Time Line of Recorded History

Ancient Egyptian Civilization

3000 B.C. Recorded history began
Kings ruled in Ancient Egypt (later called Pharaohs)

2900 B.C.

2800 B.C.

B.C. means "before Christ." In the Gregorian calendar, the years before Christ's birth are counted backwards. 3000 B.C. is almost 5000 years ago. **B.C.E.** "before common era" may also be used.

2700 B.C. First books, papyrus scrolls (c.2700 B.C.)

2600 B.C.

The Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx built along the Nile River in Egypt

2500 B.C. Earliest written music (c.2500 B.C.)

2400 B.C.

2300 B.C.

2200 B.C.

2100 B.C.

2000 B.C.

The Chinese have the world's oldest living civilization, with a written history dating back to about 1500 B.C. Many great ideas and inventions, such as paper, silk cloth, gunpowder, eyeglasses and the compass, originated in China. Western people knew nothing about this rich eastern civilization until Marco Polo's visit in the 1200s.

Ancient Egyptian Civilization

2000 B.C.

1900 B.C.

1800 B.C.

1700 B.C. Jewish religion began with Abraham

1600 B.C.

1500 B.C. Hindu religion began in India

1400 B.C.

King Tutankhamen ruled in Egypt (1347–1339 B.C.)

1300 B.C.

1200 B.C.

1100 B.C.

1000 B.C.

The bars to the left of the time line show major eras, events and civilizations that lasted for a long time. Although ancient Egyptian civilization ended in about 715 B.C., people have lived in Egypt throughout history to this day.