

Making Words

Directions: Unscramble the strip of letters at the bottom of the page. Try to move the letters around to make 3-letter words. How many words can you make? Write them in the box. Can you make any four-letter words? Five-letter words? Can you make any other words? Can you guess the SECRET WORD all these letters make?

<p>Three-letter Words:</p>	<p>Four-Letter Words:</p>
<p>Five-letter Words:</p>	<p>Other words:</p>

Students: total up how many words you have... you must have at least 25 words!

Total words

Do you know the secret word?



Unscramble these letters:

E	O	I	U	C	F	M	N	R
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Clue: The Sumerians are known for many things, but inventing this may be their greatest achievement...

<p>Weekend</p> <p>Due: Mon. 10/24 & Tues. 10/25</p>
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READ THE PASSAGE Use clues from the passage to infer information about the ancient library.

Ashurbanipal's Library

Many of us have to pay fines when we return overdue library materials. Even worse, if we lose the materials, we may have to pay to replace them. While we may dislike these penalties, we should consider ourselves lucky. At least one early library threatened people with much harsher punishments.

The world's first known library with a system of organization and cataloged materials was in the ancient city of Nineveh, Assyria, near what is now Mosul, Iraq.

Unlike Egyptians, who wrote on a paper called papyrus, Assyrians wrote manuscripts on clay tablets. In the 1800s, archaeologists discovered vast numbers of these manuscripts in Nineveh's ruins. Scholars were able to read them and found notes at the bottom of each tablet that told who had owned them. They were part of the private library of King Ashurbanipal (AH-shoor-BAHN-ih-pahl), who ruled Assyria from 668 BC to 627 BC. Unlike many kings of that time, Ashurbanipal was able to read and write.

Scholars believe that Ashurbanipal's library contained more than 1,200 titles on thousands of tablets. Many had been taken from defeated enemies during wartime—a common practice at the time. Others had been copied from earlier tablets. The library contained dictionaries as well as tablets on religion, science, magic, and history. It also contained literature, such as the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, a famous story from the region. Materials were even organized into different rooms, much like today's libraries.

Although this was a private library, other people could use it. However, unlike today's library books, materials from Ashurbanipal's library contained curses threatening the wrath of the gods against anyone stealing or writing on the manuscripts. Maybe today's library fines really aren't so bad.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Information in the passage suggests that manuscripts in the ancient world _____.
 - belonged to religious leaders
 - were considered valuable
 - contained useless information
 - were used as weapons
- Based on information in the passage, what can you infer about ancient Assyria?
 - It fought many needless wars.
 - It was primitive and undeveloped.
 - It was a powerful kingdom.
 - It was disorganized and lawless.
- What can you infer about Ashurbanipal?
 - He was a brutal leader.
 - He was unable to read and write.
 - He was intelligent and cultured.
 - He was not religious.
- Why might Assyria's manuscripts have survived while those of ancient Egypt did *not*?
 - Ashurbanipal's library was well protected.
 - No one was interested in Assyria's manuscripts.
 - Ashurbanipal placed a curse on the materials.
 - Clay does not decay as easily as paper.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Describe something in the passage that you understood better after rereading it.
