

BIZARRE ANCIENT LANGUAGES & ALPHABETS



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Do you love languages, codes, or puzzles? Do you enjoy interesting writing systems, alphabets, fonts, and words? You aren't alone. Language is an essential characteristic of being human! There are thousands of distinct languages and dialects. Still more languages are no longer used, some preserved only in written form, others lost for good. Right now you are looking at only one of many forms of communication, the Latin alphabet. It took many centuries to invent and perfect these symbols and only after many other methods were used by other advanced civilizations. How did people first start to solve the problem of communicating things to others by making marks?

Wouldn't it be fun to discover ancient libraries written in long lost languages...and then be the first to crack the code? We will give you a taste of this type of discovery as we explore the earliest languages and look at how they appear in written form. Some of them still need to be translated—will you be the one to do it?

SESSION 1: THE FIRST RECORDED WORDS


































- What are the different ways languages communicate sounds?
 - Ideograms
 - Syllabic
 - Alphabetic
- Egyptian
 - The Rosetta Stone
 - Hieroglyphic
 - Demotic
 - Hieratic



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b		m	
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

























































SESSION 2: LANGUAGES IN THE LEVANT

- Sumerian
- Semitic and Canaanite
 - Aramaic
 - Hebrew
- Cuneiform:
 - Hittite
- Phoenician introduced

										
alpha	beta	gamma	delta	epsilon	zeta	eta	theta	iota	kappa	lambda
'a	b	g	d	h	w	z	h	t		
										
yod	kaf	sin	lamda	mem	dal	nun	zu	samka	ain	resh
y	k	š	l	m	g	n	z	s	r	
										
pu	sade	qopa	rasha	taana	gain	to	i	u	sgu	word divider
p	s	q	r	t	g	t	'i	'u	s ₂	

SESSION 3: LANGUAGES IN THE AEGEAN

- Linear A – the mysterious language of the Minoans on Crete
- Linear B – learn how old the Greek language actually is!
- Greek – this alphabet is still used today!

	a	e	i	o	u
					
d					
j					
k					
m					
n					
p					
q					
r					
s					
t					
w					
z					

SESSION 4: ITALY & OUR ALPHABET

- Etruscan
- Phoenician revisited
- The Latin Alphabet

GREAT WEB-LINKS AND RESOURCES

- Your workshop web page is full of links, fonts and much more. Go to: <https://www.quia.com/pages/abarr/bala19>
- A linguaphile's delight! Check out <http://www.ancientscripts.com/index.html>
- Mark Collier and Bill Manly, How to Read Egyptian Hieroglyphs: A Step-by-Step Guide to Teach Yourself, Revised Edition, 2003
- Reading the Past Series by the British Museum, including:
 - John Chadwick, Linear B and Related Scripts (Vol. 1), 1987
 - C. B. F. Walker, Cuneiform (Vol. 3), 1987