

Writing and Communicating Theme

Period	Year Group	Content
Stone Age to Iron Age	3	<p><u>Stone Age</u> There's evidence that the first forms of written communication date all the way back to the Paleolithic Age. These early people are famous for their cave paintings that detail hunting scenes, though they also may have had religious significance. Cave paintings are the first type of recorded communication and may have led to the development of a fully-fledged written language. Symbols have been found alongside cave paintings in Europe, used repeatedly in the same clusters in different caves. Similar symbols have been found on jewellery, suggesting that there was possibly a communication system in existence 30,000 years ago.</p> <p><u>Bronze Age</u> It is believed that the art of writing began in the Bronze Age. Prior to that, people used to communicate just by singular letters and marks or symbols. But full fledged writing was invented during the Bronze Age when people probably began to understand the limitations of the pre-existing systems</p>
Egyptians	5	<p>The word hieroglyphics comes from the Greek translation 'holy writing'. You can see examples of this writing on ancient Egyptian artefacts like wall carvings, pottery and the papyrus paper. The hieroglyphs are the ancient written language which uses symbols and pictures. We've found how to read the hieroglyphics to understand how the ancient Egyptians lived.</p> <p><i>Why did they write them?</i> The ancient Egyptians thought it was important to write down all the information they could about their kings and their religion. So they made the hieroglyphs to tell people in the future what happened. The mainly used them in religious texts, on statues and in tombs.</p> <p><i>Who wrote them?</i> Not everyone could read and write the hieroglyphs; only a group of people called scribes would learn how to do it. The scribes would almost all be men but there is proof of female doctors who could also read them for understanding medical texts. To become a scribe you would need to go to a special school. At school you would learn to read and write hieroglyphic and other scripts. The children would spend hours writing on sheets of papyrus and practise on pieces of rock and pottery</p> <p><i>Where would they write them?</i> In school, in the fields, in tombs, in temples</p> <p><i>How can we read them?</i> The secret to reading the ancient Egyptian text was found in 1799 when the Rosetta stone was uncovered. It is called this because it was found in a town in Egypt with the same name. The text on the stone is thought to have been written by priests. It took twenty years to translate. It is inscribed in three parts; the top and middle texts written in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic script, and the bottom written in Ancient Greek.</p> <p>Hieroglyphs can be written from the top to the bottom of the page, or across the page just as we write. The Egyptians wrote the names of their kings and queens</p>
Romans	4	<p>Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write in Britain. Instead, information was usually passed from person to person by word of mouth.</p> <p>The Romans wrote down their history, their literature and their laws. Their language was called Latin, and it wasn't long before some people in Britain started to use it too. However, it only really caught on in the new Roman towns - most people living in the countryside stuck to their old Celtic language.</p> <p>We've still got lots of words and phrases today that come from Latin. Words like 'exit', which means 'he or she goes out', and 'pedestrian', which means 'going on foot'.</p> <p>Our coins are based on a Roman design and some of the lettering is in Latin. Written around the edge of some £1 coins is the phrase 'decus et tutamen' which means 'glory and protection'.</p>

		<p>The Roman Empire was so strong because they had the ability to communicate with the masses and within their own empire very well. Communication was what held the society together, through believing in common myths laws, and demonstrating a common bond passed down from generation to generation.</p> <p>They communicated with their people by talking to a mass amount of the public at one time (orations) while using iconography (hand gestures) that could be read from far away, where the voice would not carry. An example of a communication hand gesture is the 'V' sign, commonly known at the peace sign in our modern society. However, in Ancient Rome, it meant the number 5, which was why '5' in Roman numerals is a 'V'. Also, the gesture with the clenched fist pressed against the chest, was used to show anger in the ancient Roman civilization.</p> <p>Continuing on, another major way of communication was through writing. The Romans introduced writing to the Northern Europe for the first time, and the Latin alphabet is still used there. However, in Ancient Rome, there were only 22 letters in the alphabet. Millions of texts were written, from great stone inscriptions to private letters scrawled on wax tablets, and from elegant poems and histories on papyrus scrolls, to trade accounts scratched on broken pots</p>
Maya	4	<p>The earliest Maya writing was found in Guatemala and dates to as far back as 300BC.</p> <p>The Mayan writing system has over 800 hieroglyphs or glyphs for short. Glyphs are signs that represent a word or a sound. These could represent animals, humans, gods or abstract designs.</p> <p>At first historians didn't think that the signs represented writing at all, or at least not a complete writing system. It wasn't until the 1950s that it was proved to be a language. After that, people were able to start translating the writing the Maya left behind and learn more and more about their society and culture. Maya writing was written in columns and then read in a zig-zag way.</p> <p>They Maya had a number system too. Any number could be made using only three symbols – a dot for 1, a line for 5 and a shell sign for zero.</p> <p>The Maya wrote on lots of different things, including walls, pottery and stelae (stone pillars) but they also rite in books made of bark. Today, only four of these books (known as codices) remain.</p> <p>When Spanish missionaries came to the area in the sixteenth century, they burned each codex they could find. They believed the Maya were pagans and that their religion was against God. They wanted to erase all the evidence of the Mayan religion.</p> <p>There are four known codices left today: Grolier, Madrid, Paris and Dresden. The Paris Codex was found in Paris and contains important information about the Maya astronomical signs. It is kept at the National Library of Paris. The Dresden Codex was found in Vienna, Austria in 1759. It is the most complete of the three codices. The Grolier Codex was displayed at the Grolier Club in New York. Some historians argue that it is fake, although the fig bark paper it is written on is real. The Madrid Codex measures 22 feet in length. It is painted on both sides and contains information about religious beliefs and rituals. It is now kept in the Museo de America in Madrid. The codices that remain today tell us a lot about the Maya, but especially about their astrological knowledge. They used codices to write down their observations of the Sun, stars and moon. From this, we know that the Maya had their own calendar that was very important to them.</p> <p>The Maya had 3 separate calendars. One of these was for the solar year and had a cycle of 365 days. Another had a cycle of 260 days, with twenty periods of 13 days. The final calendar is the Long Count calendar. This was used to track longer periods of time and each cycle lasted 2,880,000 days. The Maya believed that the universe was destroyed and then created again at the end of each cycle.</p>
Greeks	6	<p>The Ancient Greeks developed an alphabet for writing. Their common language and writing was one of the things that bound the Greeks together. The Greek alphabet is still used today. It is even used in the United States where Greek letters are popular as mathematical symbols. The Greeks learned about writing and the alphabet from the Phoenicians. They took much of their alphabet from the Phoenician alphabet, but they added a few new letters. They also assigned some of the letters to vowel sounds. The Greek alphabet was the first alphabet to use vowels.</p>
Anglo Saxons	5	<p>There were two different types of writing in Anglo-Saxon times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain they used the futhork alphabet. The letters were called runes which had lots of straight lines in to make it easier to carve them onto: wood, stone or metal. - When the Anglo-Saxons became Christians they began using the Latin alphabet. Monks were usually the only people who could read and write so most books are religious works called illuminated manuscripts. <p>The story of how Christianity spread across England during Anglo-Saxon times is told in the <i>Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i>. This was written by a priest named Venerable Bede in AD731 and is thought to be the first history of Britain ever written.</p>
Vikings	5	<p>The Vikings used their own alphabet called runic, using runes and it was very different to our alphabet now. Using that alphabet they communicated with other people and themselves. Not all Vikings could read and write however, they had very special saga storytellers which would write out stories about themselves to them and other people. The Vikings main languages were Norse, Swedish and Danish but, some would speak Latin or Greek. A way that the Vikings could get in contact with other people is that they would trade items.</p>

		Between the Vikings and Anglo Saxons they communicated with some difficulty. Although they both spoke the same language, the Vikings had different words for the same thing. Also, the Vikings had different grammatical twists of the words from Anglo Saxons meaning they didn't really understand what they were saying sometimes
Victorians	6	