

Writing and Alphabets

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Period: 1

Beginning	Began around 3400BC in Mesopotamia and China Earliest writing was connected to religion and/or magic
Hieroglyphs	“priest-writing” <hr/> Ancient Egyptians Pictorial Signs
Ideograms/ Pictograms	Using pictures and/or symbols
Cuneiform	Sumerians—Mesopotamia Used for Trade Written on clay tablets “wedge-shaped” symbols Spread to: Akkadians, Babylonians, and Assyrians
Alphabet	Sound signs Phonetic Writing Connection between symbols and sounds

Writing was developed for religious purposes and trade, initially, and gradually changed from symbols which represented objects to sounds which could be combined and spoken. Writing began with the Sumerians and spread around the world.