

1 — Why was writing invented? Which two periods did this invention divide history into?

Writing was invented to keep practical records — accounts, taxes, administrative and economic information — so governments and businesses could track goods, transactions and laws. The invention of writing marks the end of Prehistory and the start of Ancient History.

2 — CLIL activity

a) The first civilizations developed near rivers because rivers (Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia) provided water for irrigation, fertile silt, and good land for crops. b) People started to write to record practical information such as accounts, administrative records, and transactions. c) The invention of writing divided history into Prehistory and Ancient History.

3 — Imagine you don't know how to write (boat arrives with 5 fish and 3 chickens)

You can draw simple symbols (pictograms) to represent goods: Fish: < < < < < Chickens: ■> ■> ■> These are pictograms or ideograms; later they became cuneiform writing.

4 — Writing systems

• Mesopotamia: pictograms → ideograms → cuneiform (on clay) • Egypt: hieroglyphics (on stone/papyrus) • China: pictograms/ideograms → logograms (characters).

5 — Social groups (examples)

• 'I'm in the army and I control the soldiers.' → Military / privileged • 'I work the land and look after sheep and goats.' → Farmers / herders • 'I'm the property of my owner.' → Slave • 'I'm married to the king's sister.' → Royal family / aristocracy

6 — Role of women

Women's roles varied. Some (royal women, priestesses) had power. Most did household work, textile production, and economic tasks. Examples: priestesses, royal women, scribes.

7 — The Code of Hammurabi

The Code of Hammurabi is a set of 282 laws from Babylon (18th century BC) carved on stone. It regulated property, family, and punishments. Punishments depended on both crime and social status. Modern laws aim for equality before the law.

8 — Summary

• Writing invented to keep records (accounts, taxes, administration) • Divided Prehistory and Ancient History • Early symbols: pictograms → ideograms → cuneiform • Code of Hammurabi: punishments vary by crime and social status