

Relationships Between People, Events, and Ideas

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

In a history or science article, ask: How does ONE person, event, or idea CONNECT to another? Look for words like because, led to, in response to, and as a result. These words show the link.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Long Road from Rags to Books: A Short History of Paper

For most of human history, paper did not exist. People wrote on whatever was available: clay tablets in ancient Mesopotamia, strips of dried palm leaves in India, and thin sheets of treated animal skin called parchment in Europe. These materials were heavy, expensive, or both. Then, in the year 105 CE, an official in the Chinese court named Cai Lun reported a new method. He soaked the bark of mulberry trees together with old fishing nets and rags, pounded the mixture into a wet pulp, and pressed it into thin, flexible sheets. The result was the first true paper.

For nearly seven hundred years, the secret of papermaking stayed within China. The technique slowly spread west, reaching the city of Samarkand in Central Asia after Chinese craftworkers were captured during a battle in 751 CE and asked to share their skill. From Samarkand, paper traveled along trading routes into the Middle East, then into Spain, and finally into the rest of Europe by the 1200s. Each new region had to learn the steps, find local materials, and build mills powered by water.

Paper alone, however, did not change reading. Books still had to be copied by hand, which was slow and expensive. The big change came in the mid-1400s, when Johannes Gutenberg, a German metalworker, built a printing press that used movable letters made of metal. The press could print hundreds of identical pages in the time a copyist needed to write one. Without cheap paper made by Cai Lun's method, Gutenberg's press would have had nothing affordable to print on. And without Gutenberg's press, paper would have stayed mostly in the hands of merchants and government officials. Together, the two inventions made books — and the ideas inside them — available to ordinary readers for the first time.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Read the article. Then choose the best answer for each question.



1. What is the relationship between Cai Lun and the invention of paper, as described in paragraph 1?
 - A. Cai Lun bought the first sheets of paper from another country.
 - B. Cai Lun studied paper that had been made in India for centuries.
 - C. Cai Lun worked alone and never told anyone about his method.
 - D. Cai Lun reported a new method that produced the first true paper.
2. How did papermaking spread from China to Samarkand, according to paragraph 2?
 - A. Chinese traders sold paper-making mills to Central Asian buyers.
 - B. Chinese craftworkers were captured during a battle and asked to share their skill.
 - C. A Samarkand inventor traveled to China and copied the method.
 - D. European merchants discovered the method and carried it east.
3. What is the relationship between Cai Lun's invention and Gutenberg's invention?
 - A. Each invention needed the other in order to make cheap books possible.
 - B. Gutenberg's press could only print on parchment, not paper.
 - C. Cai Lun built the first printing press soon after he made paper.
 - D. The two inventions had nothing to do with each other.
4. Read this sentence from paragraph 3: "Without cheap paper made by Cai Lun's method, Gutenberg's press would have had nothing affordable to print on." What does this sentence show?
 - A. Gutenberg invented paper as well as the press.
 - B. Cai Lun and Gutenberg worked together on the press.
 - C. Gutenberg's invention DEPENDED on an earlier invention.
 - D. Cheap paper has only been made in Europe.
5. What was the relationship between hand-copied books and the SPREAD of reading BEFORE Gutenberg?
 - A. Hand-copied books were so cheap that almost everyone could own one.
 - B. Hand-copying made books slow and expensive, so few ordinary people could own them.
 - C. Hand-copied books were faster to make than printed books.
 - D. Hand-copying was banned by most kings and queens.
6. Which detail BEST supports the idea that papermaking required local effort, NOT just a copy of a recipe?
 - A. "For most of human history, paper did not exist."
 - B. "For nearly seven hundred years, the secret of papermaking stayed within China."
 - C. "Each new region had to learn the steps, find local materials, and build mills powered by water."
 - D. "Books still had to be copied by hand, which was slow and expensive."



- 7. How does the article connect the two big ideas of cheap paper and printed books?
 - A. It says cheap books came first, and then cheap paper followed.
 - B. It says they were invented in the same country.
 - C. It says they were both invented by Gutenberg.
 - D. It says they came together to put books into ordinary readers' hands for the first time.
- 8. Why does the author describe parchment, palm leaves, and clay tablets in paragraph 1?
 - A. To prove that ancient writing was easy to do
 - B. To list materials that were as cheap and light as paper
 - C. To show what people had to use BEFORE paper, so the reader sees why paper mattered
 - D. To explain why Gutenberg's press needed leaves and clay
- 9. Explain in your own words how the work of Cai Lun and the work of Gutenberg are RELATED. Use one detail from the text in your answer.

- 10. What event in paragraph 2 most directly LED to paper spreading west into Central Asia?
 - A. A battle in 751 CE in which Chinese papermakers were captured
 - B. The fall of the city of Samarkand in the 1200s
 - C. The invention of the water-powered mill in Spain
 - D. Gutenberg's printing press



Answer Keys

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| <p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> | <p>6 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>7 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D</p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>10 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> |
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| Explanations | |
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| 1. D | Paragraph 1 names Cai Lun as the one who reported the method. A and B both put the invention in another country (continent-confusion). C contradicts the text — Cai Lun reported it openly, which is how it spread. |
| 2. B | Paragraph 2 names exactly this cause. A invents a sale never mentioned. C reverses the direction of travel. D moves Europeans into a chapter of history before they had paper. |
| 3. A | Paragraph 3 says directly that without paper the press had nothing affordable to print on, and without the press paper would have stayed limited. B contradicts the text. C confuses the two inventors and the two centuries. D ignores the explicit link the article makes. |
| 4. C | The sentence shows one invention depended on another — exactly what "relationship" means here. A and B confuse the inventors. D contradicts paragraph 1. |
| 5. B | Paragraph 3 says copying was "slow and expensive" — the very reason books did not yet reach ordinary readers. A reverses the meaning. C is the opposite of what the text says. D is a plausible-sounding but invented historical claim. |
| 6. C | C names three real local tasks. A is about life before paper. B is about secrecy, not local effort. D is about copying books, not making paper. |
| 7. D | The last sentence of paragraph 3 makes exactly this connection. A reverses the order in time. B is wrong (China and Germany). C ignores Cai Lun. |
| 8. C | The list sets up the importance of Cai Lun's invention by contrast. A contradicts "heavy, expensive, or both." B reverses the meaning. D mixes Gutenberg into a paragraph that is not about him. |
| 9. | Answer: Sample answers: (1) Cai Lun's invention gave Gutenberg something cheap to print on, and Gutenberg's press gave Cai Lun's paper a use that ordinary people could afford. The text says "Without cheap paper... Gutenberg's press would have had nothing affordable to print on." (2) The two inventions DEPEND on each other. Without paper there is nothing to print on; without the press paper stays limited to merchants and officials. NOT acceptable: answers that say the two are not related, that Cai Lun also built a press, or that Gutenberg invented paper. Strong answers describe the dependence between the two inventions AND quote or paraphrase a supporting detail from paragraph 3. Reject answers with no link or that confuse the inventors. |
| 10. A | Paragraph 2 names the 751 CE battle as the spreading event. B mixes up the date and direction. C makes the mill the cause when it was actually a later, regional step. D is centuries later and in another part of the world. |



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