

Chapter Summary

Section 1: City-States of Ancient Sumer

The first civilization arose in southeastern Mesopotamia at Sumer. Sumerians developed cuneiform, the oldest form of writing. They traded widely and built cities of mud brick.

Section 2: Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders

Successive conquerors contributed new technology and ideas to Mesopotamia. Included are Sargon, Hammurabi, the Hittites, the Assyrians, Nebuchadnezzar, and the Persians. The Phoenicians sailed and traded as far as England.



Chapter Summary (continued)

Section 3: Kingdom on the Nile

Egypt's history was heavily influenced by the Nile River, which flooded annually, renewing the land. During the Three Kingdoms, Egypt was ruled by pharaohs through an elaborate bureaucracy.

Section 4: Egyptian Civilization

Egyptians were heavily influenced by their beliefs in their gods and the afterlife. Scribes recorded information using hieroglyphics. Women had more rights than in most ancient civilizations.

Chapter Summary (continued)

Section 5: Roots of Judaism

Judaism began 4,000 years ago. The first monotheistic religion, it was based on Abraham's covenant with God. It taught a strict ethical code that all people, including the powerful, were expected to follow.

Objectives

- 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 people to build on.



Terms and People

- **Fertile Crescent** – a region of the Middle East where civilization first arose
- **Mesopotamia** – an area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where the civilization of Sumer arose
- **Sumer** – where the world's first civilization arose around 3300 B.C.
- ***The Epic of Gilgamesh*** – a Mesopotamian narrative poem that includes a story about a flood that destroys the world

Terms and People (continued)

- **hierarchy** – a system of social ranking
- **ziggurat** – in ancient Mesopotamia a large stepped platform thought to have been topped by a temple dedicated to a city's chief god or goddess
- **cuneiform** – the earliest known form of writing; used a series of wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets



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

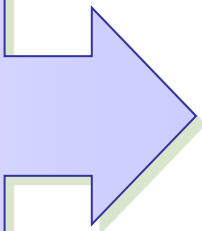
A number of early civilizations arose in the Middle East's **Fertile Crescent**. Over time, nomadic herders, ambitious invaders, and traders easily overcame the region's few natural barriers. As a result, the region became a crossroads for people and ideas.

Each new group that arrived made its own contributions to the history of the region.



About 3300 B.C., the world's first civilization developed between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers at **Sumer** in southeastern **Mesopotamia**.

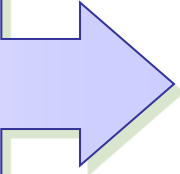
Control of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was key to the development of Mesopotamia.



To survive frequent floods and provide irrigation, temple priests and royal officials organized villagers to build canals and dikes.

A narrative poem, ***The Epic of Gilgamesh***, described a flood that destroys the world.

**Sumerians
lacked timber,
stone, and
many other
resources.**



- Ur and Uruk, two of the world's first great cities, were built of dried clay bricks.
- Sumerians traded for needed goods from as far away as Egypt and India.

Scholars believe that the first wheeled vehicles were used in Sumer.

Sumer included a dozen separate city-states.

For protection, people turned to war leaders,
who evolved into hereditary rulers.

A complex government unfolded

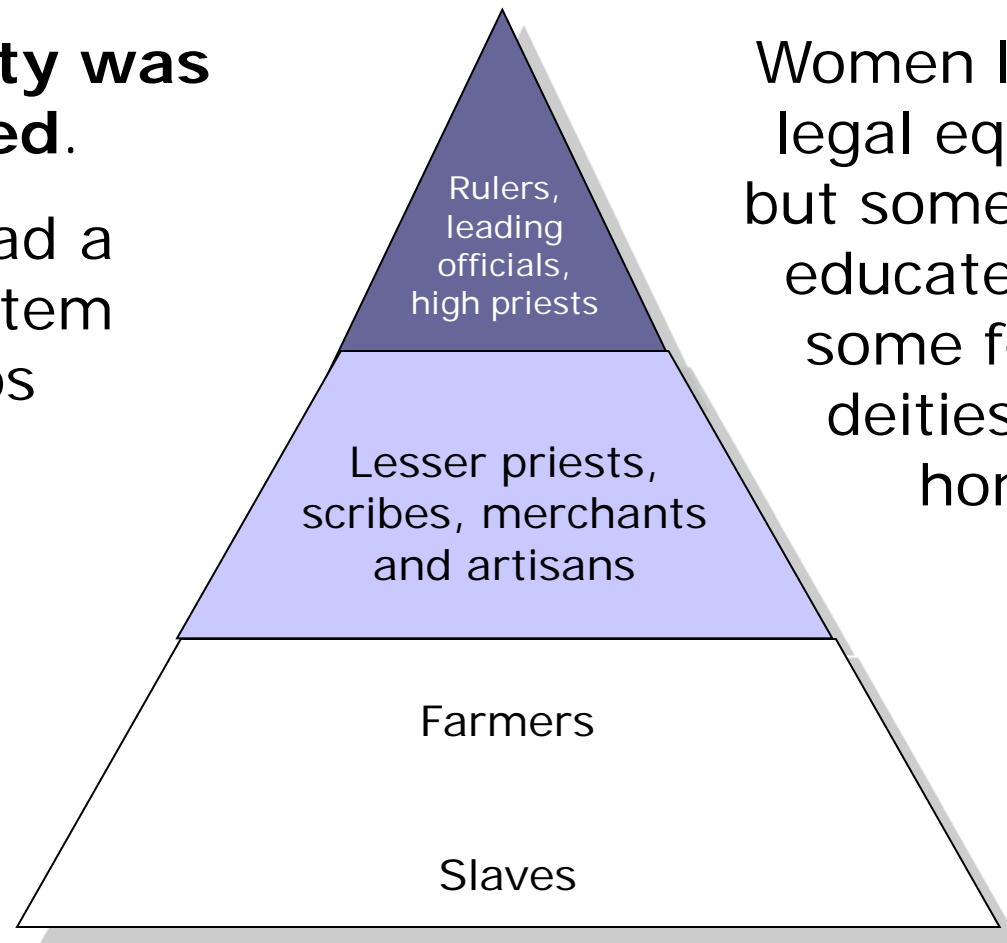
Rulers in each city-state kept up city walls and irrigation systems.

They led armies, enforced laws, and employed scribes, who collected taxes and kept records.

The ruler was chief servant of the gods and led ceremonies.

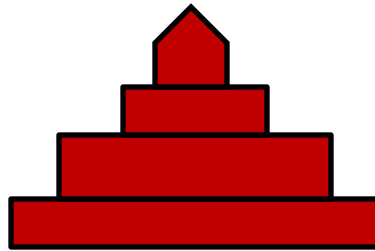
Sumerian society was highly structured.

Each city-state had a **hierarchy**, a system for ranking groups of people:



Women lacked legal equality, but some were educated and some female deities were honored.

To ensure the safety of their city-state, Sumerians believed it was their responsibility to keep the deities happy.






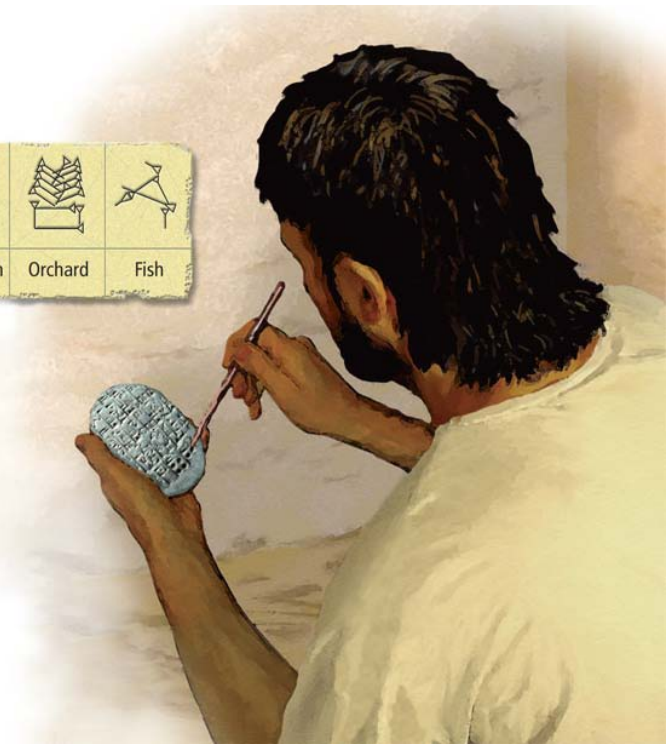
Each city built a **ziggurat**, a large stepped platform topped by a temple.

Holy days were celebrated with ceremonies and processions for the gods. Sumerians believed in a grim afterlife.

The Sumerians developed **cuneiform**, the earliest known writing system.

- Cuneiform developed from a system of pictographs that recorded goods brought to temple storehouses.
- Later, scribes recorded myths, prayers, and laws.

Cuneiform Symbol			
Meaning	Mountain	Orchard	Fish



Cuneiform evolved over time.

8,000 B.C.	3,500 B.C.	3,200 B.C.
Shaped clay tokens were used to record items of exchange.	Tokens were pressed into clay tablets to make signs or pictographs .	A true writing system developed, including symbols for words and syllables.

Sumerian scholars developed astronomy and mathematics.

- They recorded the movements of planets and stars.
- They created a number system based on six.

Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans all used Sumerian knowledge.

Between 2500 B.C. and 1900 B.C., invading armies conquered Sumer's city-states.

Sumer's legacy:

A counting system based on the number six, still used to tell time (60 minutes) and to measure a circle (360 degrees).

The narrative poem, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, has been translated and passed down to today.

Other civilizations adopted and revised cuneiform.

Objectives

- Outline the achievements of the first empires that arose in 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 and People

- **Sargon** – ruler of Akkad, who conquered Sumer in about 2300 B.C. and built the first empire
- **Hammurabi** – king of Babylon in about 1790 B.C.; codified the laws in his empire
- **codify** – to arrange or set down in writing
- **civil law** – the branch of law that deals with private rights and matters such as business contracts, property, inheritance, and taxes

Terms and People (continued)

- **criminal law** – the branch of law that deals with offenses against others, such as robbery, assault, or murder
- **Nebuchadnezzar** – aggressive emperor of Babylon who rebuilt the city and its defenses
- **barter economy** – system where people exchange one set of goods or services for another
- **money economy** – system where people pay for goods or services through the exchange of some token of agreed-upon value, such as a coin

Terms and People (continued)

- **Zoroaster** – Persian religious thinker; taught of a single wise god, Ahura Mazda, who struggled with evil, and of a judgment day for each person
- **colony** – a territory settled and ruled by people from another land
- **alphabet** – a writing system in which each symbol represents a single basic sound



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

Through thousands of years the peoples of the Middle East built great empires and made long-lasting innovations. The region became a vital crossroads where warriors and traders met, clashed, and mingled.

Many of the beliefs and ideas of the ancient Middle East survived to shape our modern world.

Many warriors descended on the rich cities of the Fertile Crescent; some created well-organized empires.



In 2300 B.C., **Sargon**, ruler of Akkad, invaded Sumer and built the first empire.

By 1790 B.C., **Hammurabi**, king of Babylon, had added most of Mesopotamia to his empire.

Hammurabi's Code was the first attempt to **codify** or arrange and put laws in writing.

Laws were divided into two branches still used today:

Civil Law	Criminal Law
Private rights, taxes, business contracts, marriages, divorce, and property inheritance.	Robbery, assault, murder, and personal offenses. Set out specific punishments for specific offenses.

Hammurabi unified his empire using the law, the military, public works, and religion.

Law	Military	Public Works	Religion
Hammurabi's Code	A well-trained army	Improved irrigation systems	Repaired temples and promoted Marduk, the patron god of Babylon

Conquest brought new empires and ideas.

1400 B.C.	1350– 1100 B.C.	625 B.C.	529 B.C.
The Hittites brought iron weapons and larger, more rugged chariots.	Assyrians sacked Babylon but later built a large library.	Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt Babylon into a great walled city.	Persians under Cyrus the Great conquer Babylon.

Beginning of the Iron Age

- In 1400 B.C. the Hittites used a new technology, to conquer Mesopotamia—ironworking. **Iron was plentiful and stronger than bronze.**
- **The Hittites also built larger, stronger, three-man chariots.**

The Assyrians expanded from the upper Tigris.

- Warfare was central to the Assyrian culture.
- They used wealth from looted cities and trade to build palaces and a well-ordered empire.
- They created the first palace rules regulating behavior of the royal family.
- King Assurbanipal created a great cuneiform library at Nineveh.

King Nebuchadnezzar revived Babylon and established a new empire.

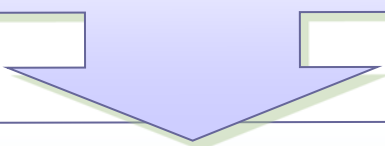


The Gate of Ishtar is one of several that honored Babylon's gods.


Under Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon again became a great city.

- He rebuilt temples, canals, roads, and palaces.
- A defensive moat and walls surrounded the city.
- The empire stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea.
- He may have built the mythical “**Hanging Gardens,**” one of the “**seven wonders of the ancient world.**”

In 539 B.C. Babylon fell to the Persian armies of **Cyrus the Great**, whose successors built the largest empire yet seen.



Emperor Darius I (522–486 B.C.) divided the empire into satrapy or provinces, each under a governor.



The Persians eventually controlled most of present-day Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

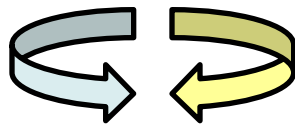
They were tolerant rulers who respected local customs, built roads, and codified laws.

The Persian Empire under Emperor Darius I

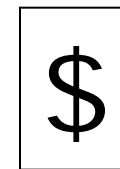


Darius encouraged the use of coins and a switch from a barter to a money economy.

In a **barter economy**, goods and services are traded.



In a **money economy**, a token such as a coin represents an agreed-upon value.



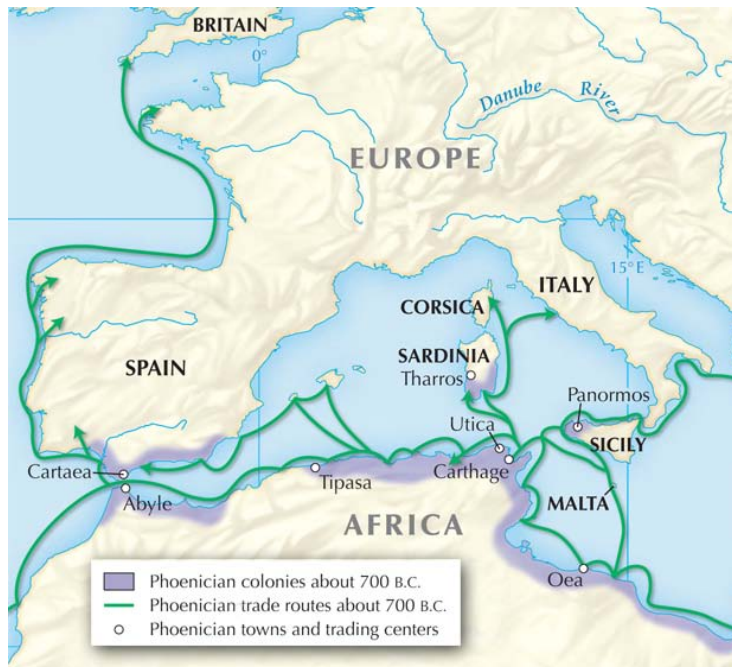
Coins were first introduced by the Lydians of Asia Minor.

In about 600 B.C. a new religion was taught by the Persian thinker **Zoroaster.**

- According to this religion, a single wise god named **Ahura Mazda** fought a constant battle with the prince of lies and evil.
- Each individual would one day have to choose between them.
- On a final judgment day, each person will be judged for his or her actions in life.

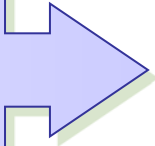
Zoroastrianism helped to unite the empire.

Phoenician sailors were the “carriers of civilization” who spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean.



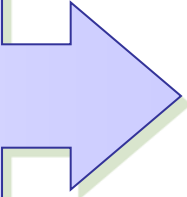
Phoenicians set up colonies in North Africa, Spain, and Sicily. They sailed as far as Britain.

**The Phoenicians
expanded
trade and
manufacturing.**



They made glass
from beach sand
and a prized purple
“Tyrian dye” from
tiny sea snails.

The Phoenicians developed our modern **alphabet**, based on twenty-two consonant sounds.



The Greeks later added vowel sounds to create the alphabet we use today.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Objectives

- Understand how geography helped shape ancient Egypt.
- Analyze the achievements of the Old Kingdom in Egypt.
- Describe the events that brought turbulence to Egypt's Middle Kingdom.
- Explain how Egypt grew strong during the New Kingdom.



Terms and People

- **cataract** – a waterfall
- **delta** – area of marsh land formed by silt deposited at the mouth of a river such as the Nile; Lower Egypt
- **dynasty** – ruling family
- **pharaoh** – Egyptian king who held absolute power
- **bureaucracy** – system of government employing different departments and levels of authority

Terms and People (continued)

- **vizier** – chief minister who supervised the business of government in ancient Egypt
- **Hatshepsut** – Egypt's first female ruler
- **Thutmose III** – Hatshepsut's step-son; pharaoh who expanded Egypt's empire to its largest extent
- **Ramses II** – Best known pharaoh, who ruled for 66 years and expanded Egypt northward into Syria



How did the Nile influence the rise of the powerful civilization of Egypt?

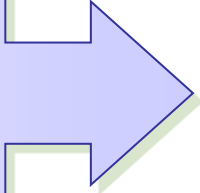
The fertile lands of the Nile Valley attracted Stone Age farmers from the Mediterranean area, from nearby hills and deserts, and from other parts of Africa.

In time, a powerful civilization emerged that depended heavily on the control of river waters.

“Egypt is wholly the gift of the Nile.”

—Greek Historian Herodotus

From ancient times people have lived in a narrow band of land beside the Nile river.



Yearly floods from rains in the south brought rich silt to replenish the soil.

People had to cooperate to build dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation channels.

Ancient Egypt was divided geographically into two parts:

Upper Egypt stretched from the the Nile's first **cataract** to 100 miles north of the Mediterranean Sea.

Lower Egypt covered the Nile **Delta**, the marshy land at the mouth of the river.



At 3,700 miles, the Nile is the world's longest river.

About 3100 B.C., **Menes**, the King of Upper Egypt, united the two regions:

He founded Memphis near where the river enters the delta.

Later rulers used the Nile as a highway to unite north and south.

Merchants used the river to exchange products from Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East.

Egyptian history is divided into three kingdoms.

Old Kingdom	2575 B.C.–3130 B.C.
Middle Kingdom	1938 B.C.–1630 B.C.
New Kingdom	1539 B.C.–1075 B.C.

Power passed from one **dynasty**, or ruling family, to another, but the land generally remained united under powerful kings called **pharaohs**.

During the Old Kingdom, Egypt became a centralized state.

- The **pharaoh** was viewed as a god, though he was expected to act morally.
- Rule was by a **bureaucracy** or system of departments with different levels of authority.
- A **vizier** or chief minister supervised departments for taxes, farming, irrigation, etc.

The **Great Pyramids** were built at Giza, as homes for pharaohs in the afterlife.

The Old Kingdom collapsed due to crop failures, power struggles, and the cost of pyramid building.

After a period of disunity, the Middle Kingdom was established.

Drainage projects created more arable land.

The power of local aristocrats was ended.

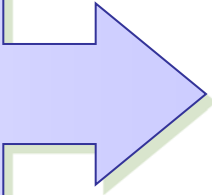
Egypt occupied gold-rich Nubia (Kush).

Trade expanded with the Middle East and Crete.

The Middle Kingdom was also a turbulent era.

The Nile did not rise as regularly as in the past. Rebellions and corruption were also problems.

In 1700 B.C.,
the Hyksos invaded
the delta after
awing Egyptians
with horse-drawn
chariots.

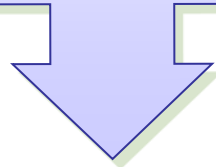


The Hyksos ruled
for a hundred years,
until new Egyptian
leaders arose.



Under ambitious pharaohs, the New Kingdom grew powerful, reaching as far north as Syria and the Euphrates River in 1450 B.C.

Egypt's first female ruler, **Hatshepsut**, held power for her young step-son from about 1472 B.C. to 1458 B.C.



He succeeded her, ruling as **Thutmose III**. A great military leader, he expanded Egypt's borders to the Euphrates River.



Beards indicated male authority, so Hatshepsut wore a false one.

Ramses II was pharaoh for 66 years.

- Ramses battled the Hittites before signing the oldest known peace treaty.
- He used gold from Nubia to pay his army, which included many Nubian charioteers.
- Nubians played a prominent part in Egyptian culture during this era.
- After 1100 B.C. Egypt declined and was invaded.

Objectives

- Describe how religious beliefs shaped the lives of ancient Egyptians.
- Understand how Egyptians viewed the afterlife.
- Explain how the Egyptians organized their society.
- Outline the advances that the Egyptians made in learning, the arts, sciences, and literature.



Terms and People

- **Amon-Re** – the great lord of the Egyptian gods
- **Osiris** – Egyptian god of the dead and judge of souls seeking admission to the afterlife
- **Isis** – wife of Osiris; taught women to grind corn, spin flax, weave cloth, and care for children
- **Akhenaton** – Pharaoh Amenhotep IV; sought unsuccessfully to establish Aton as chief god
- **mummification** – the preservation of dead bodies by embalming and wrapping them in cloth

Terms and People (continued)

- **hieroglyphics** – a writing system in which symbols or pictures represent objects, concepts, or sounds
- **papyrus** – a plant used to make a paperlike writing material used by Egyptian scribes
- **decipher** – figure out the meaning
- **Rosetta Stone** – a stone that contained text in hieroglyphics, demotic script, and Greek, used by Jean Champollion to decipher hieroglyphics



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

Religious beliefs about gods, values, and life after death affected the daily lives of ancient Egyptians. Scribes used one of the world's earliest forms of writing to record information.

Scholars and artists made advances in science, art, and literature.

Life in Egypt was shaped by beliefs about gods, values, and life after death.



The god Horus leads Hunefer to Osiris for judgment.

Even pharaohs, revered as gods themselves, were subject to the judgment of Amon-Re.

The pharaohs received their right to rule from the chief god, Amon-Re.

People, however, related most to **Osiris** and **Isis**, whose story of jealousy and love was most human.

Osiris was murdered by his jealous brother Set, who scattered his body throughout Egypt.

Isis gathered him together, but since he was no longer alive he became judge of souls going to the afterlife.

Osiris and Isis promised eternal life, even to lowly peasants, if they proved worthy.



- Dead souls were ferried across a lake of fire to the **Hall of Osiris** for judgment.
- Sinners were fed to the crocodile-shaped **Eater of the Dead**.
- Worthy souls entered the **Happy Field of Food** to live in bliss.

Egyptians relied on *The Book of the Dead* for advice to guide their dangerous journey through the underworld.



The god Anubis weighs Hunefer's heart against a feather.

The god Horus leads Hunefer to Osiris for judgment.

Osiris

Egyptians believed that the afterlife was much like life on Earth.

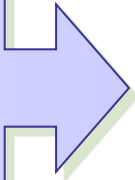
- They buried the dead with everything needed for the afterlife.
- Mummification preserved the body for use in the afterlife.

Embalmers removed the internal organs, filling the body cavity with linen and drying powder. The body was wrapped in strips of linen and placed in the coffin.

Pharaohs of the New Kingdom were buried in the Valley of the Kings.

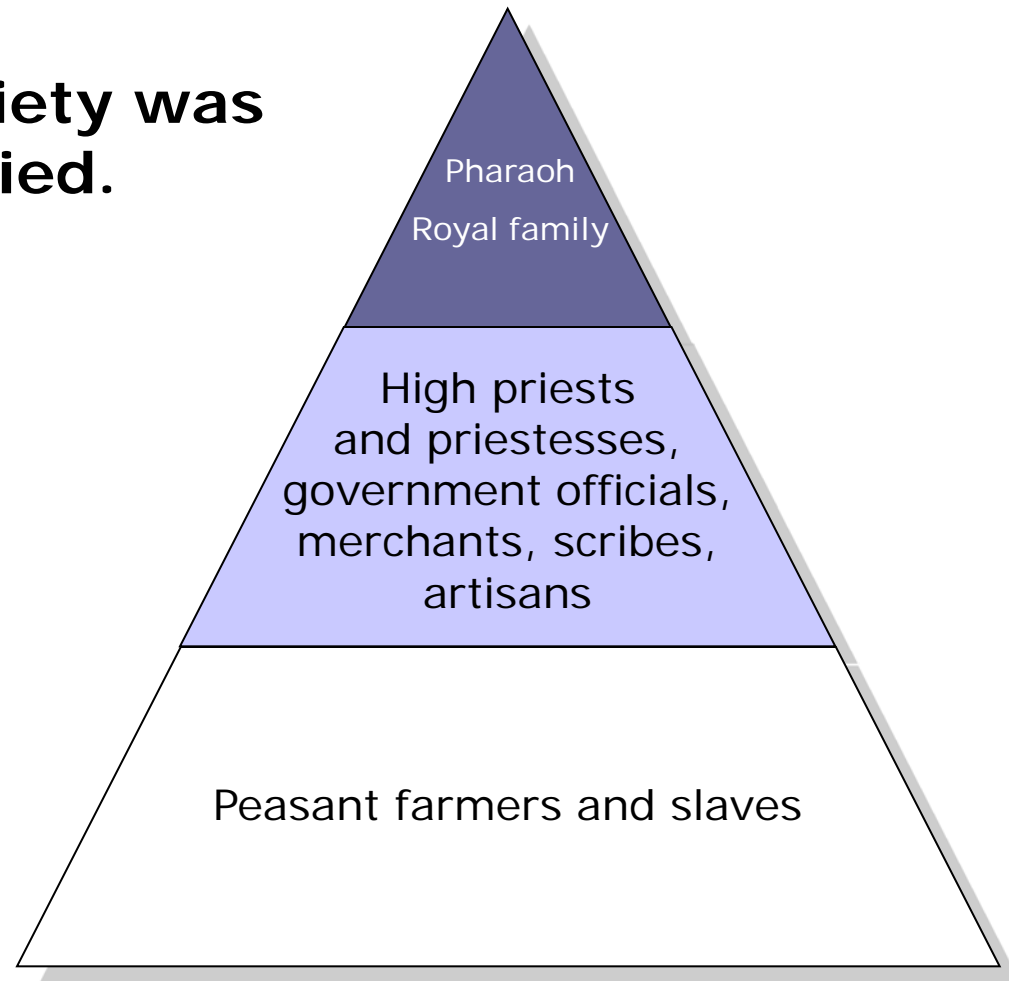
Over time, robbers looted most of the
pharaohs' tombs.

In 1922, archaeologist
Howard Carter unearthed
the untouched tomb of
the young pharaoh,
Tutankhamen.



Archaeologists
learned a great
deal from the
huge wealth of
items buried
with "King Tut."

Egyptian society was highly stratified.



Most Egyptians were farmers.

Men worked the fields. In the off-season, they worked on the pharaoh's construction projects.

Women also worked in the fields, raised the children, collected water, cleaned, and cooked.

Egyptian society also included many slaves.

In the New Kingdom social classes became more fluid as trade and warfare increased.



- Foreign conquest brought more riches to Egypt.
- Trade helped a growing merchant class.
- Artisans created more fine furniture, fabrics, and jewelry for the palaces and tombs of nobles.

**Egyptian women enjoyed greater rights than
in other ancient civilizations.**

- Women could inherit property, go into business, obtain a divorce, and go to court.
- Women entered the priesthood serving goddesses.
- However, women could not become scribes or hold government jobs.

Educated scribes played a central role in Egyptian society.

Scribes:










Recorded ceremonies, taxes, and gifts

Served government officials and the pharaoh

Often acquired additional skills in mathematics, medicine, or engineering

Scribes chiseled official histories into stone, but everyday writing was done with reed pens and ink on strips of paperlike **papyrus**.

Scribes developed a system of writing using symbols and pictures called **hieroglyphics**.

Meaning	Hieroglyphic Symbol	Hieratic Symbol	Demotic Symbol
Fox skins tied together			
Stone jug			
Roll of papyrus			

A cursive form, hieratic script, and later demotic script, used simplified symbols.

**Over time,
the meaning
of hieroglyphics
was lost.**

For centuries no one could read the mysterious writing on Egyptian monuments.

In the 1800s, Jean Champollion learned to **decipher** hieroglyphics using the **Rosetta Stone**, a small stone that had a passage repeated in hieroglyphics, demotic script, and Greek.

Egyptians were knowledgeable about the human body. Egyptian doctors:

- Learned about the body from mum-mification
- Performed complex operations
- Diagnosed many diseases
- Prescribed medicines from plants such as anise, castor beans, and saffron, which are still used today

Egyptians developed advanced knowledge of **math** and **science**.

- Priest **astronomers** mapped the stars and designed a 12-month calendar similar to ours today.
- **Geometry** was developed to survey land and redraw boundaries washed out by annual floods.
- Large construction projects required development of advanced skills in **engineering** and geometry

A rich legacy of stylized Egyptian art remains.



- Statues, wall paintings, and carvings showed everyday life.
- Size was used to show a person's importance.
- People were depicted in profile, with their eyes and shoulders facing the viewer.
- Humans with animal heads represented special qualities.

Objectives

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



Terms and People

- **monotheistic** – believing in one god
- **Torah** – the most sacred Jewish text; includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible
- **Abraham** – according to the Torah, man considered the father of the Israelite people
- **covenant** – a promise and agreement
- **Moses** – according to the Torah, the Israelite believed to have led the Israelites' exodus from Egypt

Terms and People (continued)

- **David** – the second king of Israel, who united the 12 tribes into a single nation
- **Solomon** – son of David, a king known for his wisdom and judgment
- **patriarchal** – relating to a society where men hold the greatest legal and moral authority
- **Sabbath** – a holy day for rest and worship
- **prophet** – a spiritual leader who interprets God's will

Terms and People (continued)

- **ethics** – moral standards of behavior
- **Diaspora** – the spreading out to new regions of the Jewish people that began with the Babylonian captivity



How did the worship of only one god shape Judaism?

The present-day nation of Israel lies on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. About 4,000 years ago, the ancient Israelites developed the religion of Judaism, which became a defining feature of their culture.

Today, Judaism is one of the world's major faiths.

The ancient Israelites, or Hebrews, established the first **monotheistic** religion.



They believed in one all-knowing, all-powerful God who was present everywhere.

In their view, each event in history represented part of God's plan for the people of Israel. All of these events and the laws were recorded in the **Torah**, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

The oldest surviving texts of the Hebrew Bible were found in a set of caves in 1947.



The 2000 year-old Dead Sea Scrolls were printed on papyrus and had been stored in clay jars.

The caves of Qumran, where the scrolls were found.

The Bible says that **Moses** renewed the Israelites' covenant with God.

Famine had forced them to leave Canaan and live in Egypt, where they were enslaved.

According to the Book of Exodus, Moses told the Jews that God was rewarding their faithful obedience. He led them out of Egypt, and for 40 years they roamed the deserts of Canaan.

About 1000 B.C. King David united 12 feuding Jewish tribes and established Israel.

His son, King Solomon, sought to build Jerusalem into an impressive capital.

- Solomon completed a temple dedicated to God that was begun by David.
- He became famous for his wisdom and understanding.
- He negotiated with powerful empires in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Israel declined after Solomon's death in 922 B.C.

Southern Israel split off and became Judah.

722 B.C.—the Assyrians captured Israel.

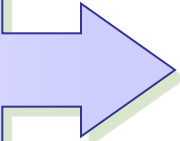
589 B.C.—Babylon captured Judah.

539 B.C.—Persia freed the Israelites.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon forced many into exile and destroyed the temple during the time called the **Babylonian Captivity**.

Judaism focused on law and morality.

The Torah is sometimes called the **Books of the Law**.



It deals with matters from cleanliness to crime, and establishes moral principles.

Israelite society was **patriarchal**. The oldest male was the head of the household. He arranged marriages for his daughters.

Judaism taught an ethical world view.

Morality was guided by the Ten Commandments.

The first four outlined religious duties to God, such as reserving a holy day for rest and worship.

The rest outlined behavior toward others. They include “Honor your father and mother” and “You shall not kill.”

Spiritual leaders such as Isaiah and Jeremiah periodically emerged.

- These **prophets** taught a strong code of moral **ethics** or personal standards of behavior.
- They urged civil justice, teaching that all people were equal before God.
- The rich and powerful were called upon to protect the weak.

Unlike other ancient societies, the Jews saw their leaders as human and equally bound by all of God's laws.

For 500 years, beginning with the Babylonian Captivity, Jews were spread throughout the empires that controlled their land.

- During this **Diaspora**, many remained in small communities living by their laws and traditions.
- Many faced persecution, but survived and maintained their faith.

Judaism's unique contributions to religious thought heavily influenced the rise of two later monotheistic religions, Islam and Christianity.