

# The Origin Of Language And Communication

Speech is so essential to our concept of intelligence that its possession is virtually equated with being human. Animals who talk are human, because what sets us apart from other animals is the “gift” of speech’

Many animals are capable of using sounds to communicate. However, there is a colossal difference between the hoot of an owl or the grunt of a pig, and a human standing before an audience reciting Rabindra Nath Tagore

language owes its origin to the imitation and modification, aided by signs and gestures, of various natural sounds, the voices of other animals, and man's own instinctive cries....

Charles Darwin

**The world's languages evolved spontaneously**

# A Timeline of Human Communication

## THE ORAL TRADITION:

200,000 BC Birth of human speech.

## THE VISUAL/SYMBOLIC TRADITION



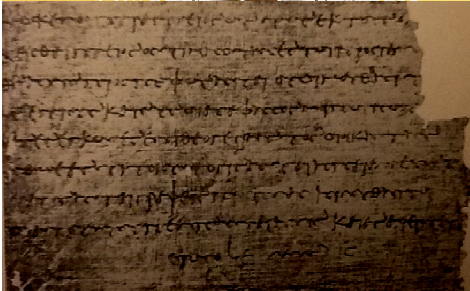
30000 BC

Oldest surviving cave paintings.



3500 BC

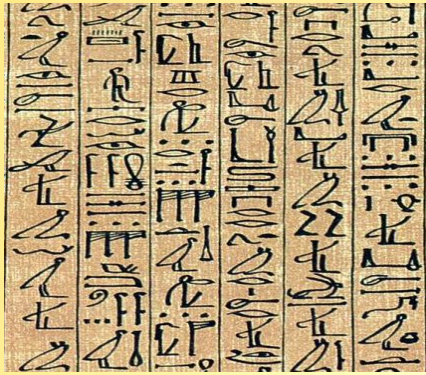
The Sumerians develop cuneiform writing - pictographs of accounts written on clay tablets.



3000 BC

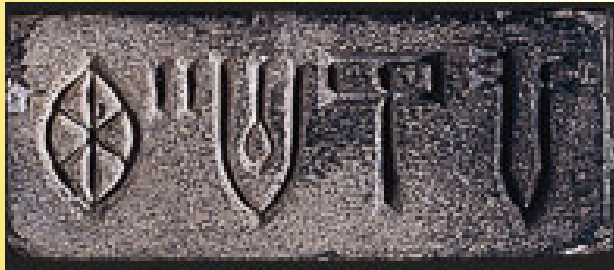
Papyrus was produced in Egypt, and in ancient Greece and Rome.

# THE WRITTEN TRADITION



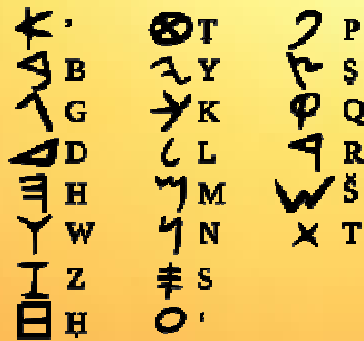
2900 BC

The Egyptians develop hieroglyphic writing.



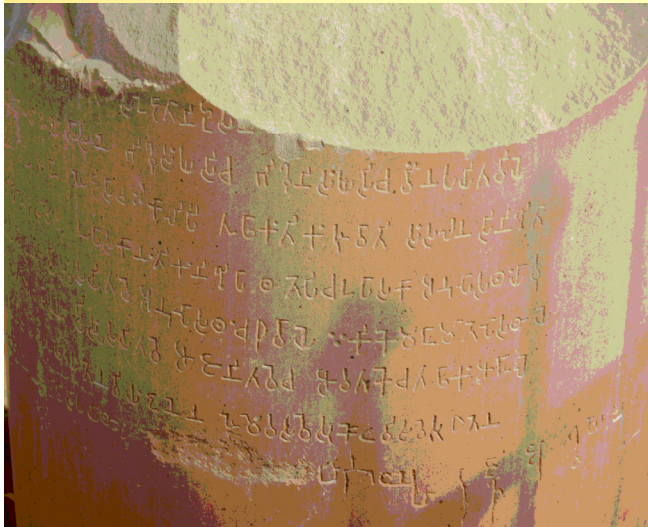
2600 BC

Indus Valley script still undeciphered



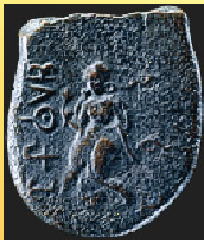
1050 BC

Phoenicians develop the first alphabet based on sound.



250–232 BC

Brahmi script on rock-cut edicts of Ashoka & Kharoṣṭhī



**7 BC till  
date**

**"the alphabet" in English. It is a true  
alphabet which originated in the 7th  
century BC in Italy and has changed  
continually over the last 2500 years**

**1 AD**

**Rudradaman  
inscriptions in Sanskrit**

**1000 AD**

**Modern standardized  
form of Devanagari  
started**

**1100 AD**

**From Devanagari  
Bengali script diverged**

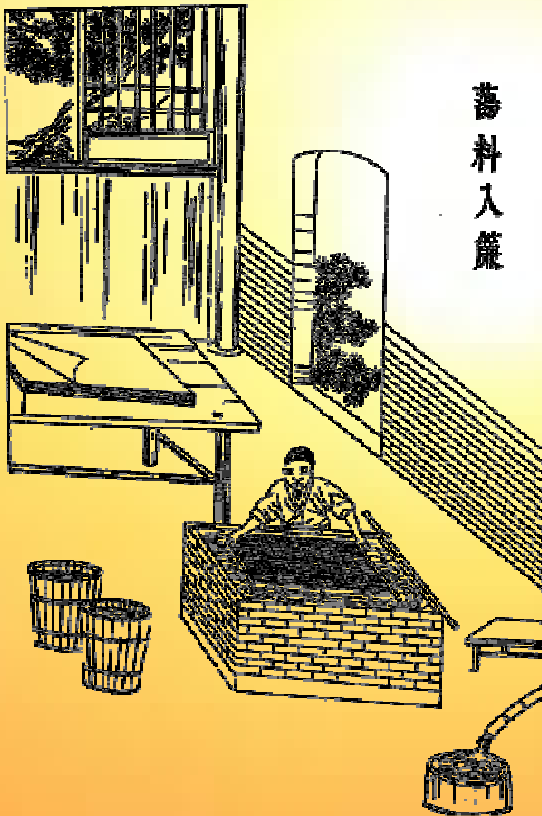
**1778 AD**

**Current printed form of Bengali  
alphabet appeared**



1049

First movable type invented -  
clay - invented in China by Pi  
Sheng.



206-100 BC

Paper was invented in  
ancient China during the Han  
dynasty



**305 AD**

**First wooden printing presses invented in China - symbols carved on a wooden block.**



**1450-1455**

**Johannes Gutenberg invents a printing press with metal movable type.**



776 BC

First recorded use of homing pigeons used to send message – the winner of the Olympic Games to the Athenians.



900 BC

The very first postal service - for government use in China.



1296 AD

Ala-ud-din Khilji started a regular horse and foot runner service called harakuras.



1727 AD

the East India Company established the first post office in India.