

Ancient Egypt / Egyptian number system

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By

5,500 B.C.

Nile valley & delta were occupied by groups practicing both agriculture invented near northern Mesopotamia
c. 9500 B.C. and animal husbandry.

c. 3,300 B.C.

Bronze Age (bronze = alloy of copper & tin)

Politically, Egypt consolidated into

Upper Egypt (most of the valley)

& Lower Egypt (delta & part of the valley).

c. 3150 B.C.

Unified when Upper Egypt conquered Lower Egypt

- earliest surviving inscriptions (writing!) date from here, "hieroglyphs" already in development

Traditionally, this was done by a king named

Menes, possibly the same person as Narmer

who is mentioned in some inscriptions from that period.

→ founder of the "First Dynasty"



c. 3150 - 2686 BC.

Early Dynastic Period

(2)

c. 2686 - 2181 BC.

Old Kingdom [3rd - 6th Dynasties]

- construction of the pyramids & the sphinx

c. 2181 - 2055 BC

↑
reunification
under the 9th Dynasty

First Intermediate Period

- political disunity

c. 2134 - 1690 BC.

Middle Kingdom

c. 1674 - 1549 BC.

Second Intermediate Period.

- Hyksos conquered Egypt.

c. 1549 - 1069 BC.

New Kingdom

c. 1200 BC - Iron Age

- conquered from northern Syria
to the 4th cataract on the Nile.

by about
1425 BC.

c. 1069 - 653 BC.

Third Intermediate Period

- political division, plus invasions from the
south (by Kush) & the northwest by

Libyan/Berber groups, plus the Assyrian Empire. (from Northwest)

c. 653-~~653~~ 332 BC.

Late Period

(3)

- Assyrians got pushed out followed by conquest by the Persian Empire.

c. 332 - 30 BC. Ptolemaic Period

- conquest by Macedonians under Alexander the Great
- once he died his generals split up the empire and Ptolemy established a dynasty in Egypt
- set up a capital at Alexandria (in the western delta) that became the most important centre of Hellenistic culture.

30 BC. - Roman conquest.

We'll look at the ~~base~~ hieroglyphic version of the number system. (4)

↳ pictographic writing system where some symbols developed a more abstract meaning & syllabic interpretations

Used base 10, or rather powers of 10, with different symbols for different powers.

1 -		
10 -	∩	
100 -	⊙	
1000 -	⌘	lotus flower
10000 -	∪	bent finger
100000 -	⤵	tadpole
1000000 -	⤴	person with arms raised

To write numbers repeat symbols (in groups) as necessary!

eg 352 might be written as,

⊙⊙⊙ ∩∩ ∩∩

Notice: - no place value

- no zero

Next: arithmetic using this system!