



# Ancient Civilizations

Most paragraphs end with a conclusion or closing sentence. A concluding sentence lets the reader know that the paragraph is coming to a close. It emphasizes the topic of the paragraph by stating it in a slightly different way, and ties the paragraph together.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the best concluding sentence for each paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Indus Valley civilization lasted for 800 years, but disappeared almost 4,000 years ago. No one knows what happened to it, but scientists have theorized any number of possible reasons for its demise, including floods; diseases; a breakdown in trade; civil disorder; and even immigration and takeover by other peoples.

- A. The Indus Valley civilization was very similar to the cities of Sumer.
- B. There are no real clues, because all traces of the Indus cities remained buried under sand until being rediscovered in the 1920s.
- C. No one knows anything about the people of the Indus Valley.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The first alphabet— a set of letters or symbols in a fixed order that represents the basic sounds of a language—was created by the Phoenicians in around 1000 B.C. It was comprised of 22 characters, all of which were consonants. Prior to that, written language was composed of pictures that represented ideas or objects. In ancient China, “pictograms” represented whole words, for example, “water” or “city”.

- A. The Phoenician alphabet did not contain any characters representing vowel sounds.
- B. Our modern alphabet is similar to the Phoenician alphabet in that each character represents a sound.
- C. Modern Chinese characters lie somewhere in between our present-day idea of an “alphabet” as began by the Phoenicians and “pictograms”, with each character representing concepts rather than sounds.