1. **The Quest for Order**
   1. Mesopotamia: "The land between the rivers"
      1. Sumer
         1. Sumerians migrated to Sumer, 5000 B.C.E., built irrigation networks
         2. Became dominant by 3000 B.C.E.
         3. Other inhabitants, mostly Semites - Akkadian, Hebrew, Aramaic, Phoenician
      2. Sumerian city-states
         1. A dozen cities dominated the area from 3200 to 2350 B.C.E.
         2. Internal and external pressures promoted cities to become states
         3. Importance of government in irrigation and self-defense
      3. Sumerian Kings
         1. Earliest governments: assemblies of prominent men
         2. 3000 B.C.E., all cities were ruled by kings in cooperation with nobles
         3. All cities were city-states, autonomous one to another
   2. Egypt: "The Gift of the Nile"
      1. The Nile River
         1. Reliable water supplies and rich mulch: Beneficial conditions for agriculture
         2. Agriculture began before 5000 B.C.E.
         3. Agricultural communities appeared along the Nile, 4000 B.C.E.
      2. Unification of Egypt
         1. State emerged through Menes' conquest, 3100 B.C.E.
         2. Important cities: Memphis, Thebes, Tanis
         3. Centralized state ruled by the pharaoh, the god-king
      3. The pyramids
         1. Royal tombs, mostly constructed during the Old Kingdom
         2. Enormous monuments, can be seen today at Giza, near Cairo
         3. The largest is the pyramid of Khufu
   3. The Course of Empire
      1. Sargon of Akkad (2370-2315 B.C.E.)
         1. Leader of the Semitic people from northern Mesopotamia
         2. Organized a coup against the king, 2334 B.C.E.
         3. Conquered Sumerian cities of Mesopotamia
         4. Sargon's empire lasted for several generations, collapsed in 2100 B.C.E.
      2. Hammurabi (re. 1792-1750 B.C.E.) and the Babylonian Empire
         1. Babylonian Hammurabi, "King of the four quarters of the world"
         2. His dynasty dominated Mesopotamia until 1600 B.C.E.
         3. Devised the most extensive Mesopotamian law code
         4. Empire fell under the invasion of the Hittites, 1595 B.C.E.
      3. The Egyptian New Kingdom
         1. Ahmosis, founder of New Kingdom, expelled the Hyksos, 1550 B.C.E.
         2. Expanded to Palestine and Syria
         3. Pharaoh Tuthmosis III, launched 17 campaigns in Palestine and Syria
      4. The Assyrian empire
         1. A hardy people from northern Mesopotamia, began conquest by 1000 B.C.E.
         2. Empire included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, much of Anatolia, and most of Egypt, 8th-7th centuries B.C.E., collapsed in 612 B.C.E.
      5. Nebuchadnezzar and the New Babylonian empire
         1. After Assyrian empire, Mesopotamia fell under New Babylonian empire
         2. Babylon, the most luxurious city
2. **The Development of Complex Societies**
   1. Economic Specialization and Trade
      1. Bronze metallurgy
         1. Alloy of copper and tin, discovered about 3000 B.C.E.
         2. Bronze weapons were developed first, bronze farming tools appeared later
         3. Egyptians embraced bronze after the 17th century B.C.E.
      2. Iron metallurgy: discovered after 1000 B.C.E. by Mesopotamian craftsmen
      3. The wheel: Used by Sumerians probably for centuries before 3200 B.C.E.
      4. Shipbuilding: Sumerians and Egyptians built watercraft by 3500 B.C.E.
      5. Long-distance trade
         1. Trade between Mesopotamia and Egypt, as early as 3500 B.C.E.
         2. 2300 B.C.E., Sumerian trade with Harappan society (north India)
         3. In Babylonian times, Mesopotamians traded with peoples in all directions
         4. Surviving evidence shows great volume of trade
   2. The Emergence of Stratified Societies
      1. Social distinctions: much more sharply defined than in neolithic times
      2. Mesopotamian kings
         1. Royal status became hereditary
         2. Legends portray some kings as offsprings of gods (e.g., Gilgamesh)
      3. Temple communities
         1. Priestly elites: intervened with gods to ensure good fortune of communities
         2. Received offerings from city inhabitants
         3. Owned large tracts of lands and workshops
         4. Functioned as banks and charities
      4. Other social classes
         1. Free commoners: peasants, craftsmen, or other professionals
         2. Dependent clients: worked on other people's lands
         3. Slaves: mostly domestic servants, some worked in fields
      5. Egyptian society
         1. Pharaoh as a supreme central ruler
         2. Military elite and bureaucrats were more important than nobles
         3. Also had priests, commoners, and slaves
   3. The Construction of Patriarchal Societies
      1. Patriarchal societies as seen from Hammurabi's laws
      2. Women's roles
         1. Despite their subordinate legal status, women had their influence
            1. Women as regents for young rulers, e.g., Queen Hatshepsut
            2. A few women served as high priestesses and scribes
            3. Women as midwives, shopkeepers, brewers, bakers, textile makers
         2. Mesopotamia saw decline of women's status in the 2nd millennium B.C.E.
            1. Virginity of brides and chastity of women were emphasized
            2. Married women began to wear veils from 1500 B.C.E.
3. **Writing and the Formation of Sophisticated Cultural Traditions**
   1. The Origins of Writing
      1. Cuneiform writing appeared in Mesopotamia around 2900 B.C.E.
      2. Hieroglyphic and hieratic scripts were used in Egypt
   2. Education, Literacy, and Learning
      1. Education and literacy were essential for smooth functioning of societies
         1. Educated individuals became scribes or government officials
         2. Priests, physicians, or some other professionals were also literate
         3. *The Satire of the Trades*, described privileged life of a scribe
      2. Astronomy and mathematics
         1. Both sciences were important for agricultural societies
         2. Mesopotamian conventions: 12 months in a year, sixty minutes in an hour
      3. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the best known reflective literature of Mesopotamia
         1. Adventure story about Gilgamesh and his friend Enkidu
         2. Themes: friendship, human relation to gods, meanings of life and death
   3. The Origins of Organized Religion
      1. Community gods of Mesopotamian cities
         1. Each city held one deity in especially high esteem
         2. Temples were prominent features of urban landscapes, e.g., the ziggurats
      2. Amon-Re of Egypt
         1. Combined cult of Re, the sun god, and Amon, the air god
         2. The massive temple at Heliopolis (near Memphis)
      3. Akhenaten
         1. The god Aten, a challenge to Amon-Re, championed by Pharaoh Amenhotep IV, who renamed him self Akhenaten in honor of his preferred deity
         2. Aten might represent the world’s first monotheism
         3. After Pharaoh Amenhotep IV died, Amon-Re regained domination
      4. The quest for immortality and mummification
         1. Egyptians' practice of mummification
         2. Common to pharaoh, officials, and wealthy individuals
      5. Cult of Osiris
         1. Associated with immortality
         2. Individuals who observed high moral standards deserved immortality
         3. After death, individuals faced judgments of Osiris
4. **The Broader Influence of Mesopotamian and Egyptian Societies**
   1. Mesopotamian Influence on the Hebrews and the Phoenicians
      1. The Hebrews
         1. Pastoral nomads, between Mesopotamia and Egypt, 2000 B.C.E.
         2. Close relation with Sumerians, part of Mesopotamian tradition
      2. Moses and monotheism
         1. Hebrews migrated to Egypt, 18th century B.C.E.
         2. Moses led Hebrews to Palestine, and established a kingdom, 1300 B.C.E.
         3. From 1000 to 930 B.C.E., dominated Syria and Sinai peninsula
         4. Built the cosmopolitan capital city at Jerusalem
         5. Moses taught only one supreme god, Yahweh, the creator of the world
         6. A single god, scriptures, and moral concerns became Hebrews' identity
      3. The Phoenicians
         1. Lived between the Mediterranean and Lebanon
         2. Turned to industry and trade because of their meager lands
         3. By 2500 B.C.E., dominated trade in the Mediterranean basin
         4. Established colonies in Cyprus, Sicily, Spain, north Africa from 1200 B.C.E.
         5. Adopted Mesopotamian cultural traditions
      4. Alphabetic writing of the Phoenicians
         1. Simplified cuneiform by devising 22 symbols, about 1500 B.C.E.
         2. Spread alphabetic writing throughout the Mediterranean
         3. Greeks modified Phoenician alphabet and added vowels
         4. Romans later adapted Greek alphabet and passed it to European peoples
         5. Egyptians also learned alphabetic writing from the Greeks
   2. Egyptian Influence in Sub-Saharan Africa
      1. Nubia
         1. Located in the southern part of sub-Saharan Africa
         2. Poor in agriculture but rich in gold, ivory, ebony, gems
         3. Adopted Egyptian cultural traditions
      2. Kush
         1. Nubians established the kingdom of Kush, the 1st millennium B.C.E.
         2. Invaded Egypt and imposed Nubian rule, 750 B.C.E.
         3. Assyrian conquerors drove the Kushites out of Egypt, 664 B.C.E.
         4. Moved to the south, received less Egyptian influence
      3. Iron metallurgy
         1. Nubians foged iron tools and weapons as early as the 9th century B.C.E.
         2. Iron metallurgy soon spread throughout much of Africa