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ARTH3311

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HW #1

Intro to the History of Graphic Design

In this chapter we begin to learn about the first instance of written language ever documented. I learned about how the first words were basically pictures. Early homosapiens used them as a means of recording information, transferring information, and communicating ideas.

The pictures on the cave walls from over two hundred thousand years ago depict mostly animals and easy to find game and other places around the world. There were abstract geometric signs, including dots, squares, and other configurations, are intermingled with the animals in many cave paintings.

I learned that cuneiform script, one of the earliest systems of writing, was invented by the Sumerians. It is distinguished by its wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets. The name cuneiform itself just means "wedge shaped".

Emerging in Sumer in the late fourth millennium BC to convey the Sumerian language, which was a language isolate, cuneiform writing began as a system of pictograms, much like early homosapien writing but they stemmed from an earlier system of shaped tokens used for

accounting. In the third millennium, the pictorial representations became simplified and more abstract as the number of characters in use grew smaller.