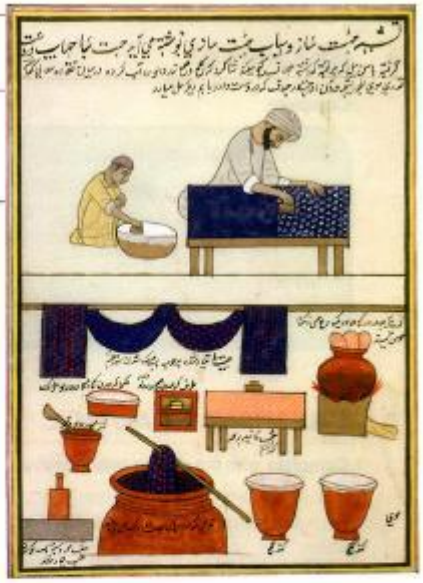
DESCRIBING A PROCESS



Ancient Inventions

People often think that **plastic surgery** is a modern American invention, __1__. However, thousands of years before America was discovered by Columbus, Indian doctors did complicated plastic surgery. A medical textbook titled the *Sushruta Samhita*, which was written in approximately 600 B.C., gives detailed instructions for doing "nose jobs"—__2__.

Brightly colored **cotton clothes** were made in India four and a half thousand years ago. This was at a time when Europeans wore animal skins. Until cotton factories were developed in England 200 years ago, India supplied the world with cotton clothes.

Although we call them **Arabic numbers**, the numbers that we use today came from India, and it was there that "zero" was invented in 499 A.D. The Romans had counted using letters (M=1000, D=500, C=100, L=50, X=10, V=5, and I=1) __3__. For example, four was written IV, forty XXXX, four hundred CCCC, and four thousand MMMM. However, in the new Indian system, using zero, the same numbers were written 4, 40, 400, 4,000.

Chocolate was invented over 2,500 years ago! The Mayans and Aztecs lived in parts of Mexico and Central America from 600 B.C. __4__. They made a cold, thick drink called *xocolatl* from the fruit of the tree. Although the Mayans and Aztecs loved chocolate, Europeans didn't discover it for another two thousand years. In 1519, the Spanish explorer Cortés visited Emperor Montezuma II of Mexico. To the explorer's great surprise, he found that Montezuma drank 50 cups of chocolate a day.

Paper and printing were Chinese inventions. Paper was invented in 105 A.D. by Cai Lun, and the Chinese kept the process secret __5__. Although paper was introduced into Japan in 610 A.D., it didn't reach the West until much later. A hundred years after paper was first made, printing was invented in China—over a thousand years before it was invented in Europe. In China, paper wasn't only used for books. Umbrellas, flags, and toilet paper were made from it, __6__.

1 OPENER

When and where do you think these things were invented?

chocolate • cotton • paper
plastic surgery • printing

2 READING

Read *Ancient Inventions* and check your answers to exercise 1. Then complete the text with phrases a–f.

a for more than five hundred years
b and grew cacao trees
c as well as the world's first paper money
d somehow connected with Hollywood
e and this made mathematics very difficult
f changing the shape of your nose

Which words in the phrases helped you complete the text?

3 LINKING WORDS

***although*: Find examples of *although* in the text. Then rewrite these sentences using *although* instead of *but*.**

1 Paper was made in Japan in 610 A.D., but it wasn't made in Europe until 1151.
2 Printing was invented in the 3rd century, but it didn't reach Europe until 1455.
3 The Mayans and Aztecs loved *xocolatl*, but the Spanish thought it tasted awful.
4 Leonardo da Vinci lived 500 years ago, but he designed the first car.
5 Krysta Morlan was only 16, but she invented the waterbike.
6 Louis Braille couldn't see, but he developed a reading system for the blind.

LIVEWORKSHEETS