

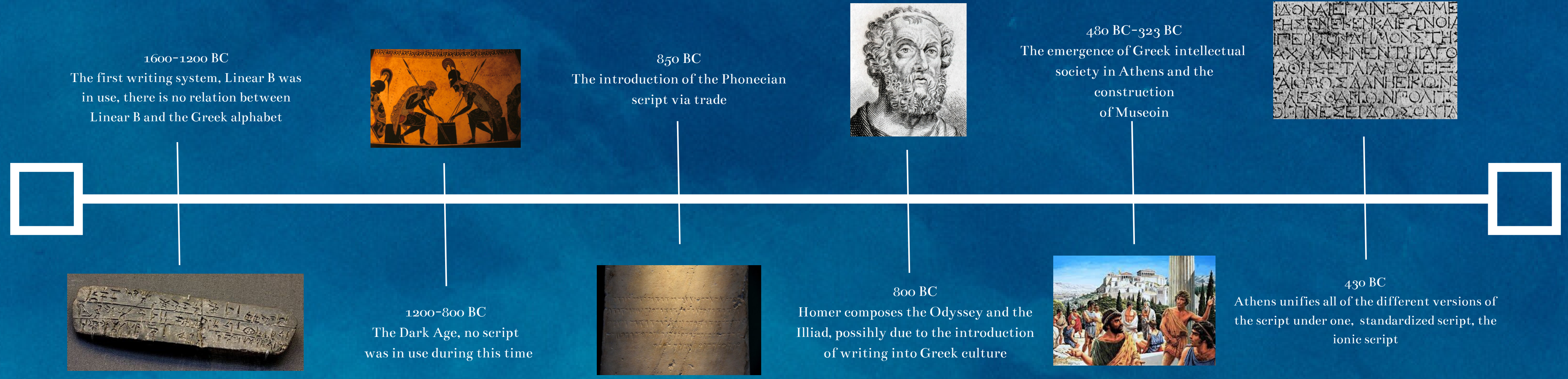
PHOENICIAN TRADE

The Spread of Culture and Commerce through the Mediterranean

The Phoenicians where avid traders. They had an extensive route running through the Mediterranean, which was not only an important linkage between the civilizations built along this route, but also a device for Phoenician script to spread

It is universally recognized that Greek script evolved from Phoenician writing, although how it was transferred has not reached global consensus. The characters symbols, sequence, and names are far too similar for there to be any other parent system.

One current theory is that the Greek’s likely picked up the Phoenician writing system via Eubean Merchants through commercial trade in Cyprus. The purpose of these merchants picking up the language was most likely commercial, however, the idea to use Phoenician for Greek verses occurred almost immediately following the adoption of the script.

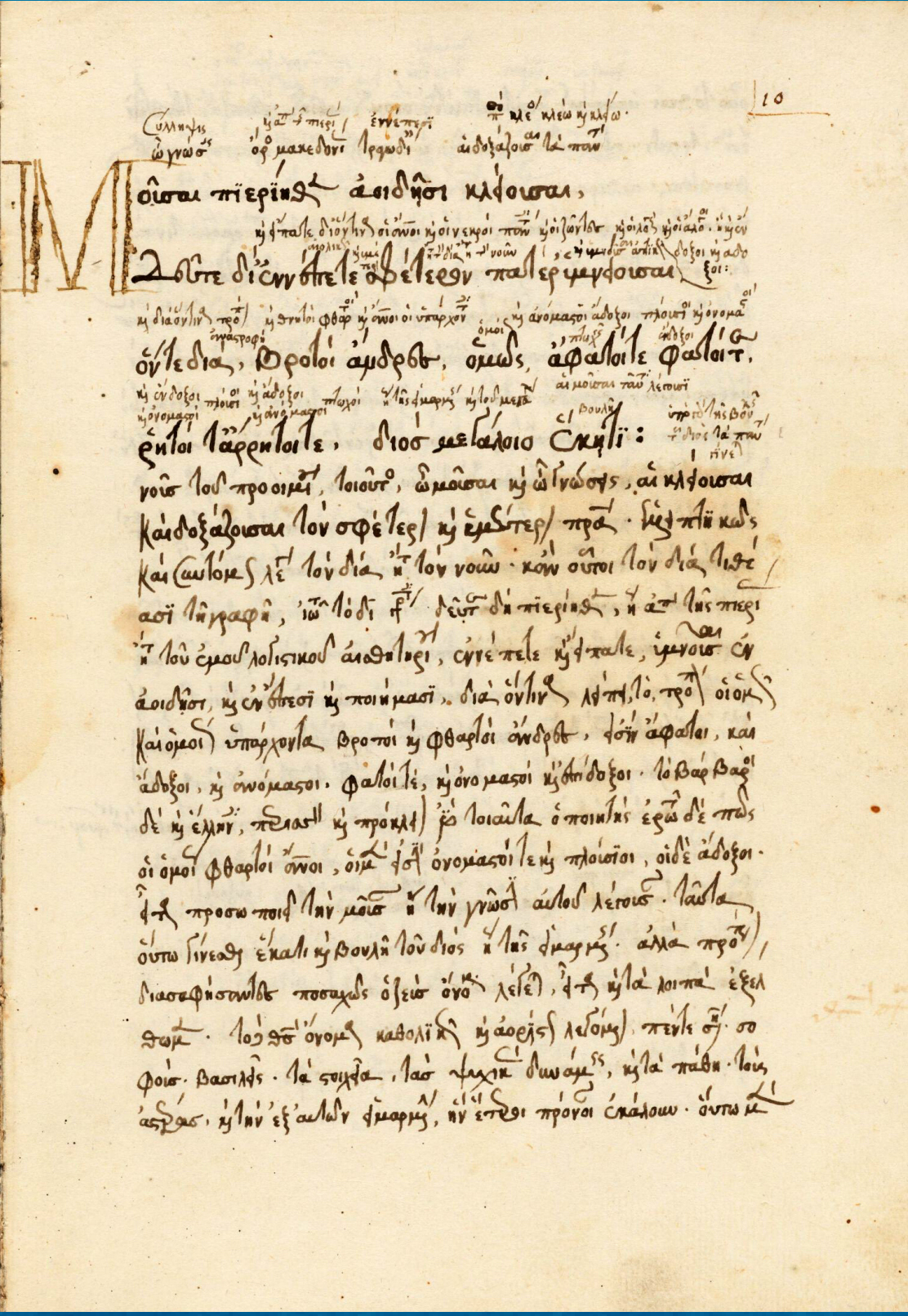


THE GREEK ALPHABET

Abby Klein

The Development The Journey to a standardized writing system in Ancient Greece

Phoenician model		𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕	𐤖	𐤗	𐤘								
Southern	"green"	A	𐤁	𐤂	𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	𐤕	𐤖	𐤗	𐤘	𐤙*	𐤚	𐤛	𐤜	𐤝	𐤞		
Western	"red"																											𐤚		𐤜				
Eastern	"light blue"																																	
	"dark blue"																																	
Classic Ionian						𐤅		𐤇	𐤈							𐤍												𐤚			𐤜	𐤝		𐤞
Modern alphabet		A	B	Γ	Δ	E	—	Z	—	H	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	—	—	Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	—	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω				
Sound in Ancient Greek		a	b	g	d	e	w	zd	h	ē	tʰ	i	k	l	m	n	ks	o	p	s	k	r	s	t	u	ks	pʰ	kʰ	ps	ō				



FROM TRADE RECEIPTS TO EPIC POETRY

WHY ADD VOWELS?

The development of the Greek script is important to the system of writing as a whole, as it was the first system to represent every spoken sound in a word. However, as it was the first system to do this, it is important to examine why the Greeks felt it was necessary for this system to represent each of the sounds in their words. One explanation is that much of Greek poetry was composed in dactylic hexameter, a complicated method which relies heavily on pronunciation, therefore, it makes sense that each of the sounds in their language needed to be represented. With a fully voweled alphabet, the Greeks ensured that their poetry would live on in its intended . It is interesting to consider that many scripts prior to the Greek Alphabet took a long time to switch over from use specifically for economic record keeping to more creative purposes, some never even made it to creative use. Phoenician in particular was never used past trade receipt purposes, however, the scripts that it inspired and their child systems where certainly used far beyond record keeping.

The Greek Script brought the use of writing from being a tool secluded to certain portions of society where it would be useful for record keeping, and used it to write down the thoughts and feelings of some of the greatest classic philosophers, poets, and thinkers of ancient civilization. The addition of vowels into their script made this possible.

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