

HW Assignment #2
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ARTH 3311

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In this session I learned about the invention of the alphabet. I did not know how simple the alphabet started out or how complex the timeline of its evolution. It basically started out as sounds of certain words and a very finite number of sounds at that. It's not something you really think about since written language has been around for centuries. I learned that the alphabet was the combination of alpha and beta which really surprised me for some reason. It was very interesting.

We also learned about the Sumerians Cuneiform. Cuneiform was one of the earliest systems of writing and it was invented by the Sumerians. It's usually identifiable by wedge shaped marks into clay tablets. Cuneiform writing was gradually replaced by the Phoenician alphabet

There was a video going through the life of a Teenager in ancient Rome called Lucius Popidius Secundus. I don't remember what the relevance of the video was relating to the topic at hand so I watched it again. He lived in the Subura which was close to the center of the city. The word Suburb likely evolved from the Subura in ancient Rome. At least that was what was implied. By 17 Lucius was a well-rounded soldier and intellectual.

Even as much as Lucius has grown, his father won't let him do business deals as he doesn't have experience as he's still a child. I also learned that "wars were a fact of life even in A.D 73." Maybe the wars they had helped spread the language and writing systems.

Lastly learning about Massimo Vignelli was very interesting. I didn't know the subway maps were designed with aesthetic and a design process in mind. I thought it was just an MTA thing. I didn't know a famous designer designed them. Now that I know that, I'm starting to appreciate and notice how pleasing to the eyes it is. "The map was geographically accurate and easy to read. It was designed with 45 and 90 angles only. Each train line had its own color. Each stop was a dot.