

"All men by nature, desire to know."¹ (tllroughtout history the need to know has been a prime source of governing mens actions. This need has founded civilizations, it has started wars, and it has led man to his ultimate control of his environment 1 I shall examine the causes and developments of mathematics. Starting with early Egypt and Babylon, then on to classical Greece, and finally the 17th century through modern times; I will trace the need and development of mathematics.

"Priority in the development of mathematics belongs to Babylon, where ancient land numeration, algebra, and geometry methods existed at least from the Hammurabi dynasty, around 1700 B. C.. ,² although "Neither Egypt nor Rome advanced beyond the level of elementary practical arithmetic and mensuration." These ancient civilizations developed mostly practical mathematics, but thier effect, even upon modern mathematics, is still enormous. I shall cover both the need and the methods used in this ancient mathematics.

"There is little doubt that mathematics arose from necessity. The annual flooding of the Nile valley, for example, forced the ancient Egyptians to develop some

1 Aristotle

2 "Mathematics, History", Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 11, page 642

J Ibid