Hold

- Persian empire united under a religion
- Zoroaster profited taught about living under one god Ahura Mazda
- Rejected the traditional belief in polytheistic religion of Persia
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam can find roots in Zoroaster teaching

Checkpoint

- What are two steps Darius took to unite the Persian Empire
- Built roads, established a bureaucracy, common set of weights and measures, encouraged use of coins

Contributions of Phoenicians

- Phoenicians were known for being accomplished sailors and traders
- Established cities along the Mediterranean
- Known for their purple dye
- Established colonies
- Colonies – territory settled and ruled by people from another land

Mediterranean Sea



Developed an Alphabet

- Phoenicians called “Carriers of Civilization”
- Developed Alphabet 22 symbol system
- Used symbols that represented a sound

	'aleph	[ʾ]		lamedh	[l]
	beth	[b]		mem	[m]
	gimmel	[g]		nun	[n]
	daleth	[d]		samekh	[s]
	he	[h]		'ayin	[ʿ]
	waw	[w]		pe	[p]
	zayin	[z]		tsade	[ʃ]
	heth	[h]		qoph	[q]
	teth	[t]		reš	[r]
	yodh	[y]		šin	[ʃ]
	kaph	[k]		taw	[t]

Checkpoint

- How has the Phoenician development of an alphabet been a lasting contribution to civilization?
- It is the foundation of the Greek alphabet which is the foundation of the alphabet we use today.

Section Review 2.2

2. How did various strong rulers unite the lands of the Fertile-Crescent into organized empires?

- Appointing local rulers, establishing law codes, building roads for communication, and establishing a monetary system for empires (coins)

Section 2.2 Review

3. What do you think is the most important achievement of Sargon and Hammurabi?

Sargon – establishing the first empire is an example of the ability to control resources and organize people

Hammurabi – establishing a law code

Section 2.2 Review

4. How do you think the Persian policy of tolerance helped the empire grow so large?

- If the Persians had not been so tolerant of the culture they conquered the people might revolt.

Section 2.2 Review

5. One effect of warfare and conquest was that knowledge and beliefs spread among different peoples. How else did the people of the middle east spread ideas?

- Trade and the establishment of colonies.

2.3 The Kingdom of the Nile

- Understand the ways in which geography helped shape ancient Egypt
- Analyze the achievements of the old kingdom in Egypt
- Describe the events that brought turbulence to the Middle Kingdom
- Explain how Egypt grew strong during the New Kingdom

Term, People and Places

- Cataract
- Delta
- Dynasty
- Pharaoh
- Bureaucracy
- Vizier
- Hatshepsut
- Thutmose III
- Ramses II

Geography Helps Egypt

The fertile lands of the Nile Valley attracted Stone Age farmer. People migrated to the Nile delta because of its rich farm land and frequent consistent flooding patterns

Farming village dotted the lands of the Nile which ran through a rich river basin about 10 mile wide

Ancient Egypt



- Yearly floods bring benefits
- Deposited silt and renewed water reserves
- People had to cooperate to control the Nile floods

Uniting Two Regions

- Upper Egypt
 - From the cataract to about 100 miles from the coast
 - Cataract – waterfall
- Lower Egypt
 - Portion containing the Nile Delta
 - Delta – a marsh area at the mouth of a river
- 3100 BCE Menes united the two kingdoms of Upper and Lower Egypt
- Used the Nile as a highway

Checkpoint

- How did yearly floods of the Nile influence life in ancient Egypt?
- Egyptians relied on the floods to re deposit silt. It also encouraged them to work together to channel water for storage

The Old Kingdom

- Egypt is divided into Three main periods
 - Old Kingdom (2575 -2130 BCE)
 - Middle Kingdom (1938-1630 BCE)
 - New Kingdom (1539-1075 BCE)
- Each was ruled by Dynasty
- Dynasty power passed down from one generation to the next

Strong Government Takes hold

- Pharaohs – Egyptian kings
- Held absolute power
- Were thought to be gods on earth
- Created a bureaucracy supervised by a vizier
- Bureaucracy – system of government offices
- Vizier – supervisor of the bureaucracy



Egyptian Government

- Structure of the Egyptian government
 - Pharaoh
 - Vizier
 - Departments heads and Scribes
 - Various nobles for local government
 - Middle class merchant
 - Peasant farmers

The Great Pyramids are Built



- Egyptian Pharaohs began the practice of building Necropolises
- These were buildings to house the dead
- Among these were the Great Pyramids
- Egyptians had strong beliefs in the afterlife

Checkpoint

- How was the Egyptian government structured during the Old Kingdom?
- Pharaoh
- Vizier
- Departments heads and Scribes
- Various nobles for local government
- Middle class merchant
- Peasant farmers

The Turbulent Middle Kingdom

- Power struggles and crop failures and building cost contribute to the fall of the Old Kingdom
- Nile did not rise as regular
- Central State ended power of the Aristocrats
- Egyptian armies occupied the gold rich Nubia in the south
- Invaders Hyskos occupied the northern region
- Hyskos introduced the horse drawn chariot To Egypt

Checkpoint

- In what ways was the Middle Kingdom turbulent?
- Power struggles
- Poor crop production
- Inconsistent river flow
- Foreign invaders

Egypt's New Kingdom

- Powerful rulers emerge during the new kingdom
- Hatshepsut – first female ruler
- Encouraged trade with the middle east and along the Red Sea
- Her Step son Thutmose III took over as he became an adult

Egypt Signs a Treaty

- Ramses II ruled for 66 years
- After prolonged fighting with the Hittites signed the worlds first know peace treaty



Expansion during the New Kingdom

- Egypt constantly trying to expand its borders
- Went as far north as Syria
- Conquered Nubia where they acquired gold, ivory, cattle and slaves



Checkpoint

- What role did Egyptian conquest play during Egypt's New Kingdom?
- Conquest was the central aspect of the Kingdom. They were constantly trying to expand north and south.

2.3 Section Review

2. How did the Nile influence the rise of Egyptian civilization?

Provided fertile land and dependable water source for crops also acted as a highway for the kingdom

2.3 Section Review

3. How did the Nile play a crucial role in connecting Upper and Lower Egypt

It acted as a high way that enabled trade

2.3 Section Review

4. What knowledge did the Egyptian gain from the Hyksos? How did it help them?

The horse drawn chariot which later helped them conquer other lands.

2.3 Section Review

5. What types of information can we learn from the great Pyramids and other ancient Egyptian structures

About religious beliefs, how they lived, how advanced they were mathematically, how they organized society.

2.4 Egyptian Civilization

- Describe the ways in which religious beliefs shaped the lives of the Egyptian people
- Understand how Egyptian viewed the after life
- Explain how Egyptians organized their society
- Outline the advances that the Egyptians made in learning, arts, science, and literature

Egyptian Civilization

- Describe the ways in which religious beliefs shaped the lives of ancient Egyptians
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Terms, People, and Places

- Amon-Re
- Osiris
- Isis
- Akhenation
- Mummification
- Hieroglyphics
- Papyrus
- Decipher
- Rosetta Stone

Religion Shapes Life in Ancient Egypt

Religious beliefs about gods, values, and life after death affected the daily lives of ancient Egyptians. In addition, scribes used one of the world's earliest forms of writing to record information, and scholars and artists made advances in science, art, and literature.

Chief Gods and Goddesses

- Chief god was the sun god
- First called Re then replaced by Amon
- Called Amon-Re the supreme god
- This is who Pharaoh got his right to rule



Other Egyptian Gods

- Osiris – god of the dead, judge of souls
- Isis – wife of Osiris
- Osiris was especially important because he was the ruler of the Nile which all life in Egypt depended on



Pharaoh Tries to Reshape Religion

- Amenhotep IV ruled under the god Aton
- Became Akhenaton
- “he who serves Aton”
- Ordered priest only worship Aton
- People feared the rest of the gods
- Many returned to their gods after the death of Akhenaton



Checkpoint

- Which details about Egyptian gods show the importance of agriculture to Egyptian society
- Most important gods were associated to the sun and Nile river
- Amon-Re Sun
- Osiris - River

How Egyptian View the Afterlife



- Had to prove themselves to Osiris
- Soul had to pass a test to win eternal life
- Heart would be weighed
- Book of the Dead guided the journey

Preparing the dead for the Afterlife

- Believed afterlife would be much like life on Earth and soul would need the body
- Mummification - act of preserving the dead
- At first reserved for the nobles but eventually used on ordinary people and even pets



Evidence found in tomb of King Tut



- Tutankhamen Pharaoh who died young
- Tomb was a great discovery
- Left alone from vandals and was intact
- Rooms filled with treasures

Checkpoint

- How did mummification reflect Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife
- Because Egyptian believed they would have eternal life after death they preserved the body so it could reunite with the soul

Egyptians Organize their Society

- Pharaoh was at the top of society
- Most were peasant farmers would work fields during the season then work for Pharaoh in the off season



Changes in Society

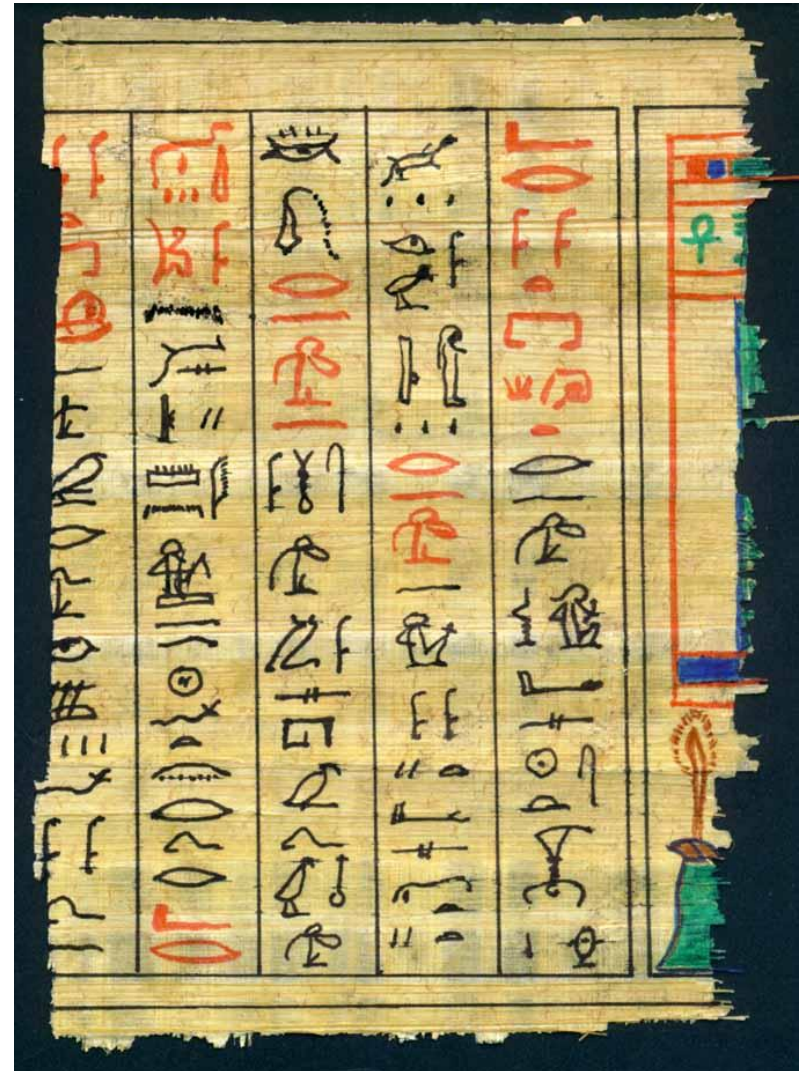
- Trade offered people development of a merchant class
- Foreign conquest meant more business for Artisans
- Women enjoyed higher status
- Had great independence
- Could gain inheritance
- Worked outside of the home
- Some were priest

Checkpoint

- Which social class grew in size as a result of trade?
- Merchants and artisans

Egyptians Make Advances in Learning

- Kept written records
- Wrote in Hieroglyphics
- Hieroglyphics - System writing made of pictures and symbols
- Carved in stone
- Papyrus paper like material Egyptian wrote on



The Clues of the Rosetta Stone



- Rosetta Stone had the same passage on it in Greek and Egyptian
- This enabled archeologist the decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics

Science and Math

- Made great contributions to medicine math and astronomy
- Mummification
- Observed symptoms and made diagnosis
- Performed surgeries
- Prescribed medicine
- Studied the heavens
- Made calendars based on Astronomical movement
- Developed math concept to build dams and engineer buildings

Checkpoint

- Describe three advances in learning made by the Egyptians
- Mummification
- Observed symptoms and made diagnosis
- Performed surgeries
- Prescribed medicine

Egyptian Arts

- Showed battles
- Depicted farming
- In art typically portrayed Pharaohs as larger than life figures



Egyptian Literature



- Oldest Egyptian literature includes hymns prayers to god proverbs and love poems
- Tale of Sinuhe story of a banned Egyptian that fights his way home

2.4 Section Review

2. How did religion and learning play important roles in ancient Egyptian civilization?

Daily worship shaped peoples live they believed religion was tied to the river and sun for which they relied on for survival. They also believed their leader was a god on Earth.

2.4 Section Review

3. Egyptians believed the pharaoh received his powers for Amon-Re how do you think replacing him with Aton would affect the Pharaohs authority?

They would have to have another way to establish authority because the people would not think that he is a deity.

2.4 Section Review

4. How does the book of the dead and tomb of King Tut offer different views of the afterlife?

The book of the dead offers first hand information of the afterlife. The tomb need interpretation.

2.4 Section Review

5. What jobs were Egyptian women allowed to hold?

Manufacturing, manage farming estates, doctors, priest.

2.5 The Roots Of Judaism

- Understand what made the ancient Israelites belief system unique from others of the time.
- Outline the main events in the early history of the Israelites
- Analyze the moral and ethical ideas of Judaism

Terms, People, Places

- Monotheistic
- Torah
- Abraham
- Covenant
- Moses
- David
- Solomon
- Patriarchal
- Sabbath
- Prophet
- Ethics
- Diaspora

The Ancient Israelites Shape a Unique Belief System

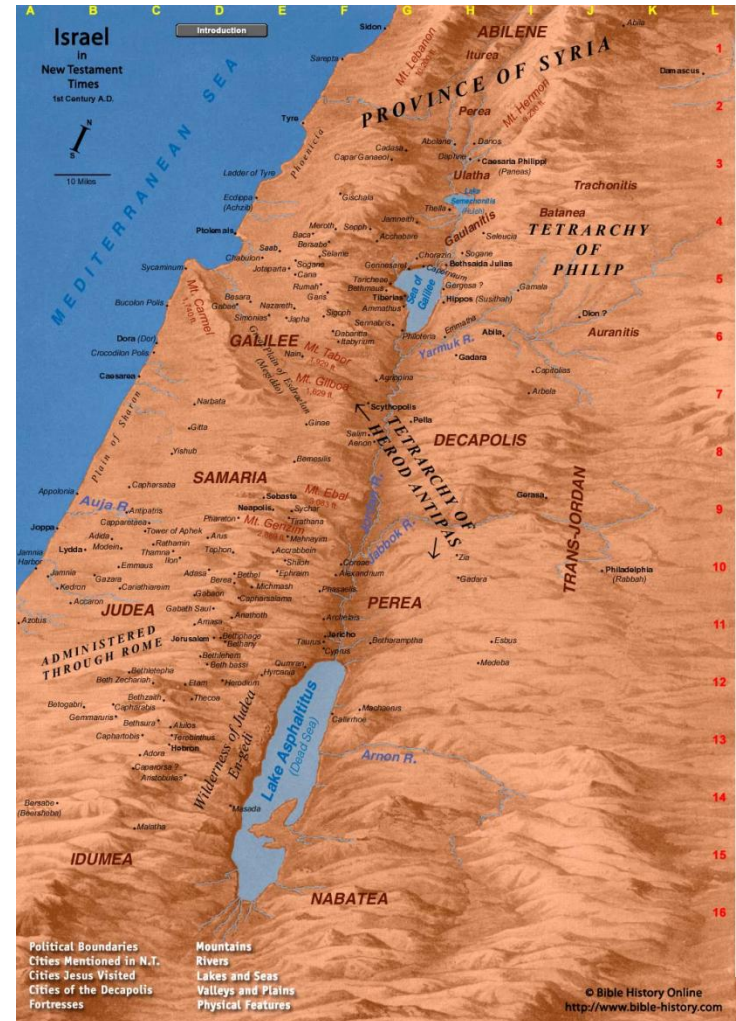
- Israelites were monotheistic
- Monotheistic believes in one god
- Israelites believed in one all knowing all powerful god
- Teachings in the Torah or Hebrew bible
- Torah includes the first five books of the Bible
 - Genesis
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
 - Deuteronomy
- The Hebrew bible also includes and additional 24 books

Checkpoint

- How did the beliefs of ancient Israel differ from those of other nearby peoples?
- Monotheistic belief, that is the belief in one god

Ancient Israelites

- Abraham left Ur and traveled to Canaan
- Considered the father of the Israelites
- Made a covenant with God
- Covenant - promise or agreement



Chosen People

- 10 Plagues
 - River of Blood
 - Frogs
 - Lice
 - Flies
 - Diseased livestock
 - Boils
 - Hail
 - locust
 - Darkness
 - Death to first born
- Believe they were chosen by God
- Israel was the “Promised land”
- Were enslaved by Egypt and delivered from slavery by Moses
- Moses renews the covenant with God

Kingdom of Israel

- Twelve tribes of Israel feuded
- First king anointed by God was Saul
- Second King David united the tribes into a single nation
- King Solomon turned Jerusalem into a capital with an impressive temple



Temple of Solomon



Israel Suffers Conquest and Division

- Solomon's building caused taxes to go up
- Kingdom split Israel in the south and Judah in the north
- Assyrians conquered Israel
- Babylonians conquered Judah and were enslaved
- Were then freed when Persians conquered Babylon



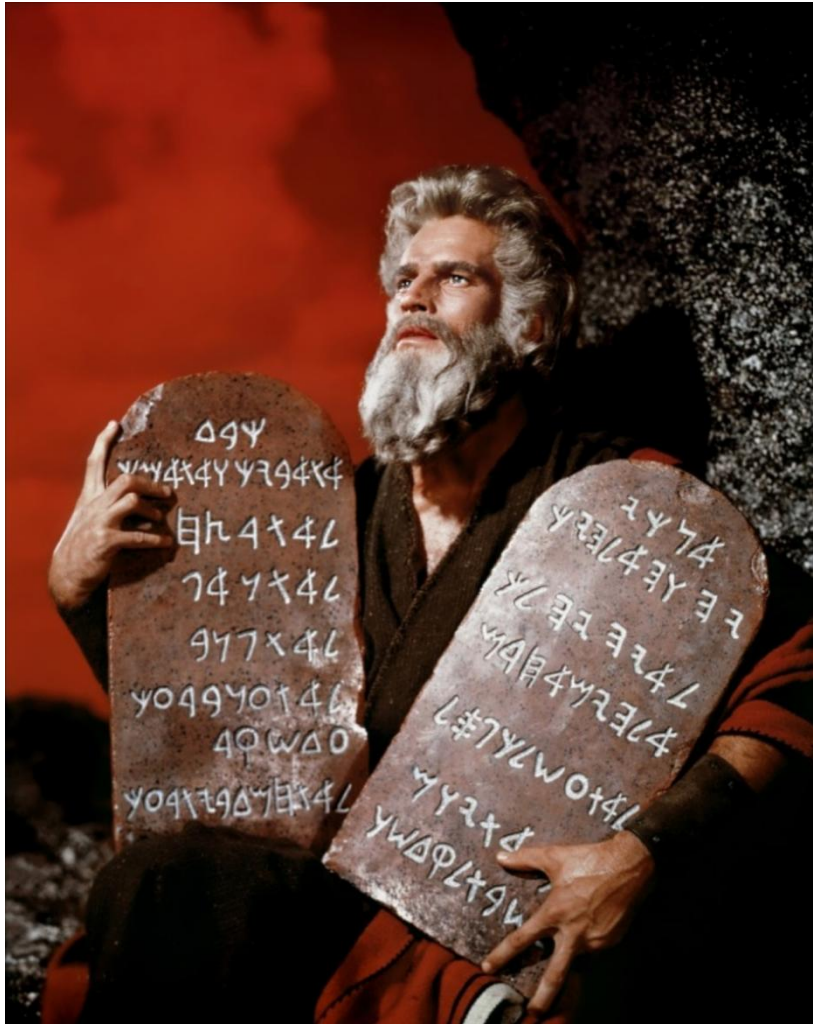
Checkpoint

- According to the Torah where did the Israelites go once they left Egypt? What was special about this place?
- They wandered for 40 years in the desert until they made it to Canaan which was the “Promised Land”

Judaism Teaches About Law and Morality

- Concept of Law was central to the Israelites
- Torah included many laws and was referred to as the Book of Law
- Society was Patriarchal meaning Men held the highest positions
- Oldest Male was in charge of the house and arranged marriages

The Ten Commandments



- Heart of Judaism is Ten Commandments
- Laws deliver to the Hebrews from God via Moses
- Stressed the Sabbath day
- Sabbath holy day for rest limited Hebrew activity on this day

Teaching an Ethical World View

- Often spiritual leaders emerged to convey Gods will called Prophets
- Guided people to follow the law or there would be consequences
- Prophets lived by a strong code of Ethics
- Ethics- moral standards



Jewish Maintain their Beliefs over time and Place

- During times of Captivity many Jews left and dispersed all over the world
- Diaspora – the spreading out of Jewish people and culture
- Jewish would settle an maintain their identity and cultural traditions
- One of the largest religions in the world

Checkpoint

- How did the Prophets help Jews uphold the law
- They warned failure to follow the law would lead to disaster and taught about a strong code of ethics