

The Incredible Inventions of Ancient Sumer

Read the text carefully and then answer the following questions in as much detail as you can.

1. List three ancient Sumerian inventions.

2. When did the ancient Sumerian people start to develop a writing system?

3. What does cuneiform mean?

4. Why did the ancient Sumerian farmers use oxen to help them with their farming?

5. Explain how a 'seeder plough' works and draw a picture of what you think it looked like.

6. What type of objects did the ancient Sumerians make from clay?

Why were they able to make so many different objects?

7. Why was it only the rich people who wore linen?

8. What was the ancient Sumerian counting system based on?

9. How did the ancient Sumerians track the passing of time?

10. What was the king's job in an ancient Sumerian city-state?

11. Why do you think it was important for the king and nobles to listen to the people?

12. What ancient Sumerian invention do you think was the most important? Explain why.

Challenge:

Design an advertisement for an ancient Sumerian invention. Describe its function and features and explain how it will benefit the user.

The Incredible Inventions of Ancient Sumer - **Answers**

Read the text carefully and then answer the following questions in as much detail as you can.

1. List three ancient Sumerian inventions.

Accept any three of the following answers:

- **one of the first writing scripts;**
- **a range of farming tools;**
- **a 'seeder plough';**
- **the shovel;**
- **the sickle;**
- **the rake;**
- **potter's wheel;**
- **the loom.**

2. When did the ancient Sumerian people start to develop a writing system?

They started to develop their writing system around 3500 BC.

3. What does cuneiform mean?

Accept the answer 'wedge shaped'.

4. Why did the ancient Sumerian farmers use oxen to help them with their farming?

They used oxen to help with their farming as the animals are strong and they used their strength to pull the 'seeder plough'.

5. Explain how a 'seeder plough' works and draw a picture of what you think it looked like.

A 'seeder plough' was pulled by oxen and created a channel along the ground into which seeds could be dropped. Accept any drawing which looks like a plough.

6. What type of objects did the ancient Sumerians make from clay? Why were they able to make so many different objects?

Ancient Sumerians made many objects from clay such as statues, bowls, vases and jars. They made so many objects as clay was freely available.

7. Why was it only the rich people who wore linen?

Only the rich wore linen as it was more expensive than wool.

8. What was the ancient Sumerian counting system based on?

The ancient Sumerians counting system was based on multiples of six and ten.

The Incredible Inventions of Ancient Sumer - **Answers**

9. How did the ancient Sumerians track the passing of time?

They tracked the passing of time by using their skills to follow the movements of the stars and planets.

10. What was the king's job in an ancient Sumerian city-state?

The king's job in an ancient Sumerian city-state was to decide on laws, punishments, whether to go to war and how the gods should be obeyed.

11. Why do you think it was important for the king and nobles to listen to the people?

Accept any answer which explains that it was important for a king or noble to listen to their people, as the people would feel they were getting to have their say and that it was a fair decision. The people would feel a part of their city and be happy with decisions that had been made as they had been listened to.

12. What ancient Sumerian invention do you think was the most important? Explain why.

Accept any invention with a reasonable explanation as to why it was the most important.

Challenge:

Design an advertisement for an ancient Sumerian invention. Describe its function and features and explain how it will benefit the user.