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**