

Answers to Pause and Reflect Boxes for Chapter 11 Writing Systems
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Pause and Reflect 11.1

Because we are so used to interpreting emojis as human faces we may think of them as pictograms. However, they are better described as iconic symbols, in that the interpretation (laughter, sadness, irony) is a matter of agreed interpretation.

Pause and Reflect 11.2

This is a thought question and answers will vary.

Pause and Reflect 11.3

No one has the authority to impose English spelling reform. In the English-speaking world, dictionary makers and publishers establish the standard spellings.

Pause and Reflect 11.4

Syllabics is not a syllabary by the definition used in this chapter. The characters that represent the same consonant followed by different vowels are the same shape in different orientations.

Pause and Reflect 11.5

Can you make sense of this question if none of the vowels are represented? Can you make sense of this question if the initial vowels are indicated?

Pause and Reflect 11.6

Horse-watch makes some sense as *stopwatch* (used for timing horse races). *Horse-above* is difficult to interpret as *immediately*. *Horse-tub* might have been an earlier sense of the item now used as a lavatory. Thus, the answer is that sometimes compound words are the sum of their parts, and sometimes they aren't.

Pause and Reflect 11.7

This is a thought question and answers will vary.

Pause and Reflect 11.8

The parenthesized signs represent vowels. They can be omitted, which tells us that the sign before each vowel sign is probably a CV sign with the V the same as the one indicated by the following vowel sign.

Pause and Reflect 11.9

Communication with the spirits was likely. However, it seems more likely, that writing began in China for the same reasons as in other places: for keeping accounts. Recording accounts led to the recording and sending of messages and the recording of poetic utterances.

Pause and Reflect 11.10

This is a thought question and answers will vary.

Pause and Reflect 11.11

Perhaps this is because more words can be spelled with the same consonants although they presumably had different vowels. The determinatives come at the ends of words, and they are so frequent that they essentially serve as word dividers.

Pause and Reflect 11.12

Even guessing that each of the hieroglyphs in Ptolemy's cartouche represents a single sound or a single consonant doesn't tell us which hieroglyph represents which sound. The name *Cleopatra* has several sounds—p t o l—so that it became possible to guess which hieroglyph might go with which sound.

Pause and Reflect 11.13

It's been claimed that the immense intellectual creativity of Classical Greece was due to the use of an alphabet instead of any of the earlier types of writing system. However, there is no evidence to support this, and it stems largely from lack of understanding of attested prior literary activity as well as prejudices.

Pause and Reflect 11.14

This is a thought question and answers will vary.

Pause and Reflect 11.15

This is a thought question and answers will vary.

Pause and Reflect 11.16

Answers will vary but likely you may remember associating the shape of letters of the alphabet with animals or other figures that visually helped you to remember them. Other techniques may have used your imagination, colors, or dry-erase boards.