



EGYPTIAN WRITING, CALLED HIEROGLYPHICS, USED PICTURES.



WRITING

Ironworking was not the only technology that the Greeks learned from other cultures. Sometime between 950 B.C. and 750 B.C., the Greeks relearned how to use a written language.

In very early times, the Greeks had a written language, but it had been lost in the destruction that led to the Dark Ages. No examples of Greek writing appeared for hundreds of years.

This changed as the Phoenicians began trading with the area. The Phoenicians had an alphabet and written language originally based on Egyptian hieroglyphics. By the time the Phoenicians brought their writing to Greece,



however, it was no longer image-based, like Egyptian writing; instead, it was more like our alphabet—with symbols created by drawing lines. The Phoenician alphabet had twenty-two characters, all of which were consonants.

The Greeks adapted the Phoenician alphabet to their own tongue. Letters that had no match in their own language they used as vowels.

At first, the Greeks used writing only to record business and trade, but they soon began to record the stories of their culture—the legends of gods and goddesses and the epic poems of Homer. Later, Greek scholars, philosophers, and playwrights created some of the most profound and enduring literature ever. These great works of literature were preserved for all time in the writing of the Greeks.

AFTER THE DARK AGES, THE GREEKS ADAPTED THE PHOENICIAN ALPHABET TO THEIR OWN SPOKEN LANGUAGE.

