

Examine the role of writing in the development of urban bureaucratic civilisations in the Middle East from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age

Writing started and was developed by the ancient Egyptians, around 3000 BC (Sumerians of Mesopotamia) who believed it was important to communicate information, mostly about the government and religion. They used writing for thousands of years, and developed many uses for writing, where today we can find scribes on tomb walls and temples to share their beliefs and explore their culture. They developed many types of scripts, most famously the Hieroglyphic script which formed about 100 years which dissipated in approximately 300 B.C. with the reign of the Greek Ptolemies. The most famous example that is written in Egyptian hieroglyphs is the Rosetta stone, now at the British museum in London, which was created to honor Ptolemy V. At this same time, the 'Proto- Elamite' writing in Elam was being developed and is considered logo-syllabic. It was further developed in the Indus Valley and China, where the borrowed language was enhanced and re-created to make new languages. Soon after, the people of Palestine and Syria were borrowing the Egyptian 'Syllable' leaving behind the more complex symbols, during the last half of the 2nd millennium. The Greeks took final steps to separate consonants from vowels when they borrowed the writing from the Phoenicians in around 800 BC, which they then developed a full alphabetical system.