

A Wonderful World of Knowledge...Know More About It

Episode #13: Modern Man

Tonight we'll answer the question "What defines modern man?"

In anthropology, modern man is separated from prehistoric man by the invention of writing.

Before writing, man was limited to two methods of passing information on to future generations. One was through drawings and paintings, such as Malawi's ancient Chongoni Rock Art. The other was through storytelling and oral tradition.

Both methods are still used today, but as early cities and commerce grew, better methods for recordkeeping needed to be found.

The alphabet we use today evolved from pictograms used in the Eastern Mediterranean region. For example the letter "A" descended from a drawing of an ox head, and the letter "Q" represented the eye of a needle.

