Day: _____ The History of Communication Date: _____

Writing Tools

Note:
Writing is one form of communication. The pictures below have something in common. They have all been used for writing.

					
6	computer				

					

A. Read about the different ways of writing. Then, name the pictures above and label them (1 – 5) to show the order from the oldest to the latest. The first one (in blue) has been done for you.

Pencils
A soft stone called discovered in England in 1564. People used graphite to write and draw on paper. However, it was messy to use and broke easily. People tried different ways of holding graphite, until they produced the pencil we use today.

Papyrus (pap-eye-rus)
About 4000 years ago, the people of Egypt, Palestine, Syria and southern Europe used a plant called papyrus to make a kind of paper. The people moistened thin strips of papyrus, then laid them side by side on a board. They laid more strips on top, then pressed them and carefully beat them with hammers. The papyrus dried in the sun and was ready to write on.

Quill pens and ballpoint pens
The first instrument for writing was the human finger. Sometime later people made quill pens from birds' feathers. After this, the fountain pen was invented in England. Then, the ballpoint pen was invented in Hungary.

Cuneiform (kue—nee—form)
Cuneiform is a system of writing which was used about 5000 years ago by ancient people. People wrote on clay, stone, metal and other hard materials. Historians are working on the translation of cuneiform to help us understand ancient history.

Computers
Computers are modern machines. People use word processing programmes in a computer to help type, edit, rearrange and retype a piece of writing. The writing is displayed on the computer's screen, and can be printed on paper by the computer's printer.

B. Answer the questions by using complete sentence.

1. Why was graphite not very good for writing with?

_____

2. What did the people of Egypt write on four thousand years ago?

_____

3. Where was the ballpoint pen invented?

_____

4. What is papyrus?

_____

5. Write one way a computer can help us to write.

_____

6. Why is understanding cuneiform important to us today?

_____

7. Which was invented first, the ball-point pen or the fountain pen?

_____

Name: _____ Class: Year 4 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS