



## The Oldest School in the World

The oldest school in the world that we have written records about is the school in the ancient city of Ur, located in what is now Iraq. This school existed around 4,000 years ago and was created to teach young boys how to read and write. Like today's schools, students at the school in Ur had to learn important skills, but there were also many differences between education then and now.

One similarity is that students had to (1)\_\_\_\_ school every day, just like they do today. However, the students in Ur learned to write on clay (2)\_\_\_\_ instead of paper or computers. The writing they learned was called cuneiform, which was a system of wedge-shaped symbols. The teachers in this school were called "ummia," and they were very strict. If students made mistakes, they were often punished, which is very different from the way students are treated in most schools (3)\_\_\_\_.

Another big difference is that only boys went to school in Ur. Today, schools are usually open to both boys and (4)\_\_\_\_, but in ancient times, girls were not given the same opportunities for education. The boys who went to the school in Ur were mostly from wealthy families, and they were trained to become (5)\_\_\_\_, which were important positions in the government or temples. These students studied for many years to become experts in reading, writing, and mathematics.

The subjects taught in the school in Ur were quite different from the subjects taught in schools today. While modern students study subjects like science, literature, and art, the students in Ur focused mainly on writing and (6)\_\_\_\_. They spent a lot of time practicing how to make the cuneiform symbols correctly, as their writing had to be perfect for official documents. This is different from today, where students learn a wide range of subjects and can use computers to write instead of doing everything by (7)\_\_\_\_.

Despite these differences, there are some similarities between the school in Ur and modern schools. Just like today, students had to take an exam to show what they had learned. If they passed their (8)\_\_\_\_, they could go on to have important jobs in society. Although the school in Ur was much stricter and the students had fewer choices in what they learned, the idea of getting an education to improve one's future is still the same.

Overall, the school in Ur shows us that while education has changed a lot over the (9)\_\_\_\_, the basic idea of learning important skills for life has remained the same. Whether writing on clay tablets or typing on a (10)\_\_\_\_, students have always had to work hard to succeed in their studies.

### Word Bank

tests, writing, computer, boys, centuries, mathematics, scribes, hand, today, girls, tablets, attend