

Communication and Culture

Students' Newsletter #1

DECEMBER 2015 - Issue number 1

An introduction

Three months have gone by since we started our Erasmus Project "Communication and Culture". Three months in which the history of communication in the Ancient world has been dealt with in our classrooms with activities such as the Giant Time Line or this first issue of the Students' Newsletter you are now reading.

During this project we are going to travel in time. How did our ancestors communicate? Why has communication been so important in the history of the humankind? But not only this, next year, in our last term we will see new forms of communication under study and future ways which we cannot even imagine...

But let's start from the very beginning. Communication dates back from the origins of the humankind. Humans have had the necessity to communicate and convey their fears, prayers, good news, etc. and they have used what they had at reach to create their language systems: symbols, rocks, images, clay, paper, plants, paints from mineral/vegetal origin and even their blood.



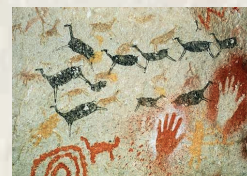
Team Spain wishes you like our final product, which is this newsletter. Looking forward to meeting you all in our next mobilities.

Team Spain.
 Colegio Nuestra Señora del Carmen (San Fernando)
 Spain - www.carmelitas.vedruna1826.org

In this issue...

Cave paintings

40,000 years since pre-history people drew the first cave paintings in Europe and Asia



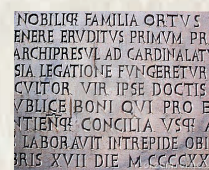
Hieroglyphics



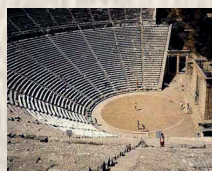
Are you good at drawing? Hieroglyphics used simple pictures to communicate... Have a try!

Romans and Latin

Discover the relationship between Latin, the language used by the Romans and our social networks.



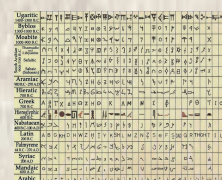
The Greek innovations



Greek warriors communicated through horns, light torches and tablets. Innovative and creative ways to convey meaning.

Alphabets of the world

From pictures to what today we know as letters. Alphabets have evolved to simplify our thoughts into words.



Cave paintings



by Marta Vargas Forero (Spain)

People have tried to communicate in different ways since the beginnings of history. Now, ask yourself this question: How would you communicate if you did not have mouth to speak or if you didn't know how to write? Prehistoric people found the solution: cave paintings.

What are they?

They are paintings painted on cave or rock walls and ceilings, usually dating to prehistoric times. The exact purpose of the cave paintings is not known, but some theories hold that they may have been a way of transmitting information, while other theories talk about them as a ceremony of hunt.

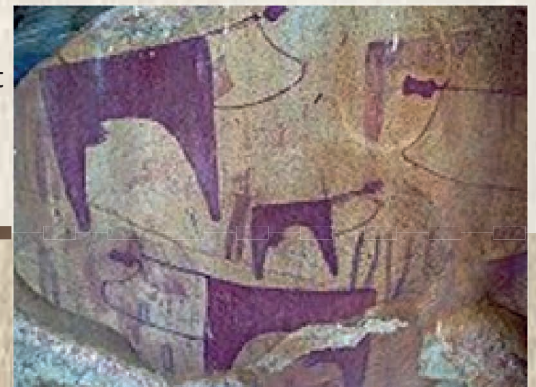


What were they made of?

They used mineral pigments, most commonly manganese, hematite, malachite, gypsum, limonite, clays, and various oxides.

How old are they?

Cave paintings are from the prehistory. The oldest ones are 40,000 years old.

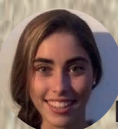


The first cave paintings to be discovered were in Europe. The most famous places are:

Lascaux (France), Chauvet Cave, near Vallon-Pont-d'Arc (France), Magura Cave in the north west of Bulgaria, Chauvet Cave, near Vallon-Pont-d'Arc (France), Cosquer Cave, with an entrance below sea level near Marseille (France), Font de Gaume, in the Dordogne Valley in France and Altamira, near Santillana del Mar, Cantabria, Spain.

Where are the nearest cave paintings to your hometown?

Hieroglyphics



by Zenaida Escobar Durán (Spain)

The Egyptians were one of the most important civilizations of the world. The civilization of ancient Egypt lasted for over three thousand years, from the 3150 B.C. until the 31 B.C.

The ancient Egyptians believed that it was important to save and communicate information about their religion and life. So, they invented written scripts that could be used to save this information. The most famous of all ancient Egyptian scripts is hieroglyphic. But not all of Egyptians knew how to write and read the hieroglyphs; only the scribes knew how, so they learnt to the others how to interpret them.



Also, with the beginning of the agriculture the Egyptians started to make a kind of paper called papyrus which was got of a plant (cyperus papyrus) that was growing on the banks of the Nile river. They used it as manuscripts in which they wrote hieroglyphs.



Scan this code to translate your own messages.

Read a story about Ancient Egypt



Test your knowledge about Egyptians

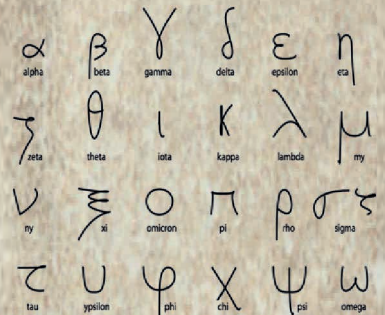
To scan these codes, download a free app for your mobile phone. Look for QR code or Bidi on:



The Greeks



by Marta Rodríguez López (Spain)



They didn't have television or internet, nor Whatsapp or social networks, but the ancient Greeks communicated through innovative and creative ways.

Stentorophonic Horn

The Stentorophonic horn was commonly used in war. Alexander the Great and other military leaders would use this horn to speak to armies or to let other armies know where they were. The sound of this horn (or tube as it was also called) could be heard from up to 20 kilometres away.

Sending Messages

Messages could be short or long. Light signals were used across the sky to give fast or urgent messages. The ancient Greeks also communicated larger messages using tablets containing the alphabet. The two parties had tablets arranged in the same order would decode their message by interpreting the "key" which was given by a torch (light) signal.



Communicating to Gods

In ancient Greece people loved, respected and feared their Gods. Divinity in Greece was very important, so that they had to communicate with them somehow, and that's why they would pray, give a sacrifice, perform a drama play or celebrate a festival such as the Olympic games.

Romans and Latin



by Ignacio Rodríguez Flethes (Spain)

Roman civilization is one of the most powerful and important civilizations in the history of world because of their technological and legislative innovations. Roman civilization was established in Italy and started from 753 BC until 476 A.D. Roma used Latin as a common language and was used as an international language of culture language until the 18th century



When you write a tweet or comment a post on one of your many friends in Facebook, you probably feel the privilege of living in a time in history where we can have access to a network of contacts through a simple click on the button "send".

Maybe makes you wonder how past generations could live without social networking, but what is perhaps you don't know that humans were using tools of social interaction for over two thousand years ago.

Marcus Tullius Cicero, a Roman philosopher and politician, he would have been, together with other Romans, the inventor of the use of social networks.

Cicero used a slave who later became his scribe to write messages on papyrus scrolls that were sent to a kind of network. These people, copied the text, added their own observations and returning to pass.

How do you spell it?



by Carlos Benjumeda Rodríguez-Mendizabal (Spain)

In this section we are going to see the important dates of different alphabets accros Europe and Asia. Also you will have the opportunity of watching a documentary about the Rosetta Stone. But first of all, here are the most important alphabets dates of origin.

Before Christ (BC)

- Cuneiform writing: 34th century BC
- 3200 first hieroglyphs
- 2000: first Chinese letters
- 1900-1500 Proto-Sinaitic and Phoenician scripts
- 8th Century: Greeks transform the Phoenician alphabet
- 7th Century: Archaic Latin alphabet
- 5th Century: Brahmi writing in India
- 1st Century: Classic Latin Alphabet

After Christ (AD = Anno Domini)

- 5th Century: Arabic alphabet
- In the 9th century two new alphabets: Glagolitic and Cyrillic

The Rosetta Stone

This piece of stone is the Rosetta Stone, one of the most important stones in the world, especially for linguists... Why is that? Watch the following documentary to know about it.

