



Survey 1

Survey 1

Handprints and handwriting
(35,000 BCE - 0 CE)

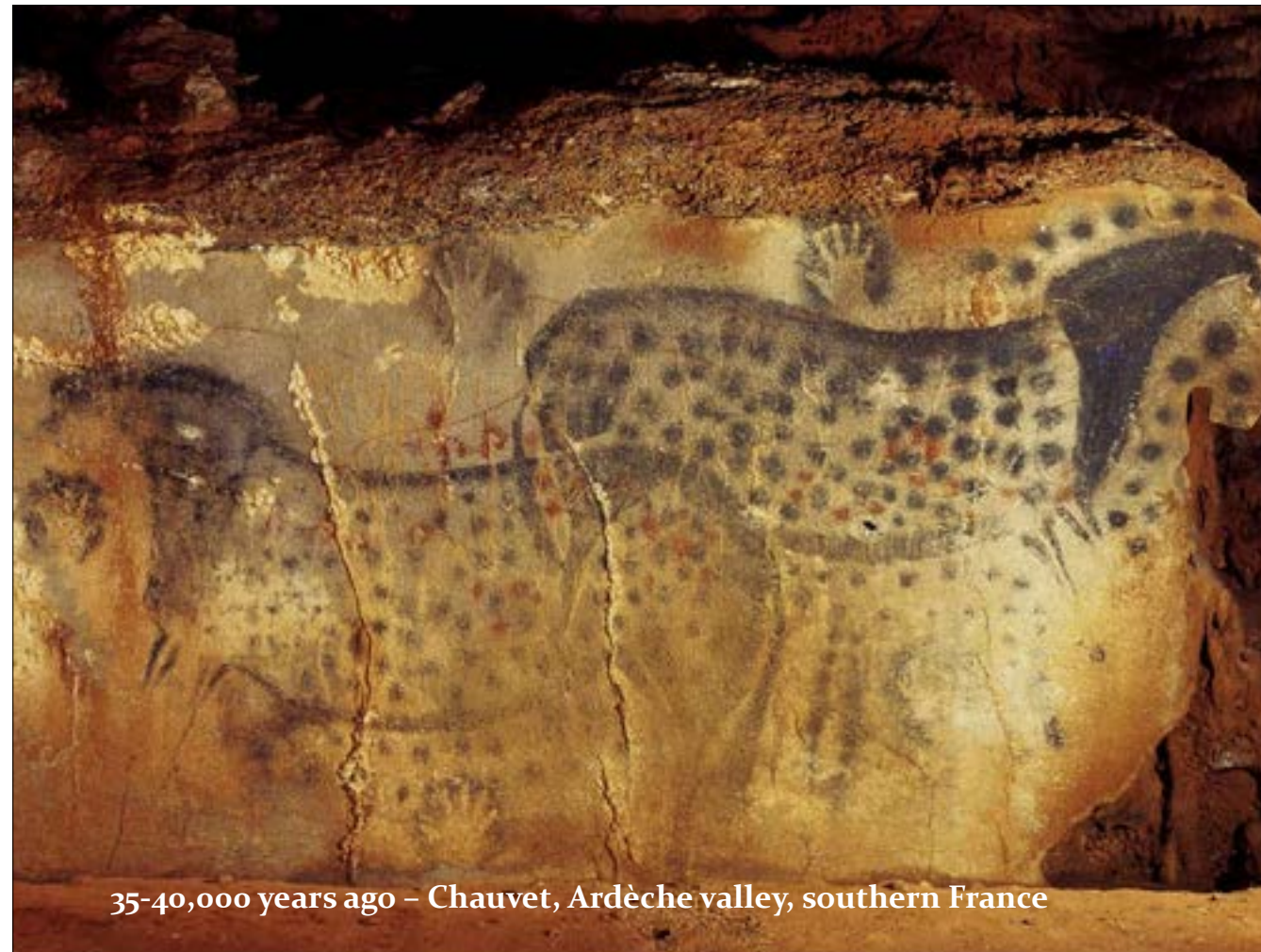


When did humans start using images as a way of story-telling and recording information?

About 35,000 years ago (Upper Paleolithic Period) man began making marks on rocks around the world.

rock art is notoriously difficult to date, so it is hard for archeologists to do so with great accuracy.

The Maros cave paintings on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi are some of the oldest in the world.



35-40,000 years ago – Chauvet, Ardèche valley, southern France

These early marks were mostly handprints and images of humans and animals, both real and mythical.

Chauvet cave paintings in the Ardèche valley in southern France



35-40,000 years old – Altamira, northern Spain

Why do you think they recorded these images?

Altamira, in Northern Spain



Rock art is generally divided into two categories, the first being paintings sites (pictographs)

This is an example of a pictograph.

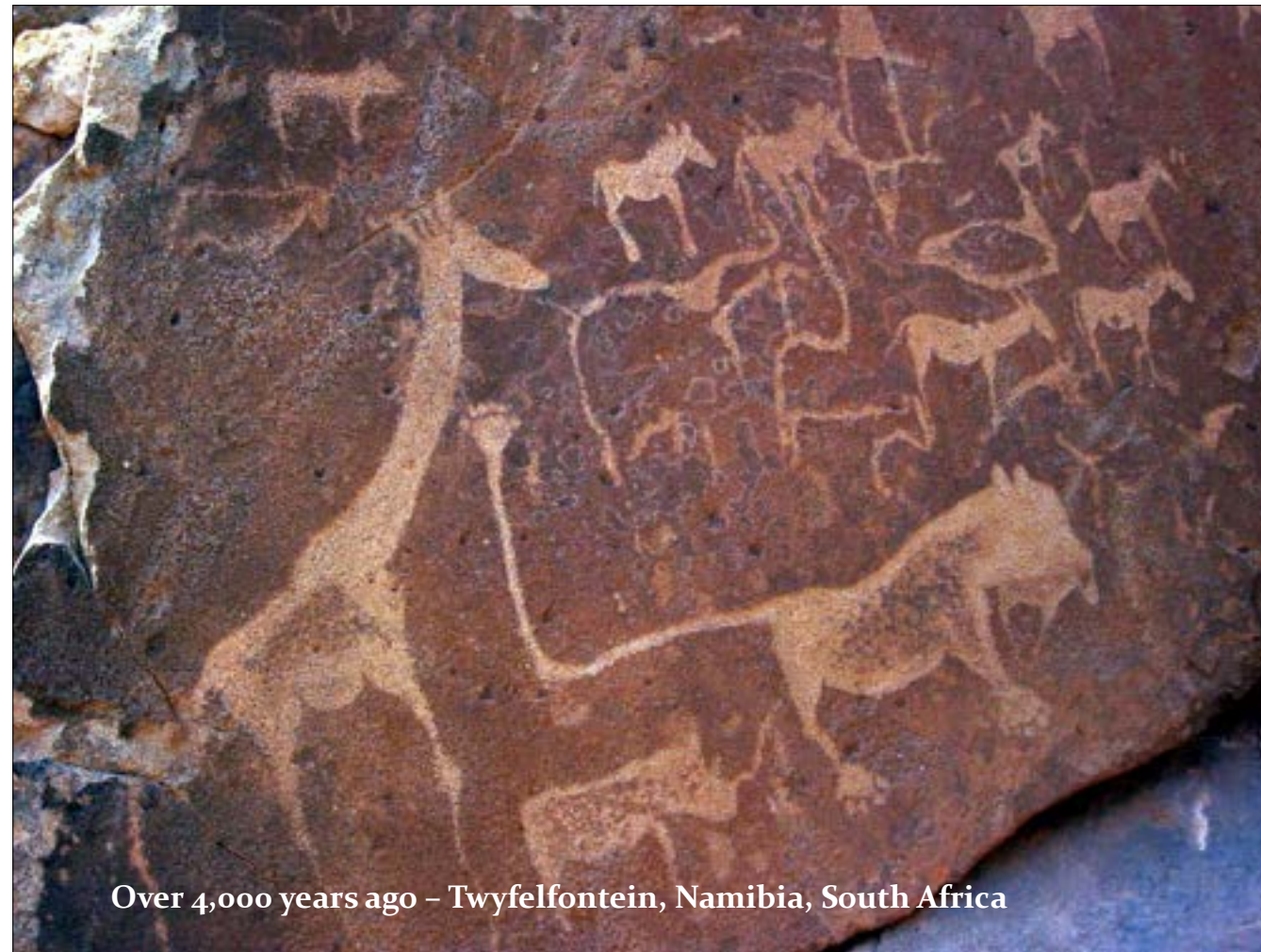
What do we mean by a pictograph?

- It is an easily understandable symbol that represents an object.

What were they made with?

- By mixing animal fats with red and yellow pigments (iron oxides), black (charcoal) and white (lime).

(Lascaux in France's Dordogne region)



The second type of rock art is carving sites (petroglyphs).

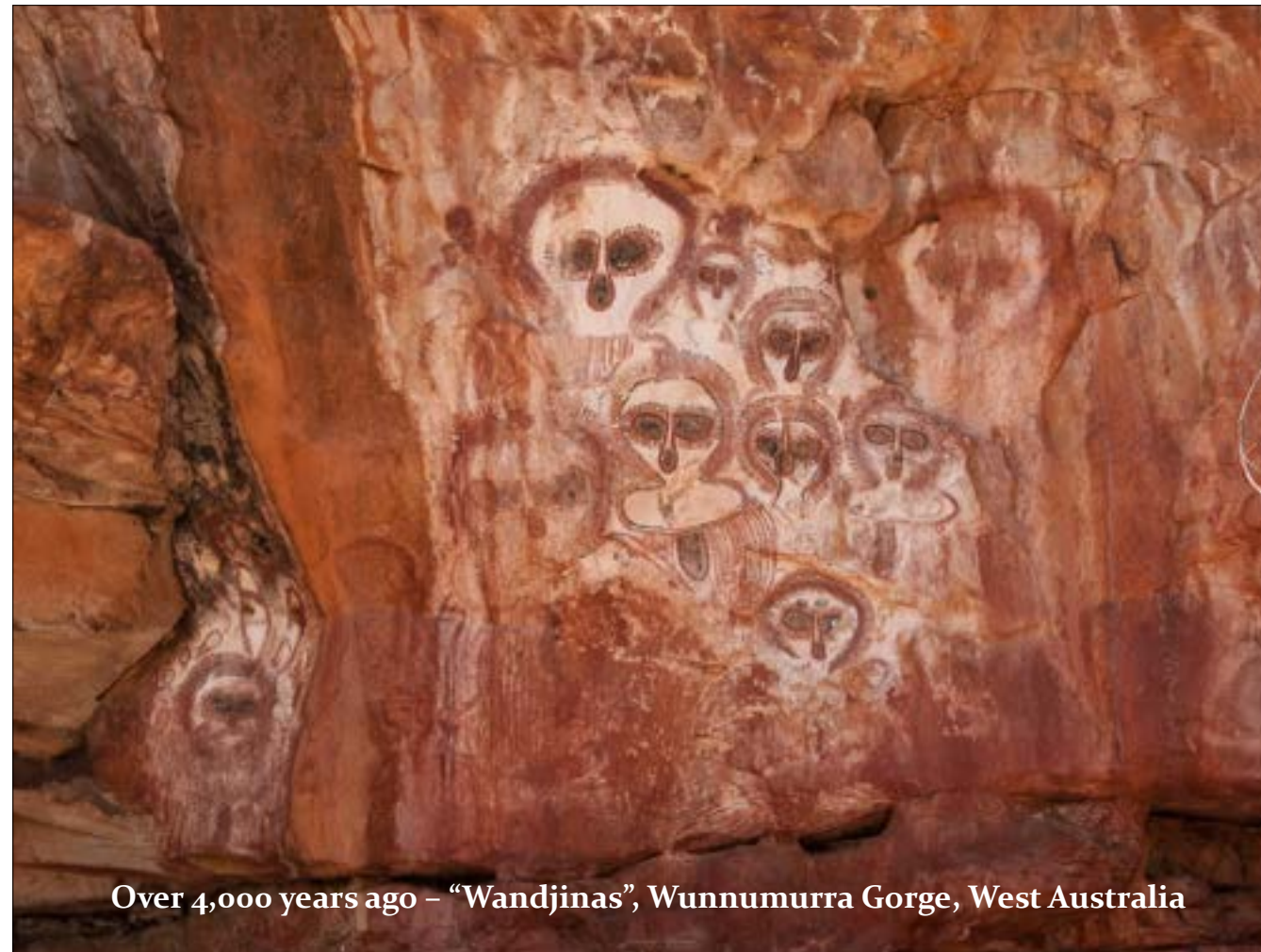
What is a glyph?

It is a mark meant to communicate something. It can be a symbol like a pictograph, or a petroglyph, or an Egyptian hieroglyph. It can also be a letter of an alphabet, or even a piece of punctuation like a period.

There is a large concentration of petroglyphs at ***Twyfelfontein in Namibia***, in what is now South Africa

It is over 4,000 years old

What is different about the types of animals being portrayed here compared to those in Europe?

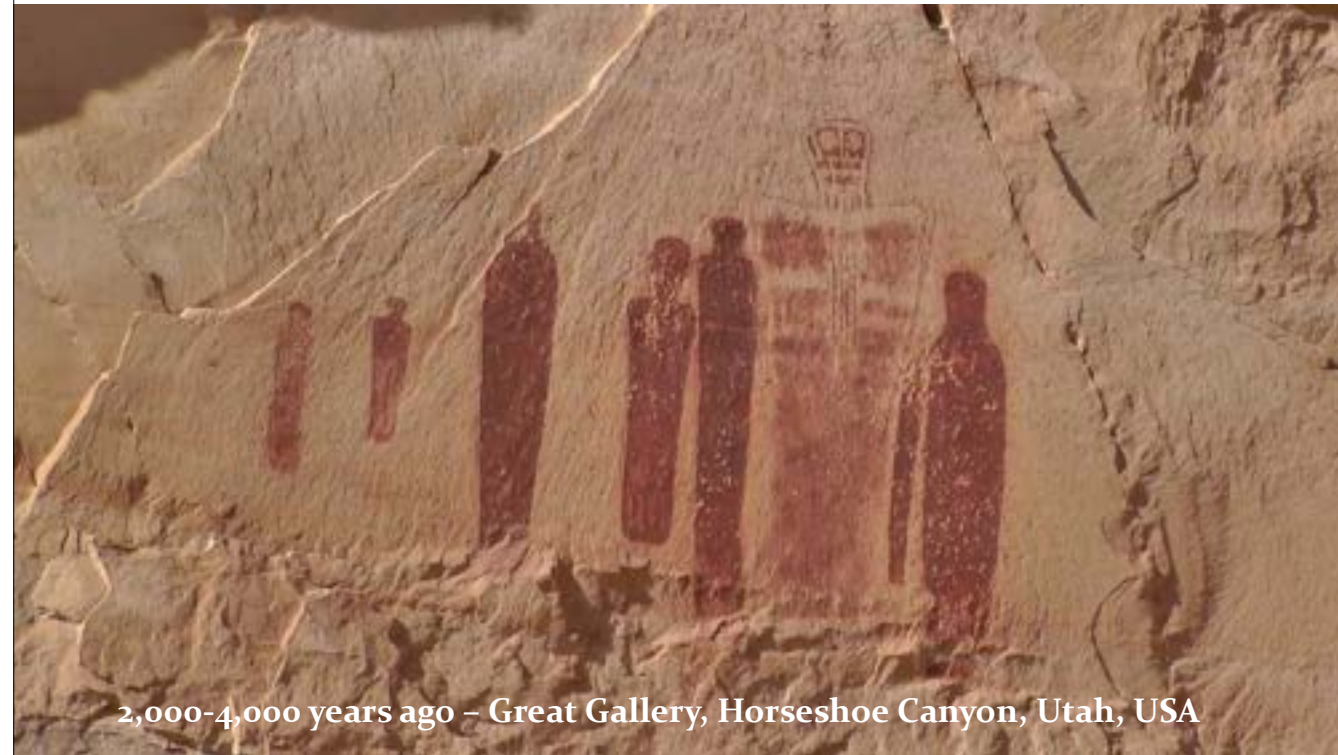


Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 60,000 years.

Unlike the images we've looked at so far, most of their rock paintings represent figures from the spiritual world.

These particular figures are called Wandjinas. They can only be seen in northern West Australia. For the people there, Wandjina is the supreme Creator and a symbol of fertility and rain. These pictographs are over 4,000 years old.

Source: What are Wandjinas? - Creative Spirits, retrieved from <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/what-are-wandjinas#toc0>



2,000-4,000 years ago – Great Gallery, Horseshoe Canyon, Utah, USA

The Great Gallery in Horseshoe Canyon (formerly known as Barrier Canyon), is around 2,000-4,000 yrs old.

As you can see, this style of pictograph from Utah has a very unique style.

Archaeologists call this rock art style the Barrier Canyon Style (the old name for this place). The style features anthropomorphic figures ***(what does anthropomorphic mean?)***

There are huge panels of pictographs in the canyon using unseen before painting techniques
a mixture of life-size and monumental figures and spirit figures, along with animals, birds, snakes, and plant images.

<https://nhmu.utah.edu/blog/2016/09/29/bold-figures-blurred-history-great-gallery-horseshoe-canyon>



(Date unknown) Fulford Harbour, Salt Spring Island

Coast Salish Indigenous petroglyph in ***Fulford Harbour, Salt Spring Island, BC***

rock art carving sites are known as petroglyphs.

They were made by scratching into the rock with stone tools.

It seems even harder to date petroglyphs than it is to date rock paintings.

I have not been able to find any information on dates for petroglyphs in BC.

Indigenous people have lived in Canada for at least 10,000 years and probably a lot longer.

How did they get here?

Inuit people have creation stories that tell of their ancestors moving from Eastern Siberia to Alaska. First Nations people do not have such creation stories. All their stories revolve around Turtle Island (the name they use for North America).

www.johnharveyphoto.com



Petroglyph Park, Nanaimo

Petroglyph Park, Nanaimo

What do you think the creature on the left is?



Petroglyph Park, Nanaimo.

There is also a Petroglyph Provincial Park in Peterborough Ontario. There is one specimen there with several hundred images carved onto a single rock. They look very different to the Coast Salish carvings.



This kind of early art was not just limited to rock faces,

These Australian Pukamini posts are used like a grave stone.

Pukamini are ceremonies that take place after the death of a person to celebrate their life and to commemorate them.

The poles are created for funeral ceremonies with songs and dance, and refer to the cycle of life, death and rebirth.

Pukamini poles, Australia

Are you awake?

So we've looked at imagery from around the world, but when did writing first appear?

When did writing first appear?

So we've looked at imagery from around the world, but when did writing first appear?



4,000-3,500 BCE Cuneiform writing

4,000-3,500 BCE Cuneiform is recorded as being the earliest form of writing.

How was it written?

Cuneiform was a system of triangular marks, inscribed using shaped reeds. The name comes from the Latin “wedge shaped”. The marks were made by pressing instead of dragging. Early Persian script has a somewhat similar look.

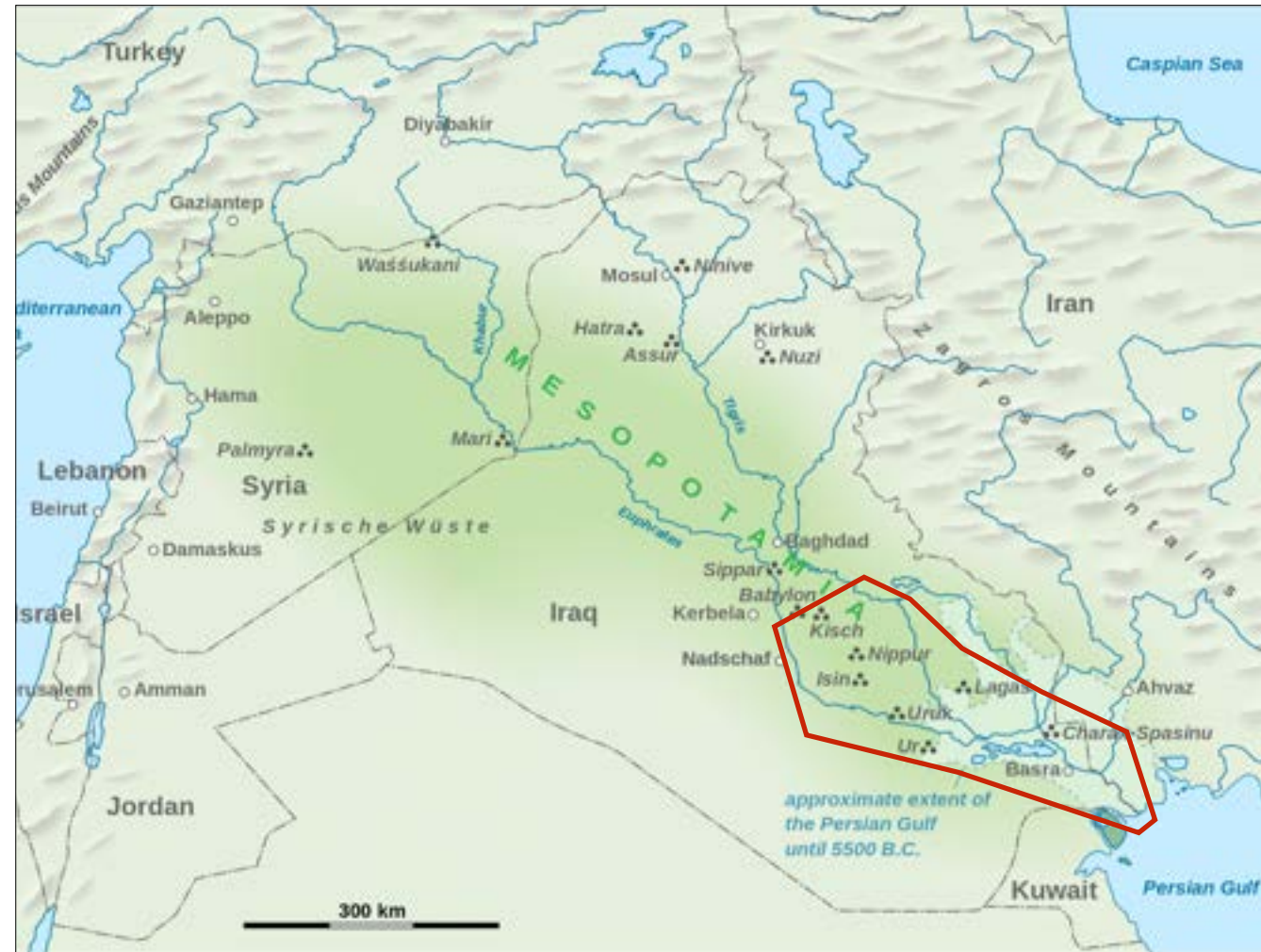
Who created cuneiform?



It is thought to have been first created by The Sumerians

- The Sumerians are thought to have founded one of the earliest civilisations (along with Ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley)
- The Sumerians were a race of people who settled in Sumer
- It is believed they founded the first cities and the first organised religion
- Many of the great developments of the bronze and iron ages are thought to have taken place in Sumer.

Where is Sumer?



Sumer was in south-eastern Mesopotamia in the Middle East.

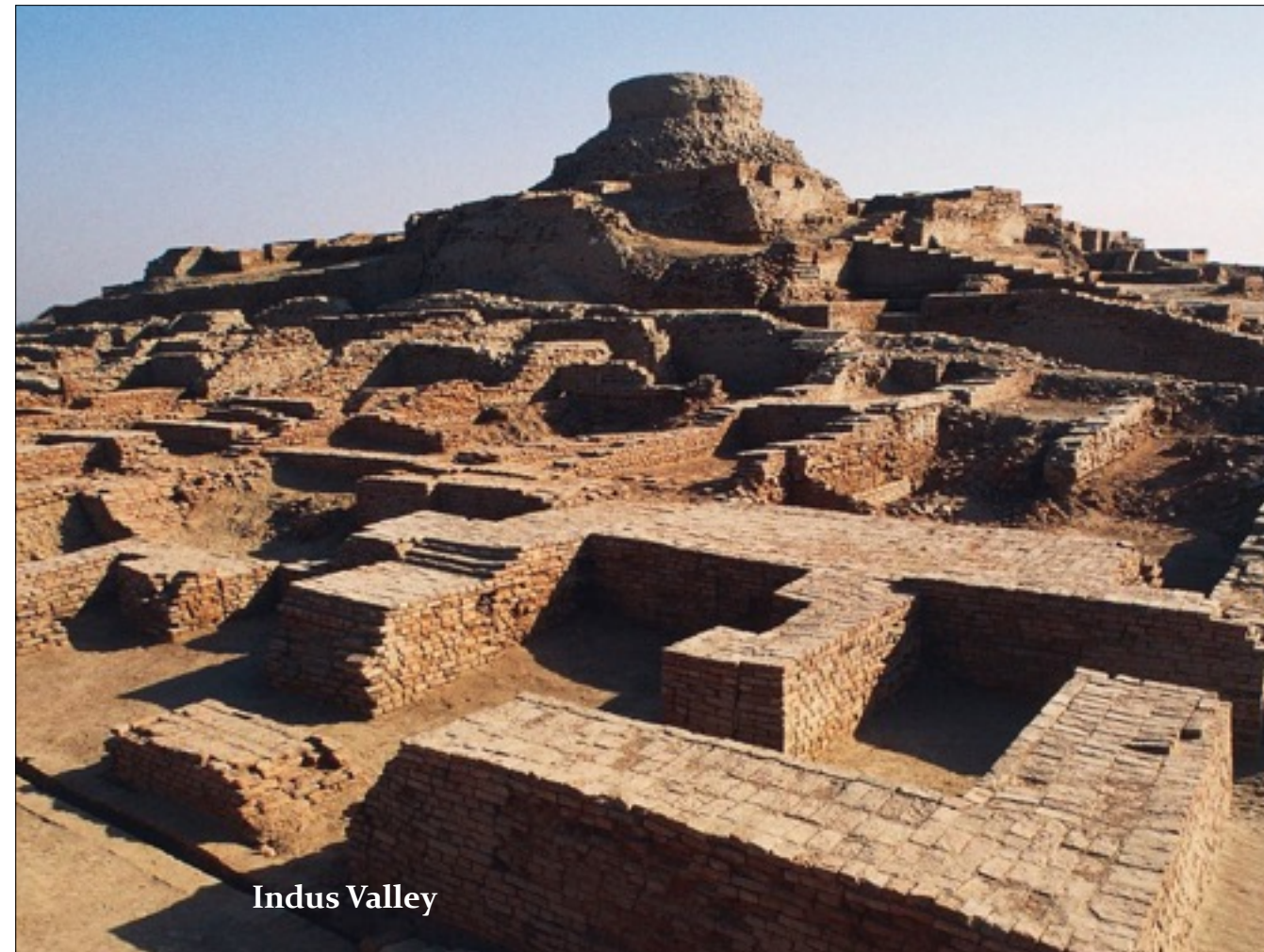
This region is now Iraq, and parts of Syria and Kuwait.

There are conflicting stories about where the Sumerians came from before they settled in Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia was also known by another name because it was once very fertile. What was the name?



- The region is also referred to as the fertile crescent.
- Thousands of years ago it was a very fertile area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
- Early man was mostly nomadic, however, this land was so rich that people began to settle there in villages at the end of the stone age.
- They began domesticating animals and growing crops. (ca. 10,000-7000 BCE).
- They grew plentiful crops that allowed them to accumulate grain to eat throughout the year and to begin trading.



Early civilizations appeared around the same time in the Indus Valley (today Pakistan and northeast India), Egypt and China.



We know a lot about the archeology of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt
Less is known about the people of the Indus Valley and early Chinese civilisation.



Indus, or Harappan proto-writing

We do know that they also had their own form of early script known as Indus, or Harappan proto-writing



Writing emerged at the same time as man began to settle in one place and to domesticate animals and grow crops.

Why do you think writing became important at this time?

One of the most important reasons to have a way to record trade and rationing.

This tablet is a record of the daily beer rations for workers.

Beer here is represented by an upright jar with a pointed base.

The symbol for rations is a human head eating from a porridge bowl.

The round and semicircular impressions represent the measurements.

https://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/a_history_of_the_world/objects.aspx#15



4,000-3,500 BCE Cuneiform pictographs and ideographs

Cuneiform used pictographs (pictograms) and ideographs (ideograms).

What are pictographs?

- Pictographs are literal representations of objects

What are ideographs?

- They are symbols that represent ideas that are more complex. Through consistent use they come to be recognized as meaning something specific.

What is the difference between the two?

- Pictographs are literal representations
- Ideographs use an idea to represent a more complex object or concept

Can you think of common examples of pictographs we still use today?

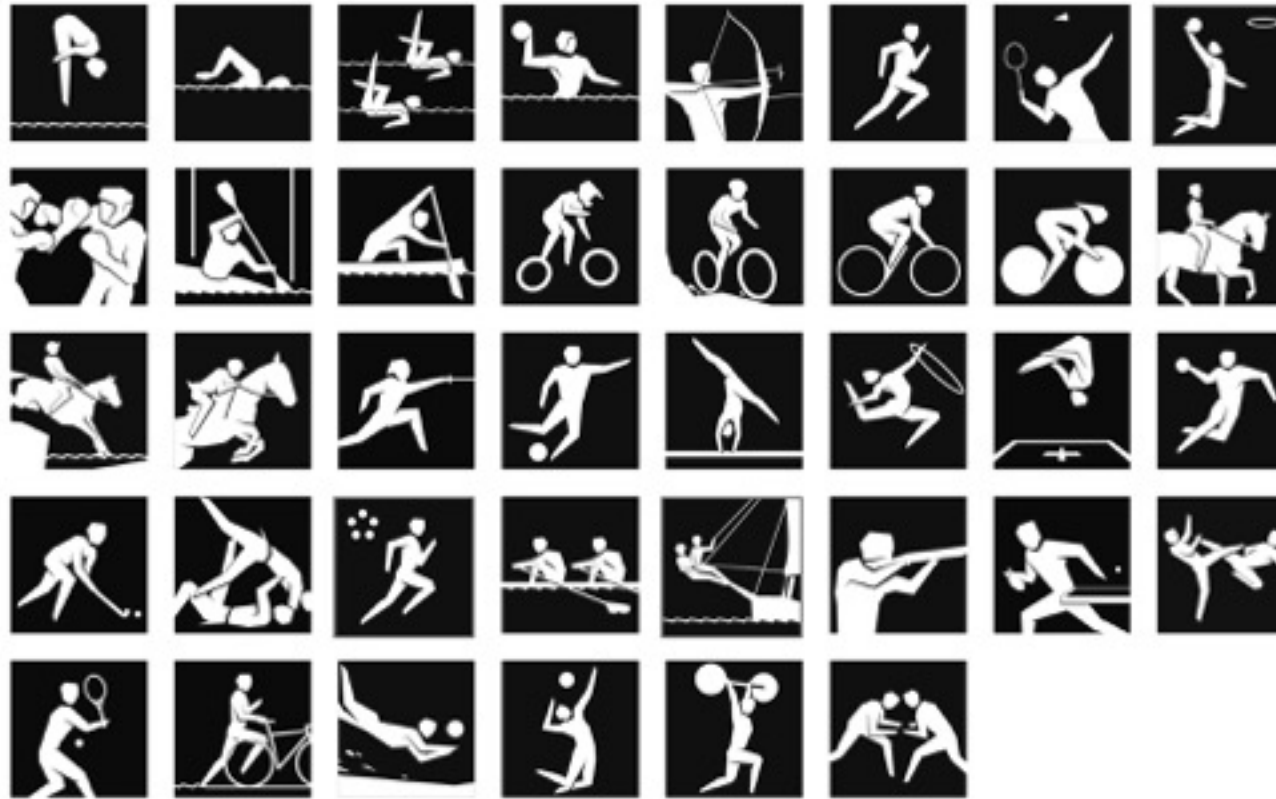


We talked in week 1 about how important symbols are to design as part of universal communication.

Designers and illustrators play a role in both creating these associations and deciding how they look



Is these pictograms or ideograms?



London 2012

Every olympics has it's own symbols and designers wait with anticipation to see what they will look like.



You can find a link to Japan 2020 on the blog.

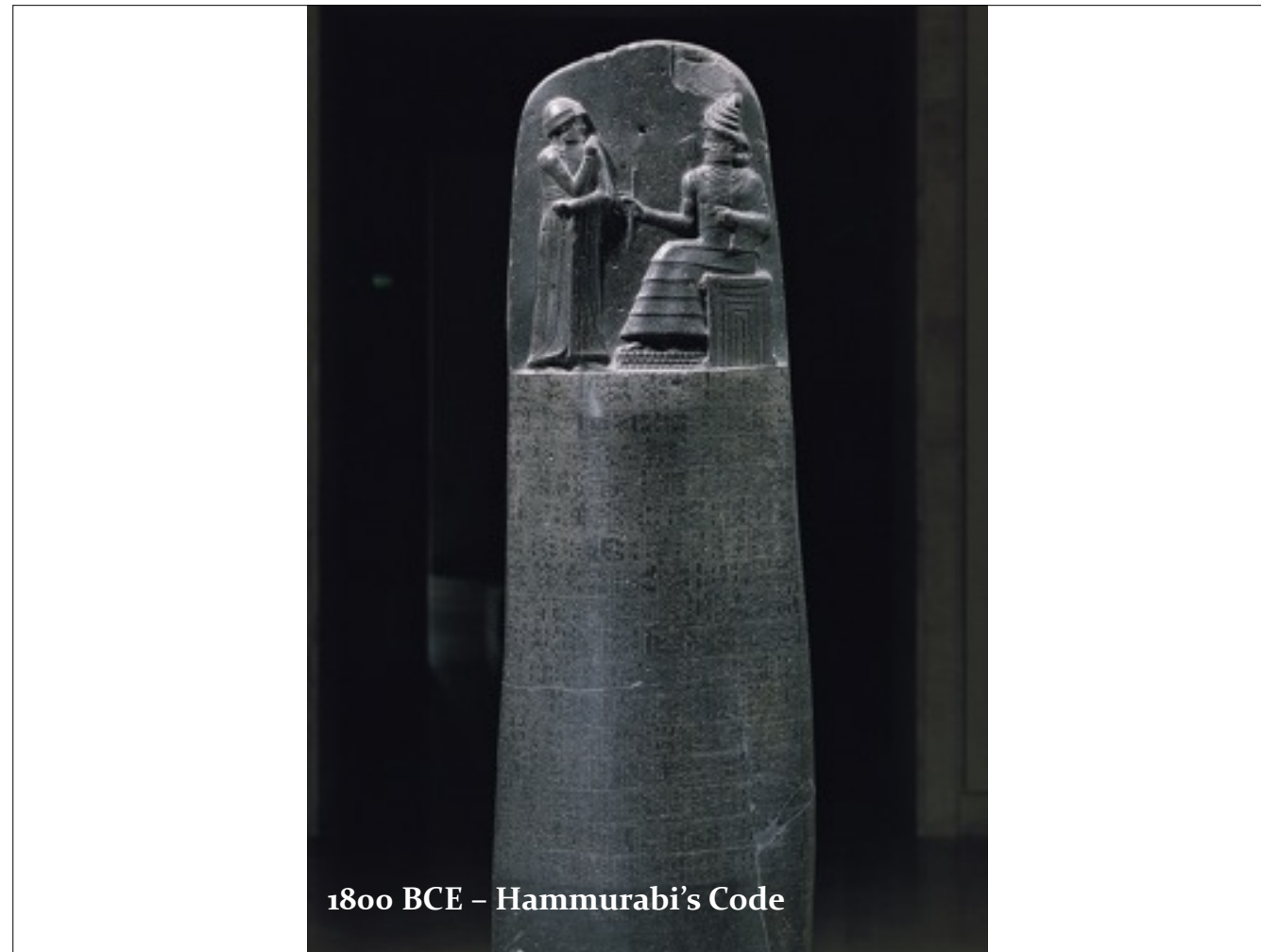


What is different about these two tablets from the ones we previously looked at?

The first illustrated text!

A stone age equivalent to when newspapers first started including pictures in the mid 19th century.

The Blau Monuments seem to record a transaction in which land was exchanged for various goods. (Meggs p.11)



What is Hammurabi's Code? (1,800 BCE)

One of the most impressive cuneiform artifacts is Hammurabi's Code.

- It is an eight foot carved slab, or stele containing over 300 law codes of the Babylonian King Hammurabi (Louvre, Paris).
- Writing enabled society to organise itself under the rule of law.
- Law codes such as this spelled out crimes and their punishments. Similar steles were erected in other cities across Mesopotamia.
- The Code of Hammurabi also introduced the idea of the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.



What can you tell us about hieroglyphs?

The first Egyptian hieroglyphs appeared around the time that King Menes formed the first Egyptian dynasty, that unified the country.

Throughout history we can see that it usually takes one particularly effective leader or a single threat that affects many groups to unite different factions into a more successful civilisation. — — Like John Snow in The Game of Thrones.

- There were more than 700 unique hieroglyphic signs.
- The Egyptians retained their picture writing system for almost 3,500 years.
- It lasted much longer than cuneiform, which quickly evolved into other more sophisticated systems.

Do you know why hieroglyphs didn't evolve?



Writing direction was optional, reading up, down, left, or right. Carved hieroglyphs could be in relief, or incised.

What do those terms mean?

What do we call the oval frame around certain hieroglyphs?

Cartouche

What does it represent?

A royal name (King Menes) etc.

Like cuneiform, hieroglyphics used pictographs and ideographs.

Do you know what else they used?

The Egyptians used picture symbols to represent vowels and syllables (phonograms).



Phonograms are also called rebus and are still used today.

The famous American designer Paul Rand created a very famous rebus for IBM in 1981.



Paul Rand 1914-1996

Paul Rand was arguably one of the greatest designers who ever lived. (1914-1996)

Break time!



ca. 1650 BCE– Mesopotamian cylinder seal

- ***Do you know where the word brand or branding comes from?***
- As society grew more affluent, proof of ownership became increasingly important.
- Animal brands and proprietary marks were developed.
- Another interesting early writing surface was cylinder seals. These seals were a form of branding.
- This example mixes imagery and cuneiform like the example we saw before the break.
- ***What were the other tablets called?***
- Today companies like Nike, Coca-Cola, Apple, Mercedes Benz, all still rely on recognisable marks, or logos to define their products.
- Clay stamps, tags and tokens were used to identify property and were also used as a guarantee of quality.
- In Mesopotamia, cylinders (ca. 1,650 BCE) were rolled across a damp clay tablet and used as a trademark, or proof of origin.
- The cylinders were difficult to counterfeit and were kept safe by being worn around the neck or ankle.
- They were also rolled across doors to prevent theft.



1800-1200 BCE – Chiaku-wen writing (Ts'ang Chieh/Cangjie)

The earliest known writing appeared in Asia around 1800 BCE.

What do we know about it?

- It originated in China
- It is called Chiaku-wen (can anyone translate), or bone-and-shell script
- It was made up of logograms

What are logograms?

- a sign or character representing a word or phrase

How did it originate?

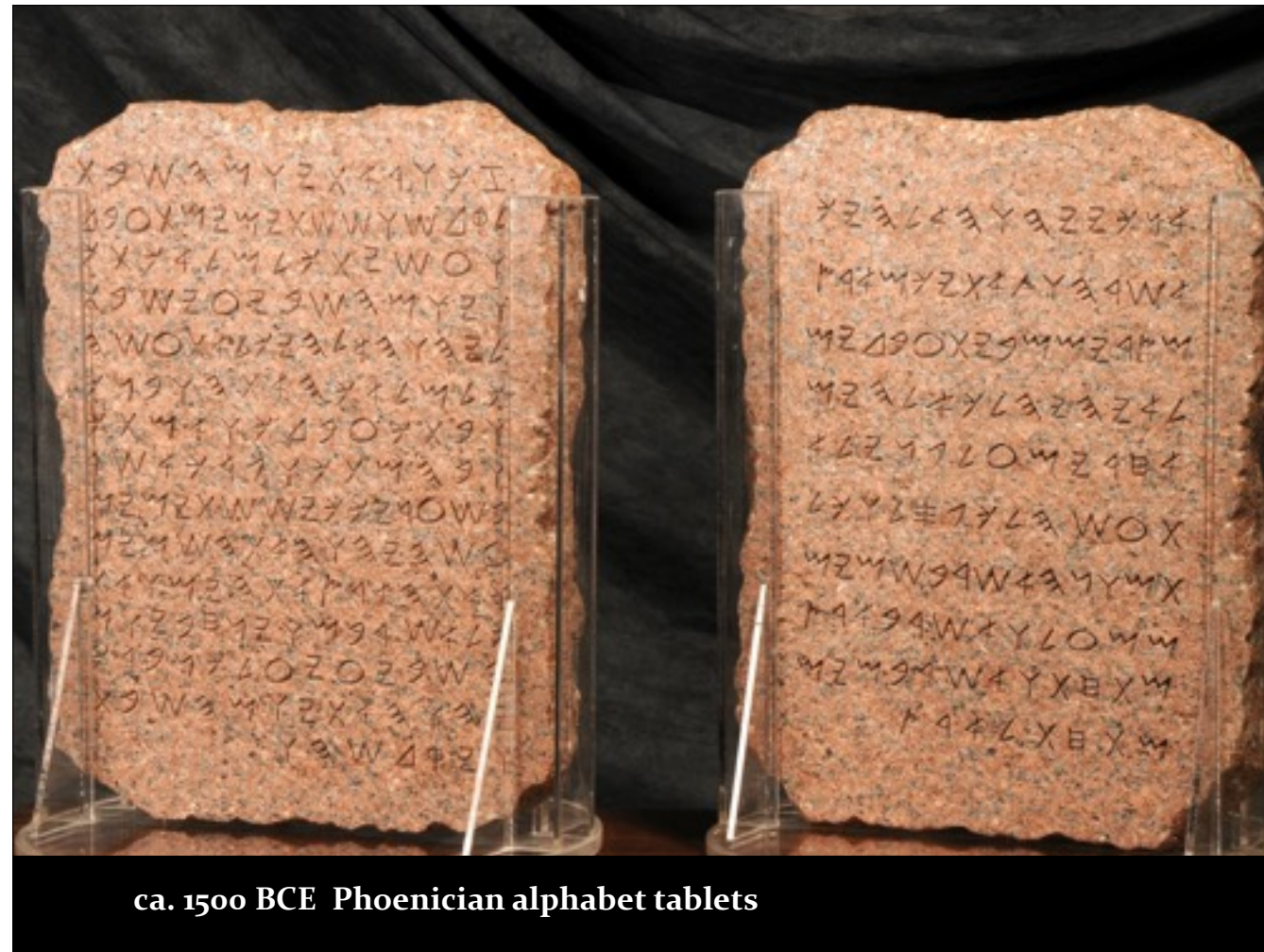
- A man called Ts'ang Chieh, or Cangjie, is said to be the inventor of Chinese writing, but there is a lot of mythology around it so we can't be sure.
- Legend has it that the Yellow Emperor, Huangdi (a deity in ancient Chinese folk religion) instructed Cangjie to create a writing system.
- Legend says Cangjie was inspired by looking at animals' footprints and birds' claw marks on the sand.
- The individual logograms that make up this system are called kanji. This
- It is called bone-and-shell script because the earliest examples were found on Oracle bones. (Pieces of shell or bone used as a form of divination in ancient China).
- Like hieroglyphics, this Chinese writing system was also based on imagery.

(Meggs p.34)



- Trade is a major factor in society's evolution
- Phoenicia was a country of Mediterranean sea-faring traders (in what is now Israel and neighbouring lands).
- Traders travelled to Egypt in the south, to Greece in the north, and east to Mesopotamia, where they absorbed elements of other languages.
- In this way cuneiform and hieroglyphics made their way to the Mediterranean coast.
- As they spread these early writing forms evolved into the first actual alphabet.

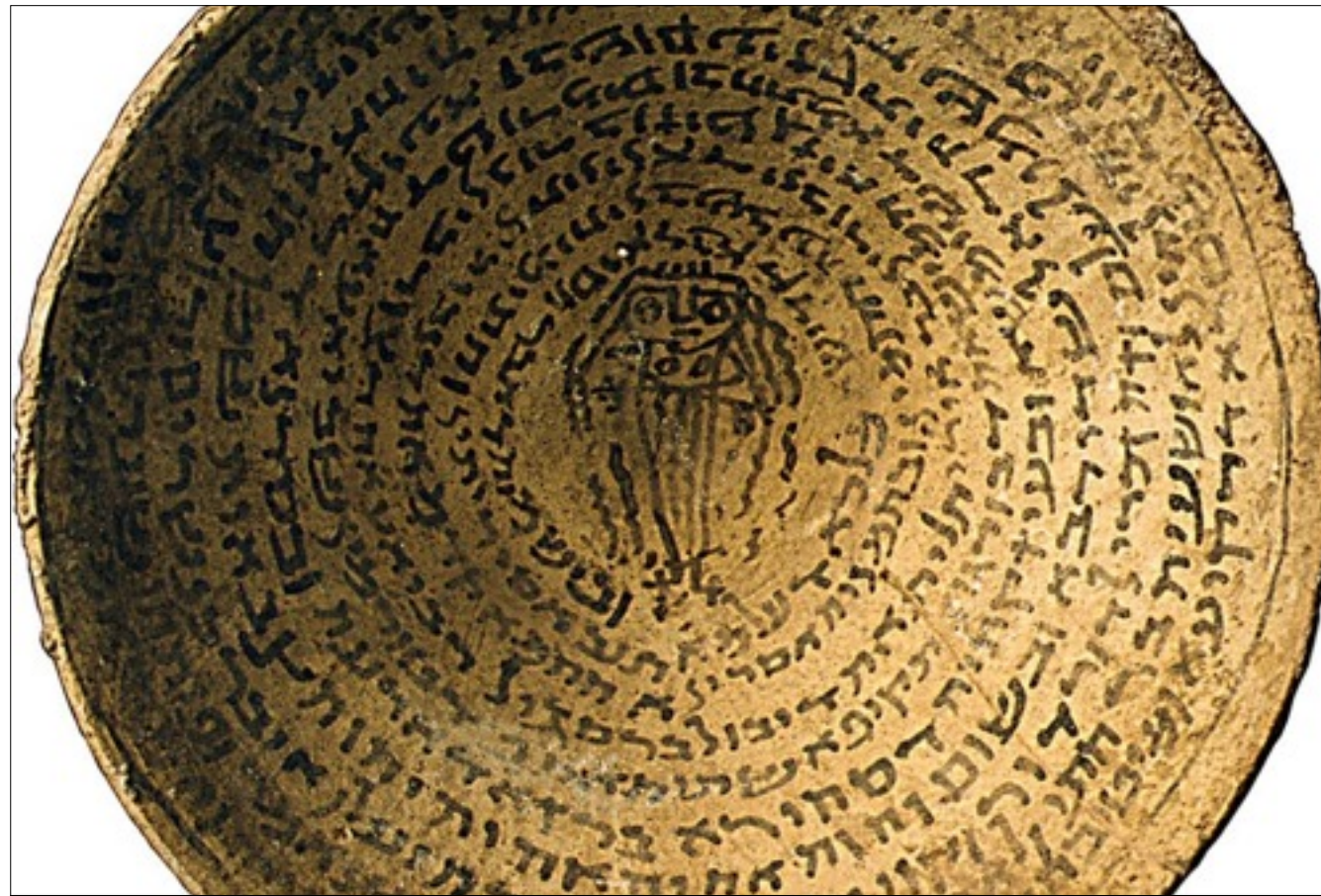
What was the first alphabet?



ca. 1500 BCE Phoenician alphabet tablets

- The first actual alphabet, is known as the Phoenician alphabet.
- It emerged in the Mediterranean near east in what is now Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.
- Its invention cannot be credited specifically to the Phoenicians, but they certainly played a key role in its evolution.
- The invention of the alphabet is credited to Northwest Semitic peoples. (Meggs, p.23)
- Semites are people speaking one of a group of specific languages. The term includes a large group of people from across the middle east, the western coast of the Mediterranean, and north east Africa.
- Because trade was at the heart of Phoenician society, their written language evolved into a more efficient and adaptable writing system.
- The Phoenician alphabet contains 22 letters.
- The invention of alphabets to make an infinite number of words, was a huge breakthrough for written communication.

What do the Phoenician characters look like?



ca. 900-800 BCE – Aramaic incantation bowl

Traders carried the Phoenician script east, where it merged with Aramaic, the language used by tribes from Aram (now part of Syria).

Aramaic is the foundation for Arabic. You can see the more flowing and rounded Arabic shape to the letters here



Aramaic is also the foundation for Indian Sanskrit, modern Hebrew and Cyrillic languages

What are Cyrillic languages?

Those used in Slavic and Russian influenced countries.

There are more than 50 Cyrillic languages including Russian, Serbian, and Ukrainian.



ca. 900-800 BCE– Greek letters

Traders carried Phoenician script west, where it evolved into the Greek alphabet around the 10th century BCE.

Phoenician	Phoenician name	Modern symbol	Early Greek	Classical Greek	Greek name	Early Latin	Classical Latin
𐤀	ʾaleph	·	Α	Α	alpha	Α	A
𐤁	beth	b	Β	Β	beta	Β	B
𐤂	gimel	g	Γ	Γ	gamma	Γ	C
𐤃	daleth	d	Δ	Δ	delta	Δ	D
𐤄	he	h	Ε	Ε	epsilon	Ε	E
𐤅	waw	w	Ϝ		digamma	Ϝ	F
𐤆	zayin	z	Ζ	Ζ	zeta		G
𐤇	heth	h	Η	Η	eta	Η	H
𐤈	eth	·	Θ	Θ	theta	Θ	I
𐤉	yod	y	Ι	Ι	iota	Ι	I (J)
𐤊	kaph	k	Κ	Κ	kappa	Κ	K
𐤋	lamed	l	Λ	Λ	lambda		L
𐤌	mem	m	Μ	Μ	mu	Μ	M
𐤍	nan	n	Ν	Ν	nu	Ν	N
𐤎	samek	s			xi		O
𐤏	ayin	·	Ο	Ο	omicron	Ο	O
𐤐	pe	p	Π	Π	pi		P
𐤑	sade	s	Ρ		san		Q
𐤒	qoph	q	Ϻ		qoppa		R
𐤓	resh	r	Σ	Σ	rho	Σ	S
𐤔	sin	sh/s	Τ	Τ	sigma	Τ	T
𐤕	taw	t	Χ	Υ	tau	Υ	V
				Χ	chi		X
				Ω	omega		Y
							Z

Greek was the first alphabetic script to have distinct letters for vowels as well as consonants.

The word 'alphabet' derives from the first two letters, alpha and beta.



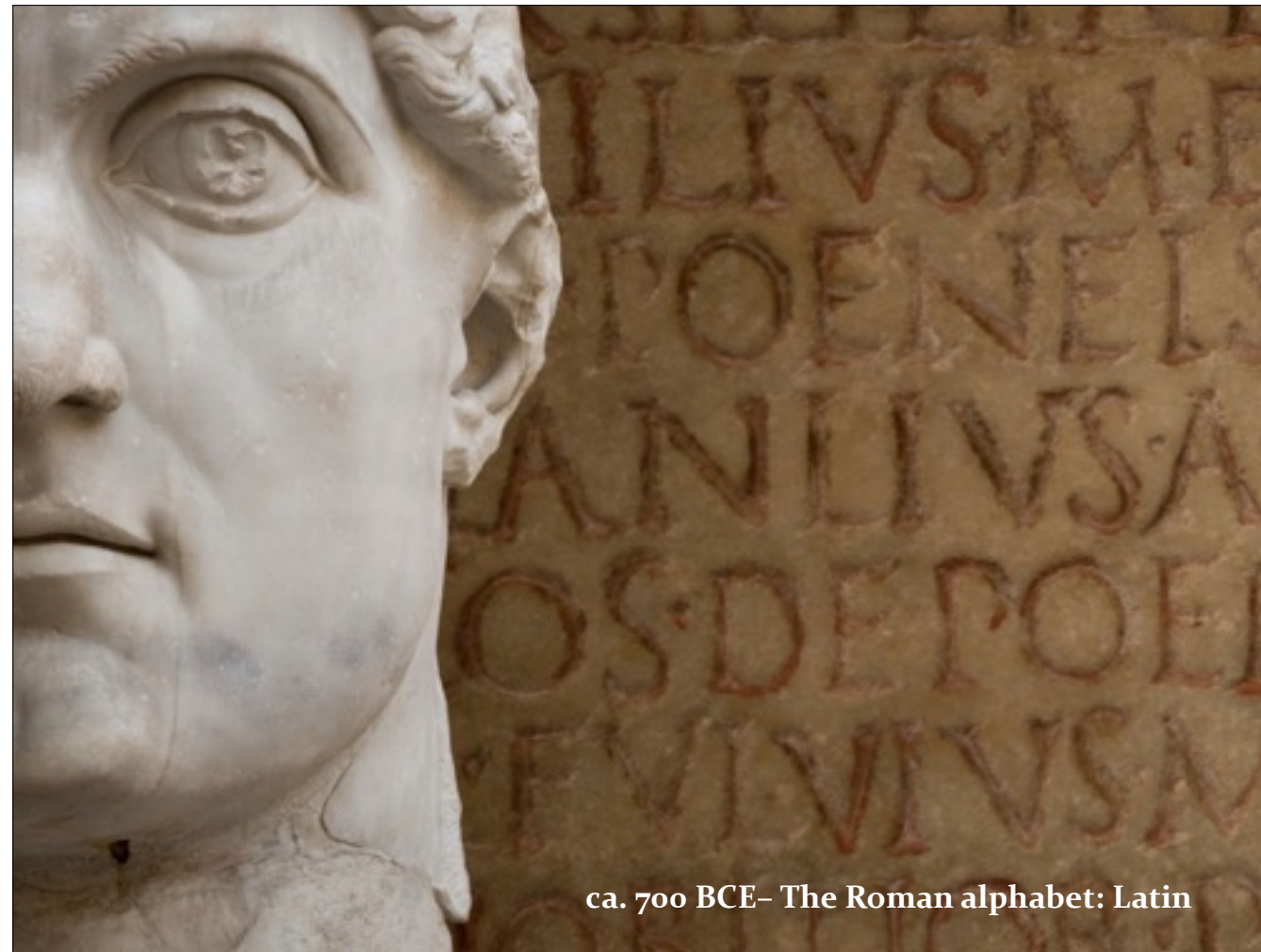
ca. 900-800 BCE– Greek text

The alphabet was a bit like a game of pass the parcel.

Where do you think it evolved next after Greece?

The next place it landed and evolved was in Rome.

It was adopted by the Romans and became the foundation for Latin and eventually the modern languages we speak today.



ca. 700 BCE– The Roman alphabet: Latin

The Romans adopted, the Greek alphabet around 8th century BCE.

It is thought that the Romans combined Greek with Etruscan to create Latin.

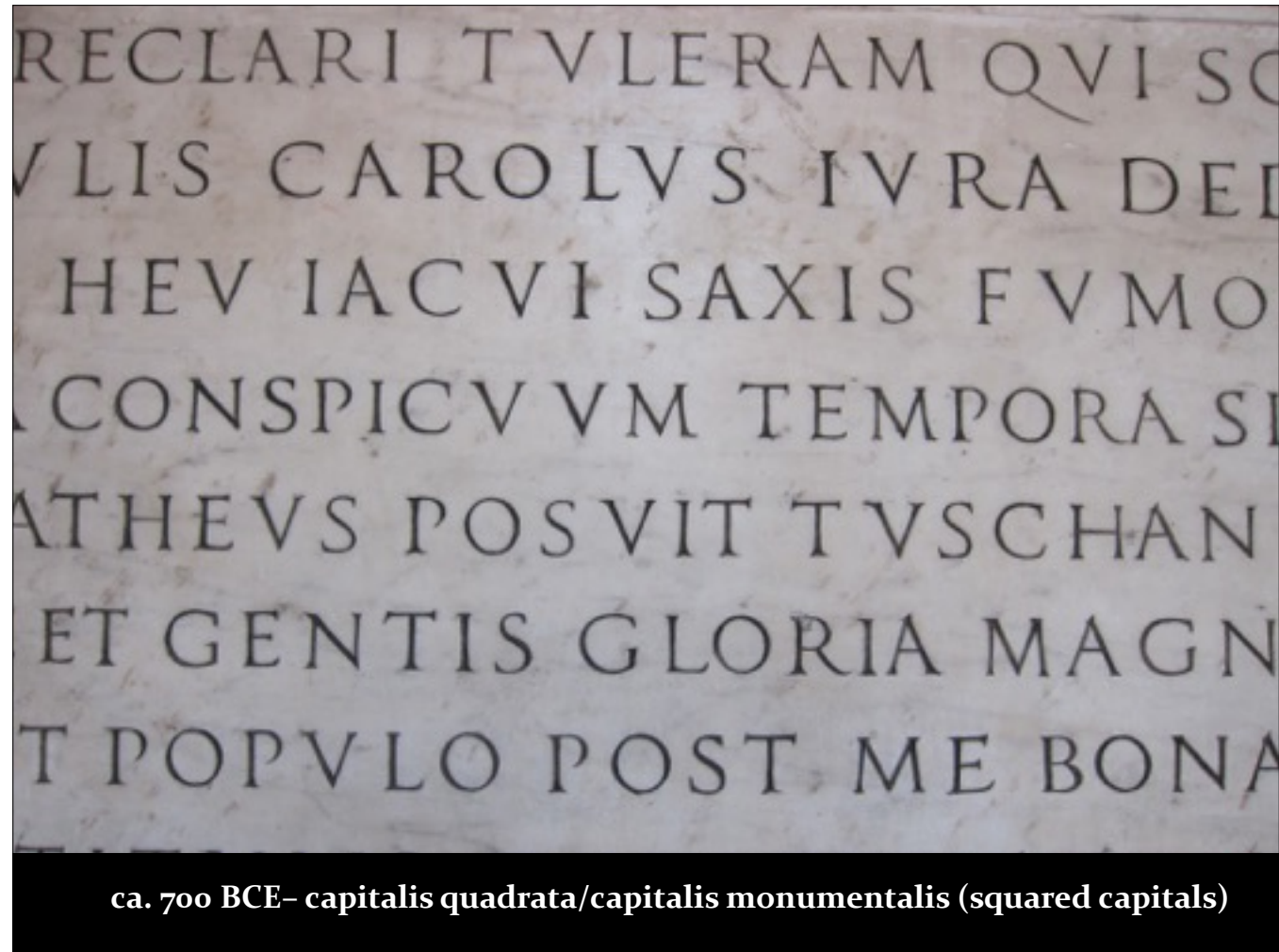
Who were the Etruscans?

Etruscans were an ancient race of people that migrated from what is now Turkey – settling in central Italy nearly 3 thousand years ago. (Meggs, p.29-30)



196 BCE – The Rosetta Stone

- ***What is The Rosetta Stone?***
- During Napoleon's expedition to Egypt in the late 1700's, the French army uncovered the Rosetta Stone and took it back to France (196 BCE, British Museum, London)
- ***Has anyone seen it at the British Museum, London?***
- ***Why is The Rosetta Stone important?***
- It was written in 3 languages: hieroglyphs, Egyptian demotic script (a script that looks similar to Aramaic that developed around 400 CE) and Greek.
- It was deciphered by a French scholar called Jean-Francois Champollion. (Meggs.p.15)



ca. 700 BCE– capitalis quadrata/capitalis monumentalis (squared capitals)

The Romans developed several different styles of script, or ways of writing, almost like the different typefaces we use today.

Latin was initially written in capitalis quadrata (squared capitals), sometimes called capitalis monumentalis, similar to our capital letters.

It's stately proportions were written carefully and slowly with a flat pen nib.

There were generous spaces between lines, but only small spaces between words. Sometimes these spaces were replaced by dots.

Capitalis quadrata were used to commemorate important events or people.

Does this look easy to read?

Does anyone know the typeface Trajan?



The typeface Trajan takes inspiration from capitalis quadrata and is often used for movie posters

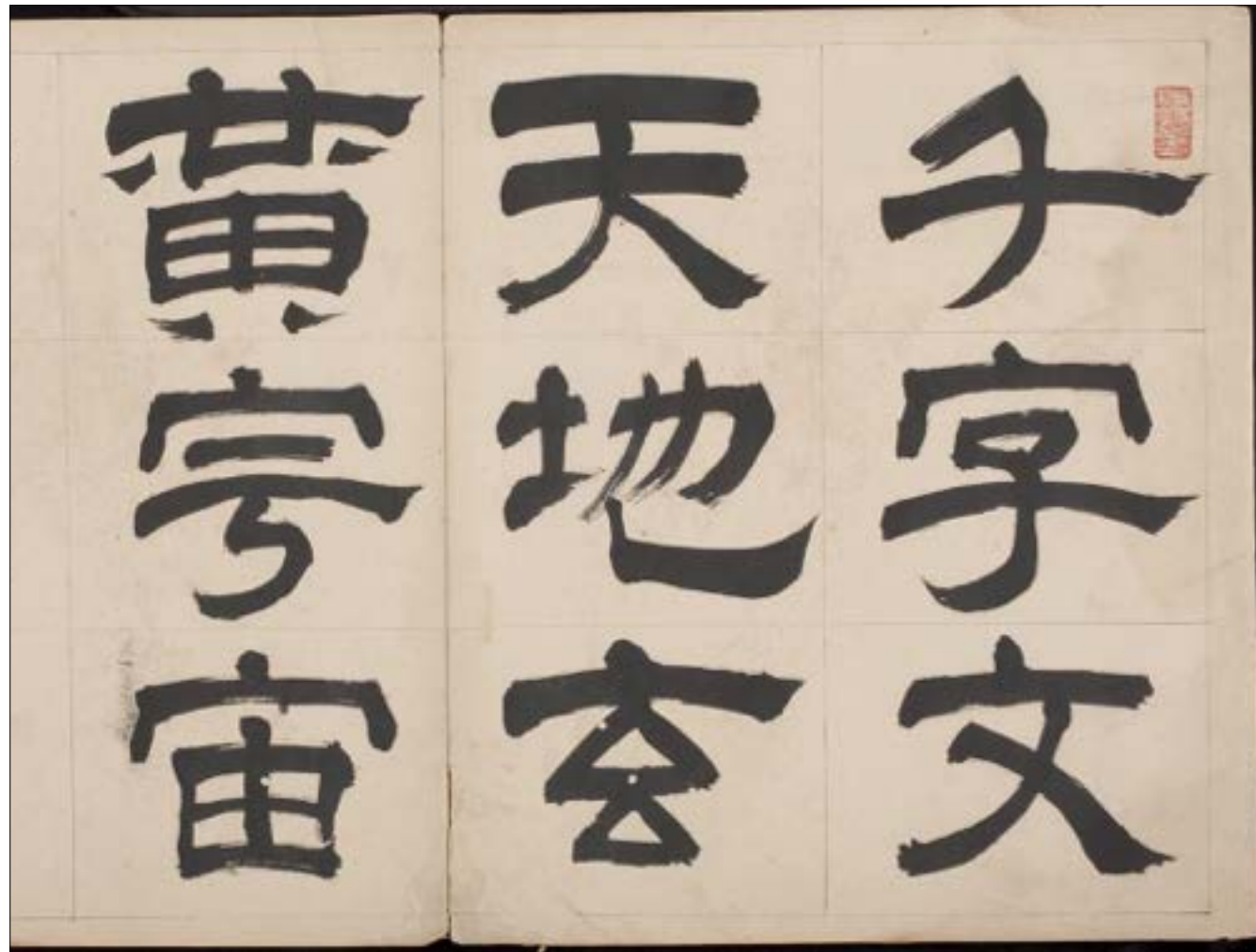


ca. 700 BCE– capitalis rustica (rustic capitals)

The Romans used another type style called capitalis rustica (rustic capitals) for less formal writing: it was quicker to execute and narrower (more space efficient).

Still with me?

Shake it out. Shrug your shoulders. Take a deep breath



What do you know about the evolution of Asian scripts?

- Chiaku-wen (can anyone translate), or bone-and-shell script
- Ts'ang Chieh, or Cangjie, is said to be the inventor of Chinese writing
- Commissioned by the Yellow Emperor, Huangdi
- Asian scripts are made up of logograms



3rd century BCE — Emperor Qin Shi Huang (Shih HuangTi)

Who can pronounce these names?

- Ts'ang Chieh's bone-and-shell (chiaku-wen) writing system was not universally adopted across the country.
- China is so large and communication was difficult, so calligraphy evolved as many different styles in different regions. (Meggs. p.35)
- The origin of the name China comes from the Qin (Ch'in) Dynasty founded by Emperor Qin Shi Huang (Shih HuangTi)
- He united the country in the 3rd century BCE, in the same way King Menes united Egypt three thousand years earlier.

What else is Qin Shi Huang famous for?

- Qin Shi Huang ordered the building of the Great Wall and The Terracotta Army that would guard his tomb. (250 BCE)
- The Emperor realised that the absence of a common script was hindering economic and cultural development.
- He ordered a new single writing style to be created, which over centuries evolved into chen-shu (zhèngshū) or “regular” style



What do you know about Chen-shu?

- Chen-shu has changed little in over two thousand years.
- It has 40-50,000 characters, although the average person only learns a fraction of them.
- Mandarin and Cantonese share the same characters which have little relationship to the spoken languages.



What do you know about the Japanese language and alphabet?

- Modern Japanese is written in a mixture of three basic scripts: Chinese kanji, Hiragana and Katakana—two phonetic alphabets (syllables).
- There are thousands of Kanji characters, while Hiragana and Katakana have 46 each. Although there is a basic rule for when to use which script, there are many exceptions.
- Words written in Kanji have often multiple pronunciations, depending on the context or conjunction.
- This is hard enough for a native Japanese speaker to get right, so it is very hard for non-natives to learn to read and write Japanese.



1446 CE – Korean Hangeul alphabet

What do you know about the Korean language and alphabet?

- The Koreans used Chinese characters, until they developed their own 28 letter alphabet, Hangeul in 1446 CE.
- The youngest alphabet in the world, it was introduced by royal decree of the reigning monarch Sejong in the 15th century CE.
- It is one of the most scientific writing systems ever invented.
- Sejong assembled a group of young scholars to study existing languages and create a phonetic language that would be easy for ordinary citizens to learn.
- It contains 14 consonant and 10 vowels sounds



ca. 1,425-1,532 BCE Inca quipu

Who were the Incas?

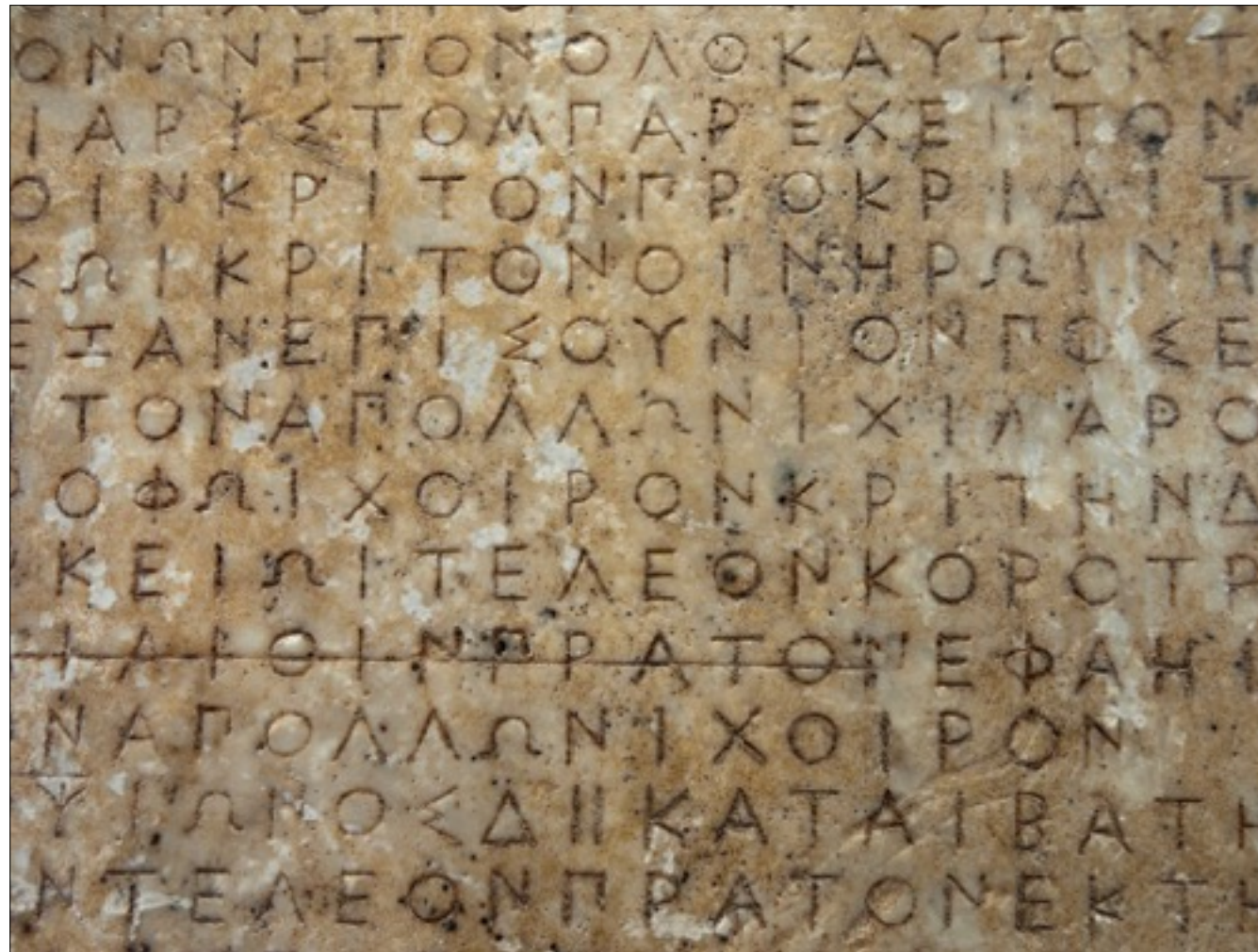
- The Incas were originally a small tribe of Indigenous American people in the southern highlands of Peru.
- In 15th century BCE they built one of the largest empires the world has ever known.
- ***Do you know what this is?***
- In Peru, the Incas never developed a written language.
- Instead they developed quipu (also called khipu), a system of chord knotting.
- It was used by the Incas and other ancient Andean cultures to keep records and communicate information.
- Some of the larger quipu have as many as 1500 strings, and these could also be woven in different ways which is thought to have changed the meaning



ca. 300 BCE – The Mayan writing system

Who are the Maya?

- The Maya are an indigenous people of Mexico and Central America. Around 300 BCE, they created the most sophisticated writing system in the pre-Columbian Americas. They also built great cities like Chichen Itza, and Uxmal.
- Like Chinese, the pictorial symbols, or glyphs used in the Mayan writing system also fit in a square format.



- Early scribes around the world worked with the materials at hand.
- They wrote on stone, shells, bones, clay, wood, bark, anything they could find.

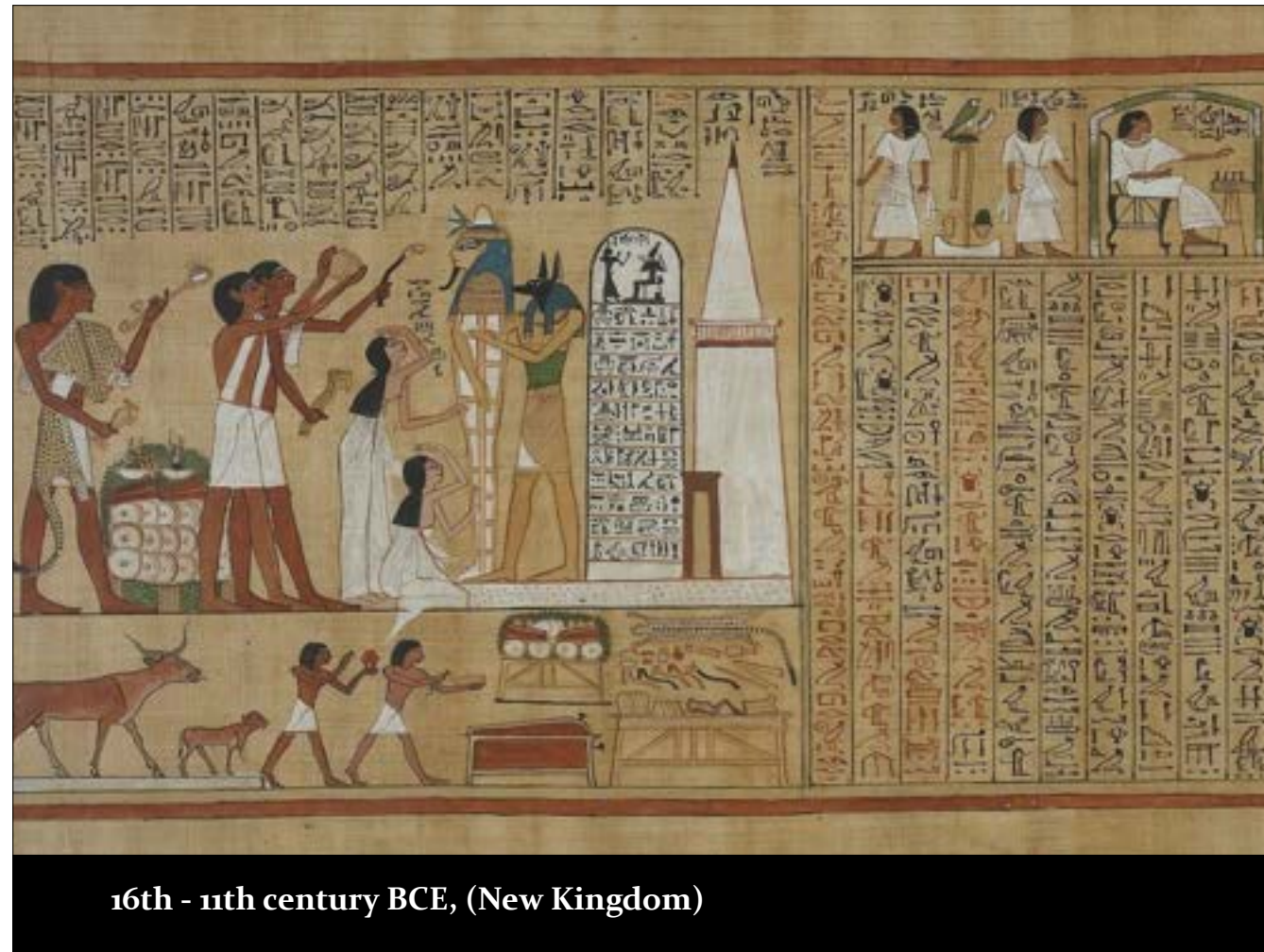


16th - 11th century BCE, (New Kingdom)

- As the demand for the written word increased, so did the demand for better writing surfaces.

What is this surface called? (papyrus).

- During the golden age of Ancient Egypt, they began making papyrus scrolls using the tall grass that grew along the river Nile.



16th - 11th century BCE, (New Kingdom)

What did Egyptians use papyrus scrolls for?

- One of the best documented uses for papyrus was funerary scrolls, or books of the dead.
- These illustrated manuscripts (handwritten documents) were buried with the dead
- They were intended to help overcome the dangers of the underworld and assist the deceased to ascend to the heavens.
- Depending on your budget, funerary scrolls could be bespoke creations, or purchased as stock designs. They ranged from 15 to 90 feet long. (Meggs. p.19)
- Scribes and artists worked together to create these works in the same way copywriters and designers and illustrators work together today.



- The first funerary texts were carved on pyramids, tombs and sarcophagi, or painted on wooden coffins.
- This would be reserved for kings



- *What material did the Chinese use to make their first books?*

Bamboo



105 BCE – Chinese invent paper-making

Did the Chinese also use papyrus?

- In the time of Qin Shi Huang, while the Egyptians were writing on papyrus, the Chinese wrote on bamboo slats, stone, ceramics, and cloth.
- About 100 years after his death, around 100 BCE, the Chinese invented paper made from bamboo pulp.



As with papyrus, bamboo scrolls were made by drying thin sheets of pulp and gluing the sheets together to form scrolls.

The paper-making process barely changed until it was mechanised in England 2000 years later.

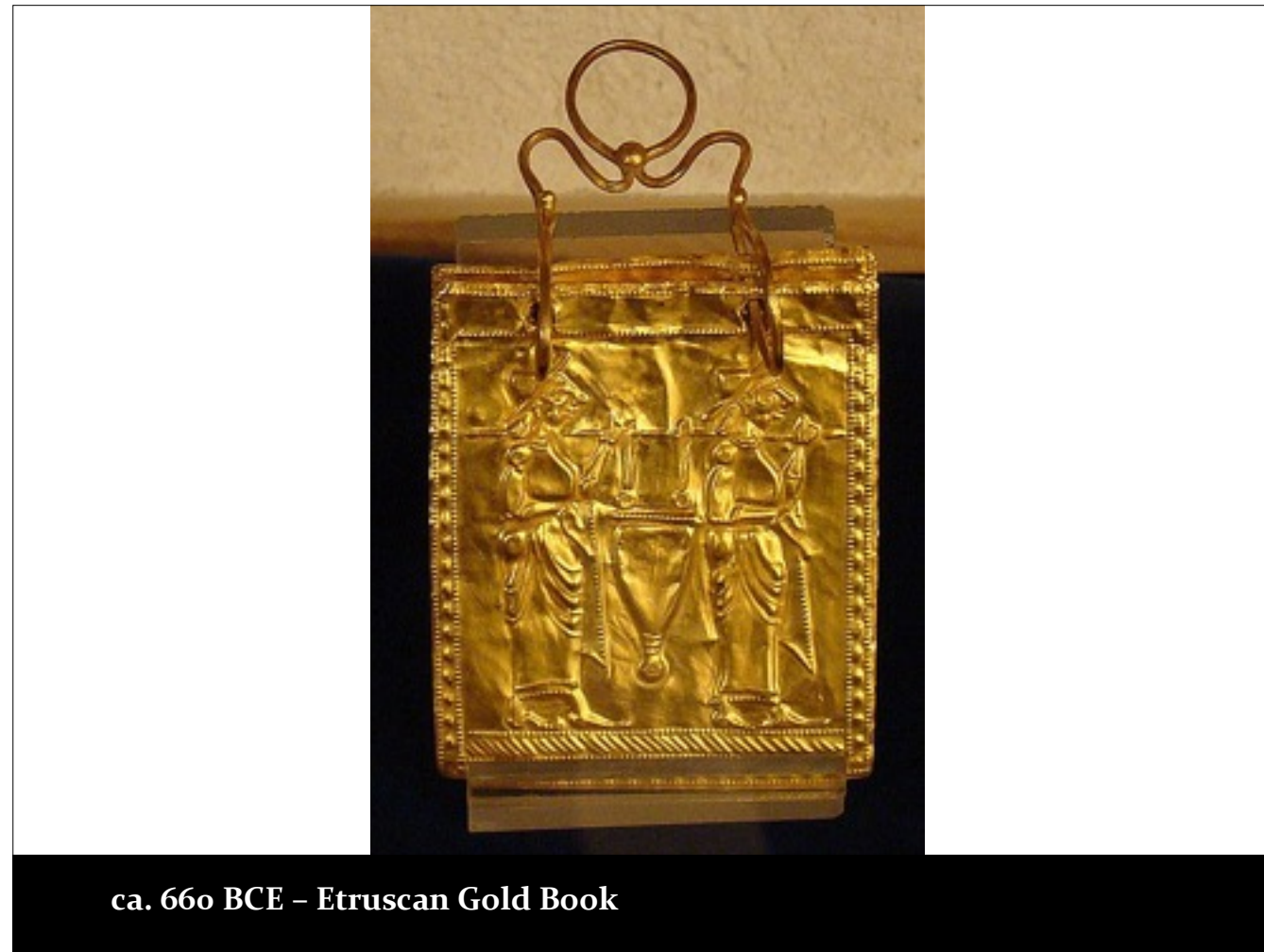


What else did the Chinese invent using paper?

The Chinese used paper to make the first paper money, wrapping paper, wallpaper, toilet paper and napkins.

Done talkin' :)

That's all we're going to cover today. Next week...



ca. 660 BCE – Etruscan Gold Book

Next week we will look at the evolution of books, like the Etruscan Gold Book.

- Thought to be the oldest multi-page book in the world it was discovered 70 years ago whilst digging a canal off the Strouma river in Bulgaria.
- The book is made from 6 sheets of 24 carat gold, bound together with rings.
- The plates are written in Etruscan characters.
- The Etruscans were an ancient race of people that migrated from what is now Turkey to central Italy nearly 3 thousand years ago.

What else did we learn about the Etruscan's today?

Survey 1 quiz next week
Be ready!