

A cloze activity is one where you fill in words to complete sentences. Read this passage about ancient Egypt. In the numbered boxes below are three words. Circle the one you think correctly completes the sentence.



Ancient Egypt was a strip of land in Africa 1 by the Nile River. Every year the waters rose in June and 2 the land on either side. Thus, each year extra 3 of fertile soil were added.

People began living in the Nile Valley about 5000 BC. They 4 the rich land with their stone 5 and grew wheat and barley for food. They dug 6 to help irrigate the land during the dry season.

Gradually the people learned how to use metals. They began making copper tools and 7 for decoration. The ancient Egyptians learned the skill of writing from the Sumerians. They then developed their own way of writing with pictures and signs. Much of the writing was done by 8 who wrote on 9 made from papyrus reed.

The Egyptians 10 many different gods. The Pharaohs built great temples and the ordinary people prayed to them in small 11. On special feast days, all work was stopped and 12 took place.

1 used
cleaned
watered

5 implements
weapons
drains

9 plates
clay
paper

2 ruined
flooded
raised

6 pathways
corridors
canals

10 modelled
claimed
worshipped

3 supplies
layers
amounts

7 implements
jewellery
crockery

11 tents
villages
chapels

4 tended
cultivated
neglected

8 writers
adults
scribes

12 celebrations
performances
exhibitions

Now read this passage about ancient China. No words are provided at the end. You must decide which is the best word to use. Write the words you choose in the spaces at the end.

About 5000 BC there were farming ____1____ all over China. The rich soil of the Hwang-ho River valley was the most fertile ____2____.

The early kings used their ____3____ to control the local princes and the people. The soldiers carried bronze axes and rode in ____4____ drawn by two or four horses. The kings organised gangs of ____5____ to help control the ____6____ that spread out over the land.

The kings of ancient China were buried in ____7____. Often the king's servants were killed and ____8____ with their master. Food and wine were also left in decorated ____9____ in the tomb.

Chinese writing began when ____10____ were scribbled on bones and tortoise shells. Chinese writing used characters rather than ____11____. It is a difficult ____12____ to learn to write because it has more than 9000 characters.



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