Around 3000 BC, on the northern peak of the Nile River in Egypt, the Nile River Valley Civilization started.

The Nile River flooded every year from July to November. This left new, rich soil ideal for farming for the early settlers who depended on farming.
When the civilization developed, there were many villages along the Nile River. By 3400 BC these villages became a part of two main kingdoms - **Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt**.

In 3100 a King named ‘**Narmer**’ also known as ‘**Menes**’ of Upper Egypt concurred Lower Egypt. With this, Egypt came under one central government. He built the first capital of Egypt - ‘**Memphis**’.

This was also the beginning of the First Dynasty in Egypt. A dynasty is a series of rulers from the same family.

A king had several palaces. He travelled to these palaces on royal ships on the Nile river. He had several wives and one was selected as the queen.

The king entertained people with feasts in the palace. Guests were entertained by musicians, dancers and acrobats.
Kings were referred to as ‘**Pharaohs**’. Pharaohs had absolute power over the people. They believed that when a Pharaoh died, he protected the dead and helped in rebirth.

They also believed that it was essential to preserve the dead body as a resting place for the spirit. Because of this, Mummification of the dead started.

Mummified bodies were placed in coffins. This led to the building of tombs and monuments to keep the coffins.

The coffins were made to look like the dead person as they would like to look for eternity.

Early tombs were called ‘**Mastabas**’. They were flat-roofed, rectangular structures with inward sloping sides.