

River Valley Civilizations

Nile

Tigris and Euphrates

Yangtze and Huang He

Indus and Ganges

Tigris and Euphrates Rivers 2500 BC

- Part of Mesopotamia or Fertile Crescent
- Means “Land between the Rivers “



Sumerians Arrived on the Scene

- Built irrigation ditches to supply water to their fields and allowed them to produce surplus crops
- Set up trading network trading grain, cloth and crafted tools
- Created city-states led by priests
- Practiced religion of many gods (polytheism)



Sumerian Culture

- Developed arithmetic and geometry and a number system of base 60
- Architectural innovations included the development of arches, columns, ramps and pyramid structures called ziggurats



Sumerian Culture

- Developed system of writing called cuneiform
- Created first empire in the region
- Developed bronze tools and weapons



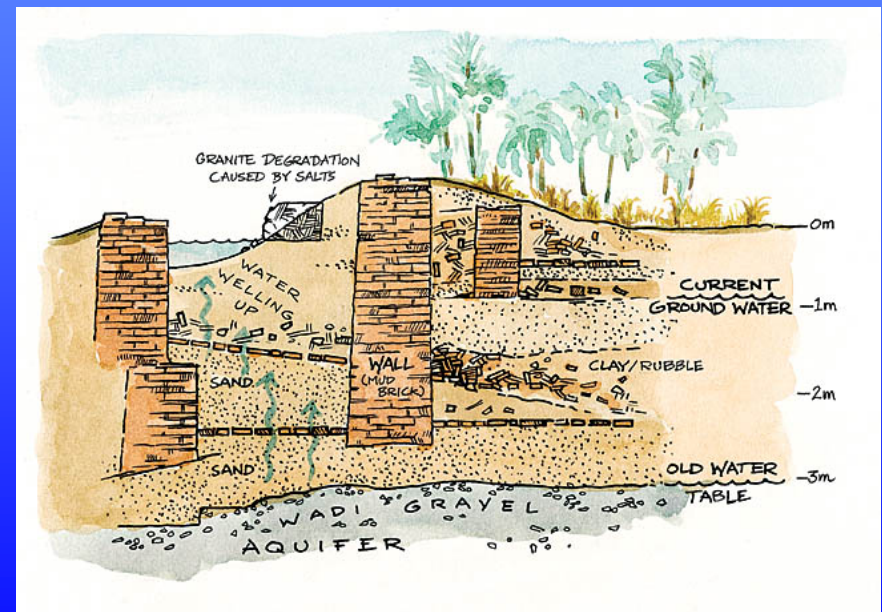
Nile River

- The Nile river flooded annually like clock work
- The flooding brought fresh silt to the fields and deltas of the Nile river valley



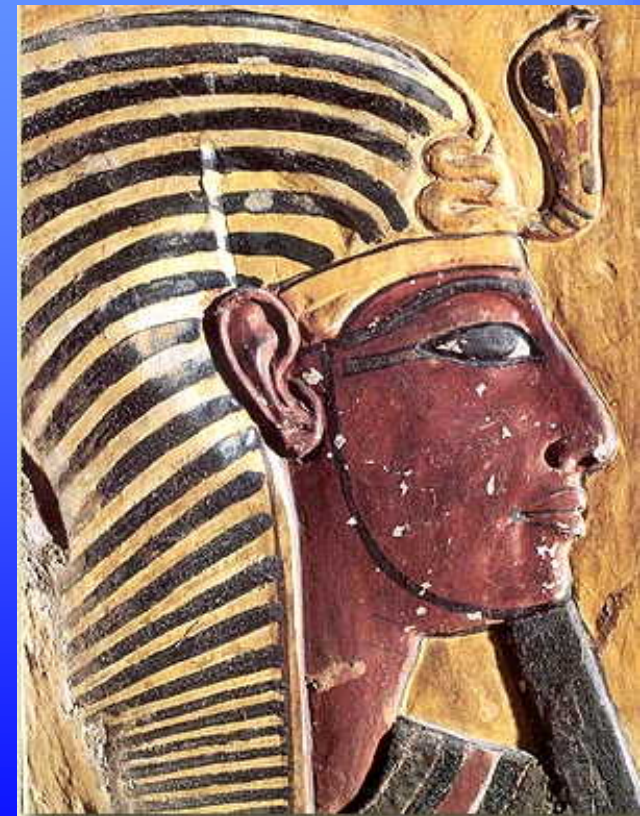
Egyptians 3200 BC

- Utilized a system of ditches to irrigate their crops from the Nile river, growing wheat and barley
- Egypt consisted of two kingdoms, the Upper and the Lower Kingdoms
- Egyptian pharaohs ruled as gods in a government system where the god-kings were all-powerful
- The system of authority was based on religious authority and called a theocracy



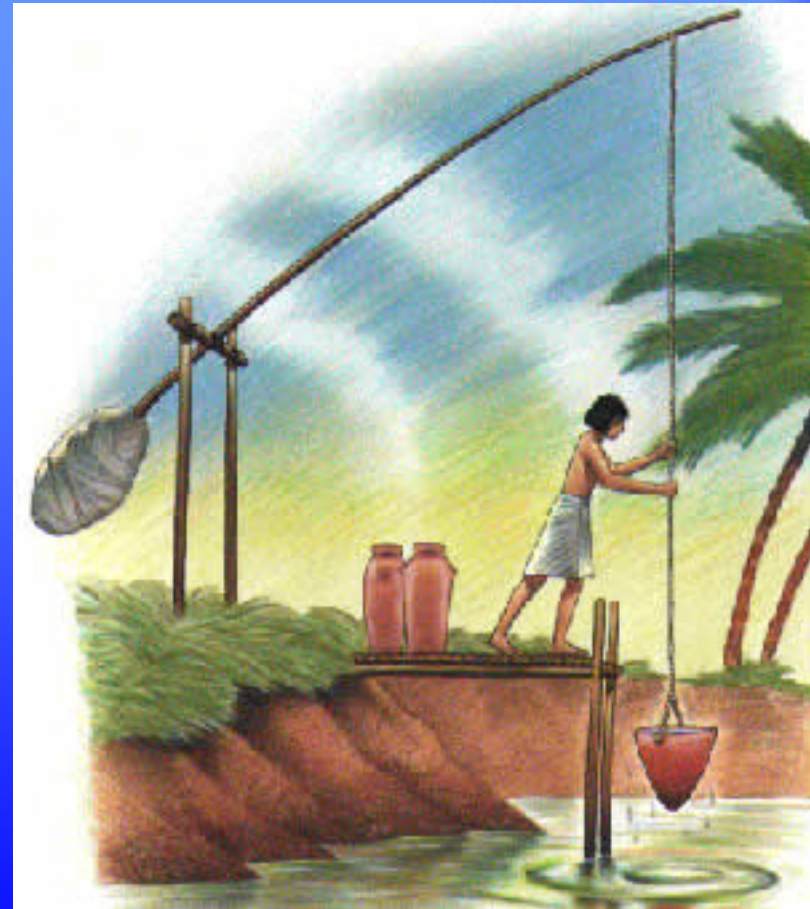
Egyptian Culture

- Pharaohs and Egyptian culture believed the king ruled after death
- They built immense structures, the Pyramids, as the final resting places of the Pharaohs
- Egyptian religion was polytheistic and believed in an after-life
- Pharaohs were mummified for their next life
- Wealth and splendor of Egyptian culture created beautiful works of art made of gold, silver, ivory, glass and precious stones
- Egyptian culture allowed for division of labor that created many artisans and specialized workers
- Egyptians developed a system of writing called pictographs that evolved into the more familiar Egyptian hieroglyphics
- Egyptians even developed a type of paper called papyrus



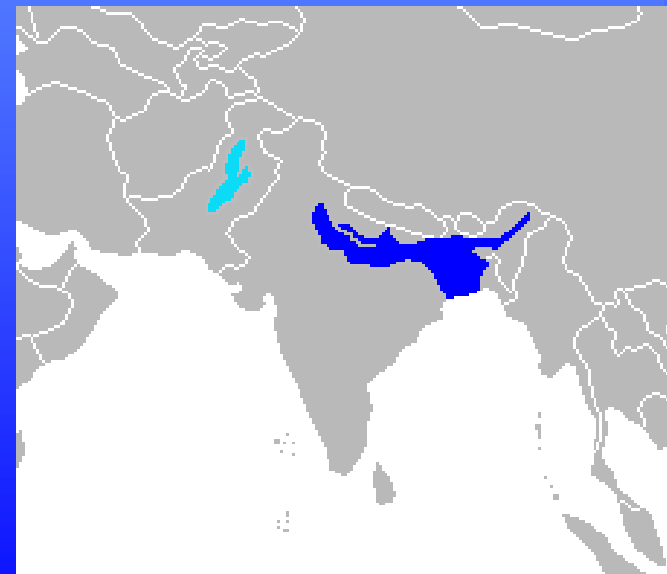
Egyptian Science and Technology

- Developed a calendar that kept track of the Nile flood times
- Developed a system of writing numbers
- An elaborate system of doctors and medicine
- Developed water craft used to trade up and down the Nile river



Indian Sub-continent Indus and Ganges Rivers

- Made up a large fertile flood plain the Northern India and present day Pakistan
- Seasonal monsoon rains brought predictable floods to the river systems
- Annual floods brought rich deposits of soil over a wide area



Farming Begins Along These Rivers

- Early cultures used the water resources of the two rivers to irrigate their fields and produce crop surpluses
- 2500 BC first cities emerge in this region



Harappa Culture

- Developed written language
- Division of labor within the culture
- Ruled as a theocracy
- Conducted thriving trade



China

Yangtze and Huang He River Systems

- First civilization of China developed along these rivers
- Growing rice and wheat
- First settlement 2000 BC
- Developed flood control and irrigation projects



Xi and Shang Dynasties

- Developed first civilizations in China's river valley settlements
- Developed Chinese culture and started division of labor
- Spiritual or religious beliefs were closely related to family
- Developed writing
- Developed art and architecture

