

A Before you read the article, answer the questions.

1. Think about your language. How many letters / characters / symbols are there in your writing system?

2. In which direction do you write your language? From left to right, right to left, top to bottom?

3. Think about another language you know. Is the writing system the same as or different from your own?

B Read the article. Insert each sentence into the correct paragraph.

- a. "Scripts are a hugely important aspect of culture,"
- b. Some ideas are very creative.
- c. In some countries, modern technology hasn't helped, either.
- d. Many of the world's languages share writing systems,

WORD FOCUS

An **aspect** of something means a part of it.

C Read the article again. Answer the questions with information from the text.

1. How many scripts exist today?

2. What does the Dongba script use instead of letters?

3. According to the article, where can you find street signs in the Cherokee language?

4. Who has used carving to teach people about the problem of writing systems at risk?

5. Where do people write in the languages Marma and Chakma?

D Circle the correct information.

1. In 2100, there will be *more* / *fewer* languages in the world than today.
2. Some writing systems are going extinct because children *have learned* / *don't learn* them in schools.
3. *All* / *Not all* languages can be written using a computer.
4. Cultures write down information that they believe *is* / *isn't* important.
5. Tim Brookes carves scripts of languages that are *common* / *not very common*.
6. Tim Brookes wants *more* / *fewer* people to know about the problem of endangered writing systems.