

Name _____

From Cave Walls to Cyberspace: The Remarkable Journey of Writing

Short Answer Key

1. Oral tradition had limitations in preserving knowledge and stories since it relied solely on spoken words. There was no physical record of information, making it vulnerable to loss over time. Additionally, oral transmission limited the sharing of knowledge across vast distances and generations.
2. Cuneiform was a writing system characterized by wedge-shaped marks made on clay tablets. It allowed the Sumerians to record transactions, keep records of goods, and communicate in writing. Cuneiform was significant as one of the earliest known writing systems and played a vital role in the development of written language.
3. Writing contributed to the preservation of cultural traditions and knowledge by providing a permanent record of information. Societies could document their history, laws, religious beliefs, and stories, ensuring that these traditions would endure through the ages. Writing allowed for the transmission of knowledge to future generations and facilitated cultural continuity.
4. The Phoenicians created the first alphabet, consisting of 22 consonantal characters. This innovation simplified writing by representing individual sounds rather than complex symbols or ideograms. The Phoenician alphabet laid the foundation for many modern alphabets, including the Greek and Latin scripts.
5. Writing has shaped our world by enabling the sharing of knowledge, expression of creativity, and communication across time and space. It has allowed us to record history, disseminate information, and connect with people globally. Writing continues to influence modern communication through various forms, from books and newspapers to digital media and social networking.

