

# Module 1 Unit 5



## **The Chinese Writing System:** *Connecting the Past and the Present*

# Learning aims

- 1. Learn about the development of the Chinese writing system and its functions**
- 2. Analyze the text structure**
- 3. Realize the importance of Chinese writing system and build up the confidence in Chinese culture**

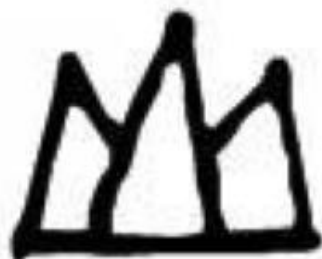
# Guessing Game

水

山

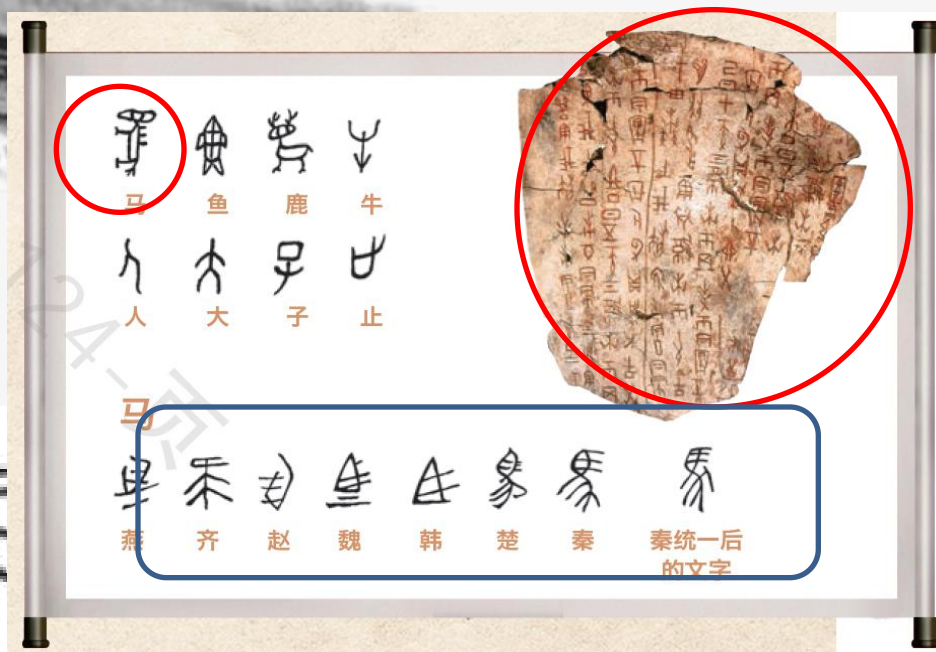
日

火



# Activity 1: Free Talking

Q2: Where did people write down the symbols?  
How did people write down the symbols on animal shells?

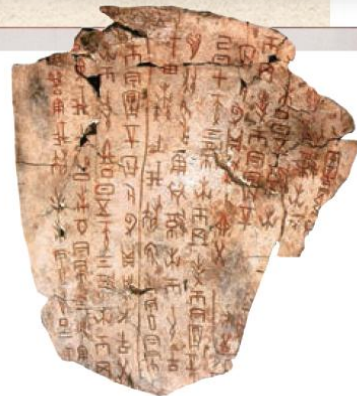


# Activity 2: Predicting the content

## THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM: CONNECTING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

**What will be talked about?**  
**What may be the author's  
intention of writing the passage?**

			
马	鱼	鹿	牛
			
人	大	子	止
			
马	燕	齐	赵
			
魏	韩	楚	秦



秦统一后的  
文字

## Activity 3: Reading for the main idea

The passage tells us:

**Development**

The Chinese writing system

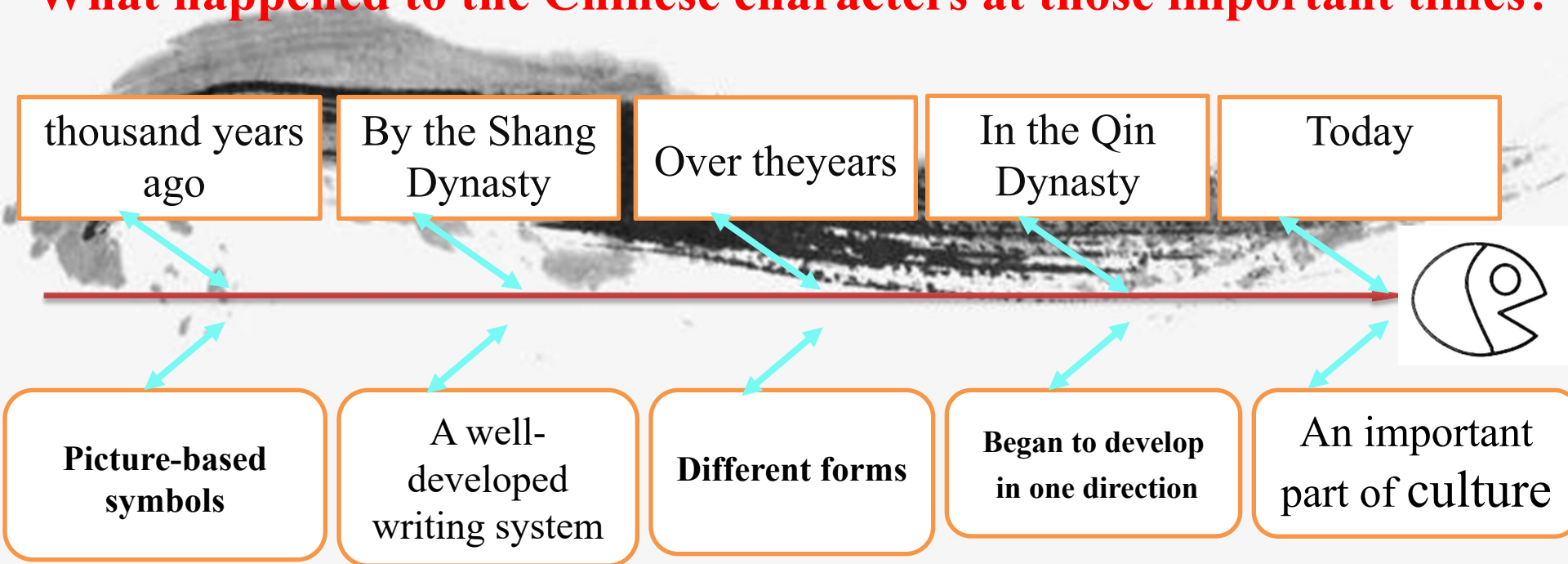
**Functions**

**Importance**

# Activity 4: Reading for details

Can you find the words and phrases about time that can show the development of the Chinese writing system ?

What happened to the Chinese characters at those important times?





## Activity 4: Reading for details

THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM:  
CONNECTING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

**What are the key words of the second part of the title?**

**Could you find some sentences including words indicating “the past and the present”?**



## Activity 4: Reading for details

**connect**

1. China is widely known for its **ancient** civilisation which has continued all the way through into **modern** times, ... but one of the main factors has been the Chinese writing system. (Paragraph 1)

2. It **dates back** several thousand years to the use of longgu—animal bones and shells on which symbols were carved by **ancient** Chinese people. Some of the **ancient** symbols can still be seen in **today's** hanzi. (Paragraph 2)

3. **Even today**, no matter where people live or what dialect they speak, they can **still** communicate in writing. (Paragraph 4)

Paragraph 5...

Paragraph 6...

## Activity 4: Reading for details

# THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM: CONNECTING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

**What other functions does the Chinese writing system have? Give the evidence.**

## Activity 4: Reading for details

**Functions**  
1. That writing system was of great importance in **uniting the Chinese people and culture.**

**Connect people with culture**

2. The high regard for the Chinese writing system can be seen in the development of **Chinese characters as an art form known as Chinese calligraphy.**

**Connect characters/language with art**

Chinese culture

3. As **China** plays a greater role in global affairs, an increasing number of **international students** are beginning to appreciate China's culture and history.

**Connect China with the world**

## Activity 5: Focusing on the function

# THE CHINESE WRITING SYSTEM: CONNECTING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

**connect** the past and the present

**connect** people with culture

**connect** characters/language with art

**connect** China with the world

The “**connecting**” function of the Chinese writing system

## Activity 6: Reading for details

Why does the author emphasize the “**connecting**” function of the Chinese writing system?



Function



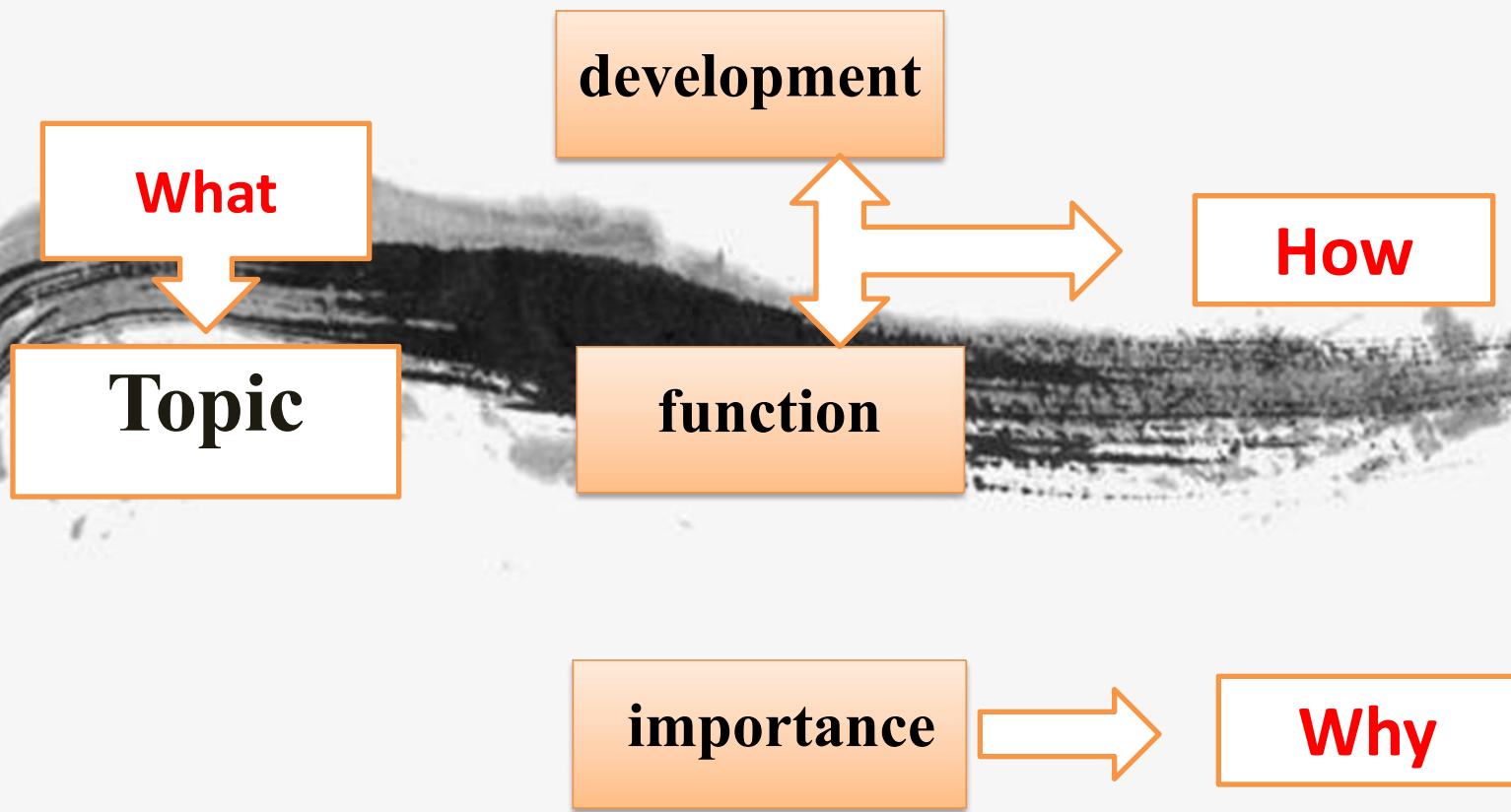
Importance

Can you find some sentences showing the **importance** of the Chinese writing system directly?

## Activity 6: Focusing on the importance

1. That writing system **intention** **importance** in uniting the Chinese people and culture.
2. Written Chinese has also become **an important means** by which Chinese people have communicated with each other.
3. **The Chinese writing system is one of the main factors that has made the continuation of China's ancient civilisation possible.**
4. The Chinese writing system is one of the main factors that has made the continuation of China's ancient civilisation possible.

## Activity 7: Retell the passage





# Presentation

**Make **a speech** on the opening ceremony of the Festival of Chinese Characters in your school to call on students to make the Chinese writing system known to more people. Your speech should include:**

- 1.A topic;**
- 2.The development, function and importance of the Chinese writing system;**
- 3.A conclusion.**

## One possible version by a student

用问题激发学生兴趣，  
并引出演讲主题，

Dear fellow students,

Why can Chinese civilization continue all the way through into modern times? The Chinese writing system have made a great difference in the procedure. So the topic of our Festival is “**Appreciate the Importance of Chinese**”

非限制性定语从句，  
增加句式多样性

First of all, the Chinese writing system is of great importance in connecting the past and the present. It began as symbols carved on longgu several thousand years ago, **some of which** can still be seen in today's hanzi.

It is also a very important means of connecting people and culture. In the Qin Dynasty, it developed **in one direction**. So, even today, people still can communicate with each other. Besides, it can also connect with art, for Chinese characters have developed into an important art form ---Chinese Calligraphy. **What's more**, it even connects China and the world. Many foreign students are beginning to appreciate China's culture and history through it.

统一

连词的运用，增强  
文章的逻辑性

排比句式，  
渲染演讲氛围

As a Chinese, I'm really proud of the amazing Chinese writing system. **It is** a great achievement for us to write Chinese characters well. **It's** really an honor for us to do something to help develop it better. And **it is** our duty to introduce the system clearly to the world.

That's all. Thank you!

**Admire the beauty of Chinese characters. Every man shares a responsibility to develop the Chinese writing system.**

# Assignments

A traditional Chinese ink wash painting (Washu) serves as the background. It features a large, dark, expressive brushstroke on the left side, with lighter, more delicate strokes extending towards the right, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall style is minimalist and artistic.

**Rewrite the **speech** on the opening ceremony of the Festival of Chinese Characters.**

