

8th Grade Level A Test #2

Reading (80 points)

The Invention of Paper.

Did you know that paper was first invented in China? Before paper was invented, people used to write on bones, turtle shells, and bamboo.

Paper was first invented in China around 100 B.C. People used a plant called Hemp and silk to make paper. The paper made with these materials was not very good. It was also expensive.

Then around A.D. 105 a man in China named Cai Lun came up with a better and cheaper way to make paper. He is known as the inventor of the paper we use today.

Cai Lun used tree bark, hemp, silk, and fishing nets to invent this paper. This paper was easier and cheaper to make than the paper made back then. His process also made it possible to make a lot of paper at once.

Cai Lun was an official who worked for the emperor of China. When he told the emperor about the new paper he had made, the emperor was very happy. People started using Cai Lun's papermaking process throughout China. Soon enough, his process started to spread to other countries around the world.

Until the 8th century, paper was only produced in China and other parts of Eastern Asia. However, legend has it that two Chinese papermakers were taken during a battle with an Arab country and brought to Samarkand, where they were ordered to build a paper manufacturing center in the heart of the Muslim empire. Whether or not this was true, it is probable that Muslim warriors encountered papermaking during their battles with China. Seeing its usefulness immediately, they returned home with the technology to share with their scribes.

Today we all use paper on a daily basis, we don't think about how life was before the paper arrived.

Answer the questions:

1. What did people write on before the paper was invented? (14 p)

2. What did the people in China use to make the first paper? (14p)

3. What was the problem with the first paper? (12p)

4. What is the name of the man who invented the paper we use today? (14p)

Name: _____ Teacher: _____



5. How was the new paper better than the first paper?
(12p) _____

6. According to the legend, how did the paper get to the Arab country? (14p)

Good Luck!