

Reading Comprehension: How the Alphabet Was Made

Answer Key:

Directions: Read the story below. Then answer the questions.

How the Alphabet Was Made

In the Early Times, there was a little girl named Taffimai Metallumai, but we'll call her Taffy. She lived in a cave with her mother, Teshumai, and her father, Tegumai. She was well loved by her parents, which was good because Taffy was very smart and could often get into trouble. Once she sent a letter to her mother. This would normally be fine, but Taffy did not know how to write, since writing had not been discovered yet. Instead, she drew pictures in her letter, pictures that Taffy thought were very beautiful. Her mother, however, did not understand Taffy's pictures, and thought they meant something else entirely. The letter made many problems, but that is another story.

One day, Taffy and her father were fishing. Taffy should have been helping her mother hang the hides to dry on the drying poles, but she would rather fish with her father. While they were eating lunch, Taffy had an idea for a secret surprise for her father. She asked Tegumai to make a sound, any sound at all.

"Ah," he said. "Is that what you wanted?"

"Yes!" said Taffy. "That's a great sound. You look like a fish with its mouth open!"

"Don't be rude," said Tegumai.

"I don't mean to be rude. This is part of my secret



surprise for you." With that, Taffy took a shark's tooth and began drawing on some tree bark. "I'm going to draw a fish with its mouth all open."

"Why?" asked Tegumai.

"Don't you see?" replied Taffy. "I can draw this picture and it will remind you of the noise I made when I jumped out of the beaver swamp and scared you!"

"Go on," said Tegumai, who was now very interested.

Taffy finished her drawing and showed it to Tegumai. "That's very good, but you forgot the fish's feeler. Let me try," he said. Tegumai got a piece of bark and drew the fish with its mouth open. Then he added the feeler across the mouth. It looked like this:

"Will you be surprised when you see this?" asked Taffy.



"Oh yes," smiled Tegumai. "I will remember when you said 'Ah!' and scared me"

"Make another noise," said Taffy.

"Yah," said Tegumai.

Taffy began to draw. "It's the 'Ah' sound but with something more. I'll draw the fish and its tail, with its mouth open."

"The something more is the Yer sound," said Tegumai. "Try drawing just the tail for that sound."



"That's beautiful," said Taffy. "Now make another sound."

The rest of the afternoon, Tegumai would make a sound, then he and Taffy would draw the sound. When Tegumai said "Ooh!" it became a round egg.

The "Ssh" sound was a snake, and so on and so forth until they had



drawn all the sound pictures they wanted. There were 26 sound pictures and that was the alphabet, all complete.

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1. Who created the sound pictures?

Underline your answer in red.

Taffy and Tegumai created the sound pictures by working together.



2. What did Taffy and her father use to make the sound pictures?

Underline your answer in green.

Taffy and her father used pieces of bark and a shark tooth to create the sound pictures.



3. When did Taffy decide to make the sound pictures?

Underline your answer in blue.

After Taffy's letters with pictures caused problems, she decided that she needed to learn to write. This gave her the idea to create sound pictures.



4. Where were Taffy and her father when they made the alphabet?

Underline your answer in orange.

Taffy and her father were fishing when they made the alphabet.



5. Why did Taffy ask her father to make sounds?

Underline your answer in purple.

Taffy asked her father to make sounds because it was part of the project she was working on.



6. How did Taffy spend the day while fishing with her father?

Underline your answer in black.

Taffy spent the fishing day drawing 26 sound pictures.