

# The Alphabet



The first alphabet was invented by the Phoenicians in around 1500 BC. That's why we use words like phonics and phonemes when we're talking about the alphabet.

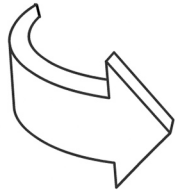


The alphabet was an important invention because up until this time the only form of recorded communication was drawing.

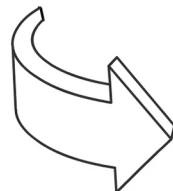
Symbols were gradually introduced because pictures took too long to draw. The clay tablets used for drawing were too heavy to carry around.



Over a long period of time these symbols developed into the letters we know today.



The early Hebrew alphabet was developed in about 1000 BC.



In approximately 800 BC the Greek alphabet was developed. The Greek alphabet was the first alphabet to go across the page from left to right. The Roman alphabet was then developed around 700 BC.

**A B C**

The letters in our alphabet are based on Roman letters.

At first, only capital letters were used as pen nibs were very thick.



**a b c**

As writing instruments developed, lower case letters were introduced.