

Ox, House, Stick: The History of Our Alphabet

A Discussion and Activity Guide

Developed by Charlesbridge with Don Robb

Alphabets are used by people all over the world. But how well do you really know your ABCs? In *Ox, House, Stick*, author Don Robb chronicles the origins of our modern-day alphabet begun 4,000 years ago in the time of the Sinaitic peoples.

After reading *Ox, House, Stick*, write your name in the original Sinaitic alphabet. The Sinaitic peoples did not have the letters G, J, U, V, W, and Y in their alphabet. If your name starts with J, get creative and make up your own letter! Which way do you prefer to write your name?

Imagine you lived in the ancient Middle East when the first alphabet was taking shape. What picture or symbol would you choose for each letter? For example, a simple outline of an apple can represent the letter A. Continue through Z to create your own alphabet.

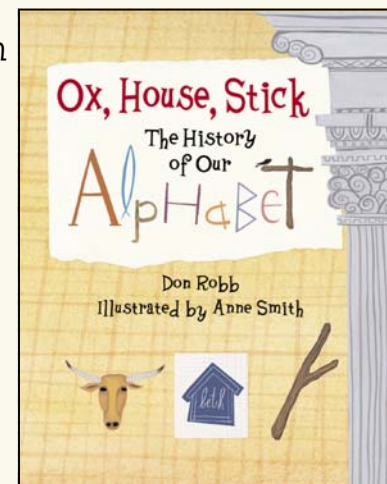
When you're done, mix up the order and ask your friends to guess what letter in the Roman alphabet corresponds with your new alphabet. Then tell them why you chose the pictures or symbols you used. Compare the meanings of each of your letters with those of the first alphabet. When you and your friends have mastered your new alphabet, write notes to one another.

For an extra challenge, make up a symbol for the places where two letters, like CH, produce a distinct sound. The new letter might be called "che" and look like a wedge of Swiss cheese.

Praise for *Ox, House, Stick*:

★ "This quality work fills a significant gap in children's information literature. It should find a home in all collections."

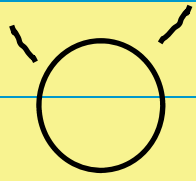
— *School Library Journal*, starred review *A Junior Library Guild Selection*



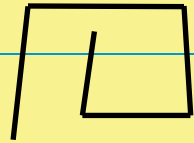
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8 1/2 x 11, Ages 8 - 11

The First Alphabet

of the Sinaitic peoples



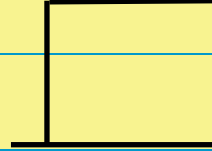
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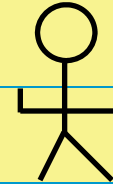
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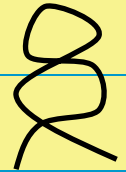
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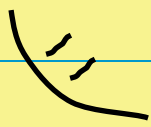
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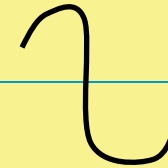
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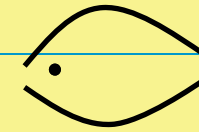
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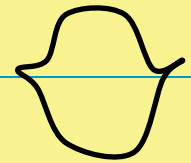
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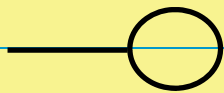
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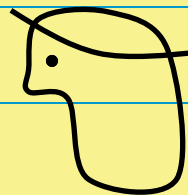
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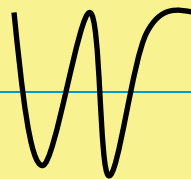
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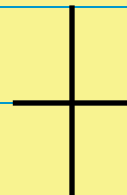
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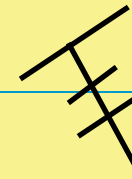
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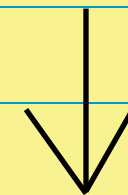
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