

Math and History Application

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HISTORY Communication has been an important part of life throughout history. The earliest written communications were in the form of pictures. Cave paintings dating to 30,000 B.C. have been found in France's Grotte Chauvet. These paintings represented animals and objects, and told stories. The earliest known form of writing is cuneiform, which was developed by the Sumerians. In cuneiform, symbols and pictures were used to represent words. The earliest forms of cuneiform were found on clay tablets dating to 3300 B.C. One of the earliest alphabets was developed about 1000 B.C. by the Phoenicians. Some of the letters in the English alphabet are from the Phoenician alphabet. Today there are about 6000 languages spoken around the world.

The ways in which messages are sent has become more sophisticated. Paper and the first printing blocks were invented in China around A.D. 100. The first printing press was made by Johannes Gutenberg around A.D. 1450. The printing press allowed the spread of ideas, facts, and knowledge to many people quicker and cheaper than before its invention.

The first postal systems used runners or couriers on horseback to carry messages. Cows, camels, and reindeer have been used in postal systems throughout the world. Written messages can now be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail. Spoken message can be sent by telephone, radio, television, and cellular telephone.

MATH Write an inequality to represent the time it took to send a message.

1. The first message sent from London to New York by sailing ship took up to 9 weeks.
2. The first transatlantic telegraph was in 1858 and took less than 3 seconds.
3. Fast sailing clipper ships sailed across the Atlantic Ocean carrying mail in at least 12 days.
4. The first transcontinental airmail route took between 29 and 33 hours.
5. Arrange the facts listed below on a number line.
 - a. the fax was first demonstrated in 1851
 - b. the radio was invented in 1895
 - c. the first television was demonstrated in 1926
 - d. the first pony express delivery was in 1860
 - e. the first telephone was patented in 1876