Writing and Script: A Very Short Introduction

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Writing and Script: A Very Short Introduction explains how early forms of writing developed into hundreds of scripts including the Roman alphabet and Chinese characters. Without writing, there would be no records, no history, no books, and no emails. Writing is an integral and essential part of our lives; but when did it start? Why do we each write differently and how did writing develop into what we use today? We began to write five thousand years ago, with cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphs. To what extent do the modern writing symbols and abbreviations we take for granted today, such as airport signage and text messaging, resemble ancient ones?