

#### D. Comparing America to Ancient Egypt

1. One of the reasons why the unification of Egypt c.3000 BC is important in *American* history is almost all governments were like Egypt's until America's.
2. People in nearly every part of the world for 5000 years of history had believed that monarchy (the rule of one) was the only proper kind of government.
3. The Founding Fathers of the United States rebelled against this idea in 1776, and declared that each individual has a right to their own "life, liberty, and pursuit of and happiness."

#### E. Two Special Examples That Came Before

1. Although the American government was the first government ever made to defend individual rights, two ancient cities had made better governments before.
2. The people of the ancient Greek city of Athens had rejected monarchy c.508 BC and created the first "democracy." In their government, all the people voted in creating the laws.
3. The people of the ancient Italian city of Rome has also rejected monarchy c.509 BC and created the first "republic." In their government, people's rights were protected by laws — a constitution — that the government had to respect.
4. When the Founding Fathers created the American government in 1776, they chose to make it a *republic*.

#### F. Christianity and the Christian Calendar in an America-Centric World

1. The religion of Christianity is an important part of the world today.
2. The modern calendar begins with the birth of Jesus Christ, after whom Christianity is named, in the year 1.
3. All events before the year of Jesus's birth are marked "BC" — "before Christ."
4. All events after are marked "AD" — short for "Anno Domini" — a Latin expression that means "in the year of our Lord." (Christians sometimes refer to Jesus as "the Lord.")
5. Jesus was born and died inside the Roman Empire. Rome had conquered Greece, and Judea (where Jesus lived).
6. The story of Jesus's life was known to very few people. It took centuries for his teachings to become well known, and for Christianity to become an important religion.
7. Scientific historians tell us that the best guess for his actual year of birth is in fact 4 BC, but we don't know for sure, so we now say he was born "c.4 BC."
8. The Roman Empire collapsed in 476 AD, but Christianity survived. By the time of Christopher Columbus, over a thousand years later still, almost everyone in Europe was Christian.

9. In America today, and in the America-centric world, religion is not nearly as important as it was in Roman and early European times. but it is the religion of 30% of the people in the world. European Christians spread Christianity around the world, and their calendar continues to be used by people today.

#### G. The Most Recent Chapter in History

1. We live in the final chapter of a *five thousand year story* (so far)!
2. In this time, America is the most important country and it has decided to try to make the world a better place by acting like a policeman around the world.
3. Many people have been angered by this. In the region called the “Middle East” (between Europe and East Asia), the people want a world that is centered around the religion of Islam. America’s power is the greatest obstacle in their way.
4. Since America’s military power is so great, some Muslims (the name for people who follow the religion of Islam) have decided to use terrorism to try to reduce America’s power over them. This means they do not attack America’s military, but regular people — “civilians” — instead.
5. On September 11, 2001, Muslim terrorists attacked America and destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City, as well as other locations.
6. The attacks of “9-11,” as it is called, led to the United States conquering the countries of Afghanistan and Iraq as part of the “War on Terror,” which continues to this day.