

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

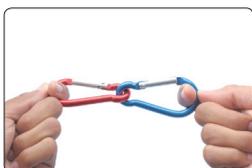
2.



•

• b. symbol

3.



•

• c. clay

4.



•

• d. connect

5.



•

• e. alphabet

6.



•

• 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 _____

_____.