As people in the

Social Classes

People were ranked according to their jobs. **Hierarchy**

Priest/nobles

Merchants

Peasants

slaves

**Writing**

* **Pictograms –simple drawings**
* **Scribes—specially trained people kept records for priest, rulers and merchants.(women excluded)**
* **Archeologists have found treaties, tax rolls, business and marriage contracts**

Job Specialization

* As people in the urban (cities) areas developed new crafts no one person could master all the skills needed to make tools, weapons or other goods.
* Artisan—is a skilled craft workers (metal working)

Soldiers, merchants, bricklayers

**Complex Religions**

* **Most ancient people were** **polytheistic**
* **(believed in many gods)**
* **Wanted to please the gods through ceremonies, dances and prayers.**
* **To help guarantee divine help (from gods)**
* **Built temples, sacrificed animals**

**Well-organized central governments**

As cities grew they needed to maintain a food supply so needed a group to organize and plan for example--Irrigation projects

At first priests held power and then warrior kings

Claimed power to rule came from God

**Bureaucracy**—system of managing government

Through departments

**CITIES**

* Emerged after farmers began farming fertile lands along river valleys
* Produced **surplus**—leads to increase in population

**Arts, Architecture and Public works**

* **Reflect the beliefs and values of the people who created them**
* **Show the strength and power of the government**
* **Temples, palaces**

**Public Works**

* **Infrastructure—Transportation and communication systems roads, bridges, defensive walls**
* **Public works benefits the citizens of the city ---large labor force needed**