Old Kingdom Rulers

* Old Kingdom lasted for 300 years 2600 BC to 2300 BC
* **Pharaoh**- Egyptian King- his word was followed without question
* Egypt in 2 kingdoms, Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt (delta was in Lower Egypt)
* **Narmer, aka Menes**, the king of Upper Egypt invaded Lower Egypt and united the Kingdoms. He was the first pharaoh and wore a double crown. Red and white to signify unification.
* Egyptian people followed pharaohs because
  + -they believed the unity of the kingdom depended on a strong ruler
  + -they believed the pharaoh was a god
* **Theocracy** – form of government in which God or a deity is recognized to be ruler
* **Dynasty**- a line of rulers from the same family
* He appointed officials
  + Build and repair houses
  + Make canals
  + Crops were planted
  + Taxes were collected (payments of grain)

Egypt’s Religion

* Religion very important part of Egyptian society
* Polytheistic, worshipped many gods or **deities**
* Main god was Re the sun god
* Egyptians believed in life after death and thought it would be better than on Earth
* To protect bodies, they **embalmed** them
  + Removed the body’s organs
  + Applied salts and filled with spices
  + Cleaned with oil
  + Wrapped it in strips of linen
  + Placed in a coffin
* They did this because they believed you would need your body in the afterlife
* Egyptians learned a lot about the body from this and wrote some of the world’s first medical books

The Pyramids

* **Pyramids**- mountain like structures that were built as tombs for a pharaoh’s body
* Held supplies the pharaoh would need in the afterlife
  + Clothing, furniture, jewelry, and food
* Took 1000’s of people years to make
* Each pyramid had square base with an entrance that faced north
* They studied the stars and invented the 12 month calendar
* Also invented the 10 based number system (like ours). Created fractions, mixed numbers, addition, subtraction, and division
* Cut stones out of mountains or quarries and floated them down the Nile
* **Great pyramid at Giza** is the largest and grandest. Only one of the 7 Ancient Wonders of the World still standing.
  + Built for **King Khufu**