

The Invention of Writing

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Summary

This book is about how writing began and changed over the years.

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Before Reading

Think Ahead

Look at the picture and answer the questions.



1. How do French people write “hello”?
2. Where do people write words like this: Добрый день?
3. What language looks like this: こんにちは?
4. Do you see your language written above?

Vocabulary

A Read and match.

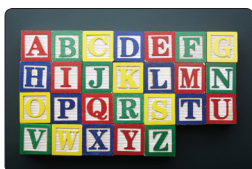
1.



•

• a. language

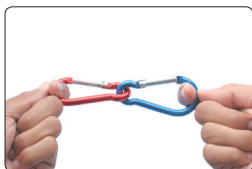
2.



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• b. symbol

3.



•

• c. clay

4.



•

• d. connect

5.



•

• e. alphabet

6.



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• f. trade

7.



•

• g. future

8.



•

• h. tablets

B Write the word for each definition.

character

example

poem

represent

system

1. _____ a thing that shows or explains an idea
2. _____ many parts that are put together to make one thing
3. _____ one written symbol for a language
4. _____ to be a symbol of something; to stand for
5. _____ a kind of writing that follows special rules (and often has rhyming words in it)

C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.

1. Some languages have the same characters, but they use them in a little different ways.
 a. clearly b. early c. only d. slightly
2. You can make marks on paper to count numbers.
 a. bones b. scripts c. towns d. units
3. Clay can be cooked in the sun to make it hard.
 a. baked b. covered c. invented d. spread
4. A picture can show a thing or a time when something happened.
 a. an event b. a mixture c. a sound d. a tool

Comprehension

A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.

- a. People wanted to know who owed them money.
- b. The Ishango bone is covered in marks to count numbers.
- c. With writing, we could write things down for others to read hundreds of years later.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

B Choose the best answer.

1. What did people make first?
 - a. Ways to count
 - b. Ways to make blogs
 - c. Ways to write languages
 - d. Ways to share emails
2. How old is the Ishango bone?
 - a. 22 years old
 - b. 220 years old
 - c. 2,200 years old
 - d. 22,000 years old
3. What did writing allow people to do?
 - a. To live in towns and cities
 - b. To write down what we say
 - c. To write our history
 - d. All of the above

C Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

- a. A picture with a letter of the alphabet
- b. An event in a farming society
- c. Marks cut into a clay tablet
- d. Hieroglyphics representing sounds and words
- e. Listening to sounds and writing them down



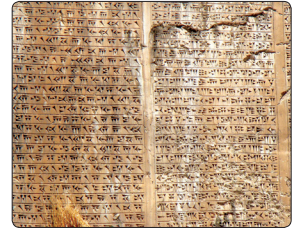
1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____

D Read each sentence. Write “T” if it is true or “F” if it is false.

1. _____ The earliest writing systems used letters to show sounds.
2. _____ Hieroglyphics was a writing system used in Egypt.
3. _____ A system with thousands of pictures for words was hard to remember.
4. _____ The first sound in the word phone is /p/.
5. _____ People wrote poems using the Sumerian cuneiform writing system.

E Complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. The use of Chinese characters _____ across Asia.
recorded spread
2. In Arabic writing, the small marks represent _____ sounds.
better vowel
3. The Thai language has five _____ in it.
points tones
4. People use the Roman _____ to write both French and German.
alphabet numbers
5. The writing system of the future may be different than _____.
everyday today

F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.

- a. _____ Hangul, the Korean writing system, was developed in the 1400s.
- b. _____ People use many different writing systems all over the world.
- c. _____ Someone in Africa made marks on a bone to create the Ishango bone.
- d. _____ The Roman alphabet was developed.
- e. _____ Writing systems were developed by Egyptian and Sumerian societies.

Think About It

A Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
_____ people have a writing system that uses three scripts: hiragana, katakana, and kanji.	The earliest writing systems were _____, which represented ideas.	Counting marks were carved onto the Ishango bone _____ years ago.	Cuneiform was the _____ writing system of cutting marks into clay tablets.	Symbols, characters, or letters were used to write down _____ sounds. This made writing systems easier to remember.

B Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned _____

_____.

Before I read this book, I knew _____

_____.

Now I also know _____

_____.