Writing

Consider and jot down notes on the following questions as you watch the video and multimedia presentation on "Writing":

1. What aspect of society did the earliest writing focus on?

2. Explain how cuneiform signs eventually took on additional meanings as well as sounds and syllables within the Sumerian language.

Explore the four sub-topics at the end of the multimedia presentation (Signs, Scribes, Envelopes, and International Writing) and consider the following questions:

1. Would you be able to tell what the pictographs in "Signs" symbolize if the English translation wasn't given?

2. Why do you think the pictographs gradually changed to become more abstract symbols?

3. How does the ability to preserve and transmit information impact on a society's scientific, artistic, political, and economic spheres?

4. What purpose did scribes serve in Sumerian society?