

THE HISTORY OF WRITING

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Part 1

1. What are the two reasons why the picture of a mobile phone is used here?
2. According to the lecturer, can you easily ask questions to the writer of a book you are reading?
3. What is the first definition of writing given by the lecturer?

Part 2

4. What does the lecturer call the first written symbols?
5. When did the field of writing begin, and related to what field e.g . history?
6. What was happening there at that time?

Part 3

7. What kind of things were recorded then? Give three examples.
8. In Sumeria writing started on clay tokens. Why was clay used?
9. The first 'writing', which is called pictographs, developed into the second stage signs. What do you call them? What are the characteristics of these signs?
10. What happened around 2600 BC then?

Part 4

11. In Egypt, on what material did the people write? Did they write on clay?
12. What were the two things the hieroglyphs represented?
13. What was the main use of writing in ancient times?
14. Has Linear A been 'deciphered' ? What about Linear B?
15. What is the beginning of the Western writing?

Part 5

16. According to the lecturer, the origin of the alphabet is a mixture of what two things?

17. In the Mayan Civilization the people used a mixed system of writing. What are the two systems they used?
18. How did they read the manuscript in the Mayan Civilization?

Part 6

19. Where was the first Chinese writing found?
20. What was the main content of the first Chinese writing?
21. Did the lecturer say that it was likely that the people around Babylonia travelled to China?
22. Name two most used scripts in the Japanese language.

Key

1. To remind you to switch of the mobile phone and to make you question whether it is writing or it is a picture.
2. No. You cannot always ask questions to the writer easily.
3. A system of more or less permanent marks to represent what we say, that is, our utterances.
4. Pictograms or pictographs.
5. It was in late 4th century BC, in Sumeria, a part of Mesopotamia. It began in the field of accountancy.
6. The agricultural economy was expanding, and so people needed a dependable form of records, in order to remember things.
7. Any three from the following: the amount of grain, the numbers of sheep and cattle going in and coming in, labourers (people who worked) and what they did, religion, income of temples, etc.
8. It is soft when it is damp, and so you can make an impression in it. When it dries you have a permanent impression.
9. Cuneiform. There is a long stem and a triangle at the end.
10. It developed into what we call hieroglyphics.
11. They wrote their scripts on papyrus, not on clay.
12. They represented the sound of an object or the idea of an object.
13. It was used to praise the rulers so that everybody knew how powerful the rulers were.
14. Linear A has not been deciphered yet, so we have not been able to work out what the symbols mean. Linear B has been deciphered.
15. Classical Greek; they used old symbols in a different way. It was the beginning of the alphabet.

16. The cuneiform and the Phoenician
17. Whole words called logograms and syllabograms for syllables
18. They read from left to right, and top to bottom.
19. On the bones of animals
20. Much of the first writing was about predicting the future.
21. No, she said that it was unlikely because the characters of writing are quite different.
22. Any two from Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana.