

Text One

Human beings have been painting pictures for at least 30 thousand years. The earliest pictures were painted by people who wanted to catch and kill the animals. Perhaps the painters thought that their pictures would help **them** to catch these animals. Or perhaps human beings have always wanted to tell stories in pictures.

About 5,000 years ago the Egyptians and other people in the Near East began to use pictures as a kind of writing. They drew simple pictures or signs to show things and ideas, and also to show the sounds of their language. The signs these people need became a kind of alphabet.

The Egyptians used to record information and to tell stories by putting picture – writing and pictures together. When an important person died, scenes and stories from his life were painted on the walls of the place where his dead body was put.

By the year 1,000 BC, people who lived in the area around the Mediterranean Sea had developed a simpler system of writing. The signs they used were very easy to write, and there were fewer of them than in Egyptian system. The Greeks developed this system and formed the letters of Greek alphabet. The Romans copied the idea, and the Roman alphabet is now used all over the world.

1. The best title for the passage could be

- a. how did ancient people catch and kill animals
- b. how did people show their thoughts in written form
- c. story of an important dead person on walls
- d. what did people who lived in Mediterranean Sea do

2. The pronoun “them” in line 3 refers to

- a. stories
- b. animals
- c. pictures
- d. painters

3. How did Egyptians refer to names of things in written form?

- a. by drawing simple pictures
- b. by telling stories
- c. by painting stories on walls
- d. by showing language sounds

4. According to the passage, which sentence is true?

- a. The Egyptians invented a picture alphabet 5,000 years ago.
- b. Pictures weren't useful for catching or killing animals.
- c. Human beings have used painting just for entertainment.
- d. People developed a system of writing about 2 centuries ago.

Text Two

What we today call American folk art was, indeed, art of, by, and for ordinary, everyday “folks” who, with increasing prosperity and leisure, created a market for art of all kinds, and especially for portraits. Citizens of prosperous, essentially middle-class republics — whether ancient Romans, seventeenth century Dutch burghers, or nineteenth-century Americans — have always shown a marked taste for portraiture. Starting in the late eighteenth century, the United States contained increasing numbers of such people, and of the artists who could meet their demands. The earliest American folk art portraits come, not surprisingly, from New England — especially Connecticut and Massachusetts — for this was a wealthy and populous region and the center of a strong craft tradition. Within a few decades after the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the population was pushing westward, and portrait painters could be found at work in western New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri. Midway through its first century as a nation, the United States' population had increased roughly five times, and eleven new states had been added to the original thirteen. During these years the demand for portraits grew and grew eventually to be satisfied by the camera. In 1839 the daguerreotype was introduced to America, ushering in the age of photography, and within a generation the new invention put an end to the popularity of painted portraits. Once again an original portrait became a luxury, commissioned by the wealthy and executed by the professional. But in the heyday of portrait painting — from the late eighteenth century until the 1850's — anyone with a modicum of artistic ability could become a limner, as such a portraitist was called. Local craftspeople — sign, coach, and house painters — began to paint portraits as a profitable sideline ; sometimes a talented man or woman who began by sketching family

members gained a local reputation and was besieged with requests for portraits ; artists found it worth their while to pack their paints, canvases, and brushes and to travel the countryside, often combining house decorating with portrait painting.

1. In lines 4-5 the author mentions seventeenth-century Dutch burghers as an example of a group that....
 - a. consisted mainly of self-taught artists
 - b. appreciated portraits
 - c. influenced American folk art
 - d. had little time for the arts
2. According to the passage, where were many of the first American folk art portraits painted?
 - a. In western New York
 - b. In Illinois and Missouri
 - c. In Connecticut and Massachusetts
 - d. In Ohio
3. How much did the population of the United States increase in the first fifty years following independence?
 - a. It became three times larger.
 - b. It became five times larger.
 - c. It became eleven times larger.
 - d. It became thirteen times larger.
4. According to the passage, which of the following contributed to a decline in the demand for painted portrait?
 - a. The lack of a strong craft tradition
 - b. The westward migration of many painters
 - c. The growing preference for landscape paintings
 - d. The invention of the camera

Text Three

Art refers to a diverse range of human activities in creating visual, auditory or performing artifacts. These artworks express the author's imaginative or technical skill. Art is intended to be appreciated for its beauty or emotional power. In their most general form these activities include the production of works of art, the criticism of art, the study of the history of art, and the aesthetic dissemination of art.

Art has had a great number of different functions throughout its history, making its purpose difficult to abstract or quantify to any single concept. This does not imply that the purpose of Art is "vague", but that it has had many unique, different reasons for being created.

Art can have a personal function, it is an expression of basic human instinct for harmony, balance, rhythm. Art at this level is not an action or an object, but an internal appreciation of balance and harmony (beauty), and therefore an aspect of being human beyond utility. Art also provides a way to experience one's self in relation to the universe. This experience may often come unmotivated, as one appreciates art, music or poetry.

On the other hand art may have a social function. At its simplest, art is a form of communication. It seeks to entertain and bring about a particular emotion or mood, for the purpose of relaxing or entertaining the viewer.

Art may also be an expression of social protest, seeking to question aspects of society.

1. What is the best title for the passage?
 - a. Art as system of modern communication
 - b. What effects can art have on human beings?
 - c. Art and its different functions
 - d. How is art appreciated in the society?
2. The phrase "these activities" in line 3 refers to
 - a. Art works
 - b. Human activities
 - c. Human skills
 - d. Artifacts
3. The personal function of art is
 - a. An internal factor in human being
 - b. Something that makes art more understandable
 - c. A skill by which artworks are created
 - d. A concept nobody knows anything about it
4. When we talk about the entertaining function of art, we mean.....

- a. the basic purpose of art
- b. imaginary identity of artworks
- c. personal aspect of art
- d. different range of artworks

Text Four

The oldest form of art are visual arts, which include creation of images or objects in fields including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, and other visual media. Architecture is often included as one of the visual arts; however, like the decorative arts, it involves the creation of objects where the practical considerations of use are essential, in a way that they usually are not in a painting, for example.

Music, theater, film, dance, and other performing arts, as well as literature and other media such as interactive media, are included in a broader definition of art or the arts.

Until the 17th century, art referred to any skill or mastery and was not differentiated from crafts or sciences. In modern usage after the 17th century, where aesthetic considerations are paramount, the fine arts are separated and distinguished from acquired skills in general, such as the decorative or applied arts.

Art may be characterized in terms of imitation (i.e. its representation of reality), expression, communication of emotion, or other qualities. During the Romantic period, art came to be seen as "a special faculty of the human mind to be classified with religion and science". Though the definition of what constitutes art is disputed and has changed over time, general descriptions mention an idea of imaginative or technical skill stemming from human agency and creation.

The nature of art, and related concepts such as creativity and interpretation, are explored in a branch of philosophy known as aesthetics.

1. According to the text, how are painting and architecture similar?

- a. Both of them are ancient arts
- b. They are made using the same rules
- c. Both of them are considered visual arts
- d. They are among performing arts

2. Music, theater, film and dance are supposed be in a specific group because.....

- a. People enjoy them more than other arts
- b. Some type of action is involved in all of them
- c. They express imitation and quality
- d. They are much like literature

3. Which of the following has not stayed unchanged about art during the history?

- a. The skill and mastery to be referred as art
- b. The type of classification of artworks
- c. The philosophy of art and aesthetics
- d. The definition of what makes up art

4. Art considered to be a different concept from science or craft only after

- a. Its definition became clear to everybody
- b. aesthetic considerations were involved in art
- c. creativity and interpretation were discovered in art
- d. decorative arts became well-known to all

Text Five

Our culture is the system we use to build our identity. All living creatures are part of a culture. Even animals have a culture! So what is culture? It's the way we behave in a group. It begins with each individual family. Within our families we do things to build relationships with each other. This can include routines for doing things. It also includes traditions. Traditions are activities that are repeated on a regular basis. Culture is not

limited to individual family groups. The real strength of culture is in larger community groups. These larger groups are called societies.

Every society makes rules for itself. It decides how people should act in different situations. Some of these rules are written down. Some are just things that are automatically expected of all members of that society.

Often, cultures can be identified by what the people believe.

Cultures are also known by what they choose to include in their art. Sometimes a society forms around people who speak the same language. Cultures may also be known for their customs, including the foods they make and the things they do.

Our cultures help us understand who we are and what we believe. There are very strong emotions connecting us to our own society. Two different cultures may disagree on something, especially if they both feel strongly about it. When that happens, war is a common result. People are learning better ways to communicate with each other. The more we learn, the more we appreciate the differences in cultures.

1. **What does the text mainly discuss about?**
 - a. The importance of culture
 - b. The reality of forming societies
 - c. Culture and its building blocks
 - d. What culture give us
2. **According to the passage,**
 - a. Culture introduces itself by art
 - b. Art is something that makes up culture
 - c. Societies are the result of artworks
 - d. People always disagree about art
3. **A new society comes to existence by**
 - a. Creating small group culture and beliefs
 - b. Having strong traditions
 - c. Forming a family
 - d. Communicating with each other
4. **What would the next paragraph probably be about?**
 - a. The definition of culture
 - b. The uses and importance of art
 - c. Importance of learning about cultures
 - d. Necessity of having good artworks

Text Six

The history of the needlework owes its origin to the need to stitch skins of dead animals using sharp stones and bamboo needles. Even during the Iron Age, the man knew to cut and join. Then, they learned to pick cotton plants and trees, spin them into threads and weave them into clothes. Man had learned the art of stitching and joining even before they had known the use of fire.

Needlework in India has always been a vital part of weaving. Evidence of this can be taken from Gujarat, Chamba and West Bengal and Bangladesh. If designers of northern India create magic with their needles and threads of gold and silver on silk, so did the Kantha work and embroidery designs of Bengal.

Needlework has primarily been associated with women. Through ages, women have tried to express their emotions through this art form. The girls of West Bengal and Bangladesh are experts of Kantha Needlework. Their handmade quilts and wraps are often designed with geometric patterns and are very colorful.

The excavations at Mohenjo-daro, the sculptures in the old Buddhist stupas show human figures draped in stitched clothes, as do the figures of the Kushan age. This is also seen in the paintings at Ajanta and the descriptions of clothes in the works of Kalidas and others.

Mughals brought with them the Persian style which blended easily with the local tradition. This added to the beauty and during the days of Akbar, these Indo-Persian creations began to travel abroad and attract attention

there. The Indian quilt was to be seen in European markets in the sixteenth century. These used to be made of yellow colored silk and finely stitched.

1. It is implied from the text that
 - a. Indians started using needles to join cuts
 - b. Cutting and joining was discovered before people could cook food
 - c. Women and girls are the only people who do the needlework
 - d. There was only needlework in India in Iron age.
2. How are figures of Kushan age and old Buddhist stupas similar according to the text?
 - a. They both did the needlework very beautifully
 - b. Both of them lived in the iron age
 - c. They both wore stitched clothes
 - d. They both created magic of gold and silver on silk
3. What was the effect of Persian clothing style on Indians'?
 - a. It combined with the local tradition and added to its beauty.
 - b. It took some the local tradition away from it.
 - c. People didn't like to wear Indian clothes anymore.
 - d. European markets had no interest in Indian clothes anymore
4. The writer of the above text is probably a/an
 - a. University professor who teaches history
 - b. school student in primary school
 - c. biology teacher at high school
 - d. Indian soldier in the war against Pakistan

Text Seven

Most people celebrate the New Year, and many of them do that by attending a party. Some parties may be small while others will be quite big. Some parties will be at a person's home while other might be outside in a city center.

The simplest and smallest New Year parties are those that a single family will have in their own house. This is where the parents and children will just spend time together. Often the family at a house party will eat a meal together and then wait for midnight.

Another type of party will be where someone will invite a group of friends to their house for a celebration. This will be a bit of a bigger party, and depending on the size of the house ten to thirty people may attend. If there are not many people at the party they may sit down and eat a formal meal, while for a bigger party it will be a buffet where people stand up and help themselves to food. Often the people who come to the party will each bring something to share that everyone can eat.

The biggest parties that happen are public parties in the middle of some cities. For these parties, groups of friends will spend the evening and night outside. When it is getting close to midnight most of the people will go to some central point in the city. At this place there will be a big countdown to midnight and the start of the New Year. After midnight the people will then either go home or go to a nightclub so they can celebrate for even longer.

As people get older the type of party they attend may change. A young person may go out to a big city center party while an older person may just want to spend time at home with their family.

1. The text is doing some kind of
 - a. Classification
 - b. comparison
 - c. definition
 - d. contrast
2. We can understand from the passage that
 - a. Nobody stays home at the time of New Year.
 - b. Only young people gather around a central point in the city.
 - c. In city centers there happen a number of small parties, too.
 - d. After midnight everybody goes home to celebrate the New Year.
3. How many types of celebrations have been discussed in the text?

Around the world, there are a number of different traditions that form part of the culture and can represent either good or bad fortune. It is fascinating to learn about these different habits and how they change from place to place.

In the UK, for example, the number 13 is unlucky and many people change the number of their house so that it is not this number. The number 7, on the other hand, is usually seen as fortunate and many people choose this number when entering a competition. Another thing to avoid in the UK is walking under ladders, as this is usually seen as bad luck, as is breaking a mirror.

In China, the rituals are a little different. The numbers 6 and 8 are said to bring great health, wealth and overall happiness, as opposed to the number 4 which is most definitely unlucky. It is so serious in many parts of the country that people are prepared to spend a lot of money to obtain a phone number with these "fortunate" numbers, and will actively avoid those with many 4s. Also in China, the color red is said to be a color strongly associated with leaders and success, and is one of the most popular colors for this reason.

In Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries, the number 15 is considered lucky, whereas in Sweden the number 3 is thought to bring the best fortune as "good things come in threes".

As can be seen, no matter where in the world you may be, there are sure to be a number of traditions and customs that bring with them a certain element of good or bad fortune.

1. The text is probably written by

- Researcher doing research on traditions
- A psychologist studying different personalities
- A geography teacher at high school
- A tourist who is spending time in Europe

2. It can be implied from the text that

- There are bad fortunes more than good ones
- Less lucky people live in European countries
- In UK people don't talk about numbers and their effects
- Believing in fortune is a widespread issue

3. If a Chinese wants to travel abroad, which room number in a hotel will he probably choose?

- 678
- 458
- 278
- 548

4. In the UK

- Walking under a ladder is as bad as choosing number 7 for entering a competition
- Breaking a mirror is not as bad as choosing number 7 for your house number
- Breaking a mirror is considered as bad as walking under a ladder
- Choosing number 13 is as lucky as choosing number 7.

Text Ten

In Bengal gold Jewelry are generally not worn below the waist-line. Ankle ornament made of chains is generally made of silver and is used to decorate the feet. Cluster of small silver bells are strung together intended for the use of the children.

Because of high prices of gold jewelry, it has become a security risk. The wearers dare not show the jewelry in public for fear of attracting troubles. Silver has replaced gold to a great degree. Gold polished fake jewelry are gaining popularity in modern days.

Besides gold and silver, Ivory is the most preferred material for jewelry items. Ivory bangles are in good demand. Ear tops, necklaces, rings, pendants, etc. are some other jewelry stuff made from ivory. Colored lac is yet another customary substance used for making jewelry, especially lac bangles. These are frequently set with stones, glass beads, and mirrors to improve their beauty and decor.

The traditional artisans are still engaged in this craft. Some tribal families are also famous for making these bangles.

Glass bangles are worn by Bengali girls to embellish their wrists. Glass beads are in high demand for making jewelry, particularly costume jewelry.

Horn and shell jewelry are also in place. They are produced in sufficient quantity in West Bengal. The Hill jewelry constitutes a class by itself. These are typically made of copper sheet and wires with complex work on motifs and designs. Glass beads and stones are used to beautify these motifs.

1. **According to the text,**
 - a. Gold is more preferred than other materials these days
 - b. There are no tribes or families that make jewelry now
 - c. Silver and gold polished jewelry are gaining more popularity now
 - d. Ivory is not used for decoration and embellishment
2. **There are at least types of material mentioned that are used to make jewelry.**
 - a. Two
 - b. one
 - c. three
 - d. four
3. **Which of the following is made based on more complex design?**
 - a. Shell jewelry
 - b. Glass beads
 - c. Ivory bangles
 - d. Silver bells
4. **Which sentence is NOT TRUE according to the text?**
 - a. Feet decoration items are mainly made of ivory
 - b. Colored lac is used to make jewelry, too.
 - c. There are risks at using gold as decorative items
 - d. Gold jewelry are not used to decorate feet