• Consonant values were assigned to twenty four of the symbols
• True hieroglyphs were used for ceremonial inscriptions, and a cursive form called hieratic was used for writing on papyrus
• Papyrus was made from a type of bulrush that grew along the Nile, and scrolls could reach lengths of up to thirty five feet long
• Preserved a list of rulers to demonstrate legitimacy
  o The earliest list is the royal Annal,s documenting pharaohs from the First Dynasty to the middle of the Fifth Dynasty
    ▪ Has Menes unifying Egypt and continues up to pharaoh Neferirkare
    ▪ Includes yearly accounts of floods, buildings, taxes, wars, etc
  o The Turin Papyrus dates to the reign of Ramses II (1279-1212) or later
    ▪ Begins with the gods, and lists the names of pharaohs
      • Organized into groups based on what city they lived in, and the length of their reign
  o Egyptian priest Manetho composed a "History of Egypt" that organized the pharaohs into dynasties

The Unification of Egypt
• The rulers of This united Egypt under the First Dynasty circa 3000 BCE under Narmer
• Often times rulers had two or more name, thus, Narmer and Menes are most likely the same person
• The unification was carried out largely peacefully, but there was some militarism
  o The Libyan palette and the Narmer palette show violence and attacks
• Egypt focused on unity, and Mesopotamia focused on centrality of individual cities
• Unity and geographical isolation meant that Egypt could develop peacefully

Egyptian Civilization
• Writing was still not sophisticatedly developed, so little information has been recorded for the first two dynasties
• Menes established the capital city Ineb-Hedj, the City of White walls, just south of where Upper and Lower Egypt met
• Egyptians called their land Kemet as an allusion to the rich soil from the Nile
• The pharaohs had a tendency to become gods in their own right
  o Had a chief wife, who was often his sister, several other wives, and concubines
  o The son, or possibly a daughter, would be chosen as a successor
  o The pharaoh ruled all of the land and everything it produced
  o The calendar was based on the ruling years of the pharaoh
  o Had a complex administrative bureaucracy