

# 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

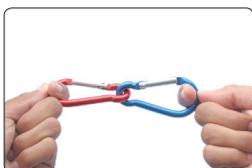
2.



•

• 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_