

- D. The Sumerians relied on agriculture and trade. Artisans made textiles and pottery. Metalworkers advanced their craft by adding tin to copper, making bronze. Craftsmen utilized the wheel for trade-carts to make transportation of goods more efficient and for the potter's wheel. (ride clip)
- E. They transformed pictographs (writing using pictures) into **cuneiform** (writing using a wedge shaped stylus on a clay tablet). Men skilled in writing became scribes who held some of the most important positions in society. The Sumerians introduced a number system based on 60, which, added to their use of a sundial, gave us time measurements. p.11

Egypt. "Along the Banks of the Nile" p.14

A. Two Unifiers.

1. The Nile River, the world's longest river, was the center of Egyptian life and history. Annual flooding of the Nile brought rich, fertile soil establishing an agricultural foundation for early Egyptian economy. It also added to a natural defensive barrier from would-be attackers. (The deserts in the west and east; the **cataracts** [series of waterfalls] of the river itself.)
2. Religion. Originally, each city had their own gods; however, as a common culture spread throughout neighboring areas, certain gods became honored above others. The polytheistic Egyptians viewed their deities as gods of the sun or gods of the land. Each god assumed different forms and roles. Some were depicted as man (like Ra, the sun-god) and some were depicted as combinations man and animals (like Ra, the sun-god).

- B. Three Kingdoms. Once Menes united Upper (the southern part) and Lower (the northern part) Egypt, pharaohs established dynasties (a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family). The Egyptian kingdoms represented periods of long-term stability under strong leadership, freedom from invasion, great building projects, and rich cultural activity.