

Online museum

The museum contains exhibits

All the exhibits deal with ways of writing from many years ago

Take some time to look through the exhibits and learn about them

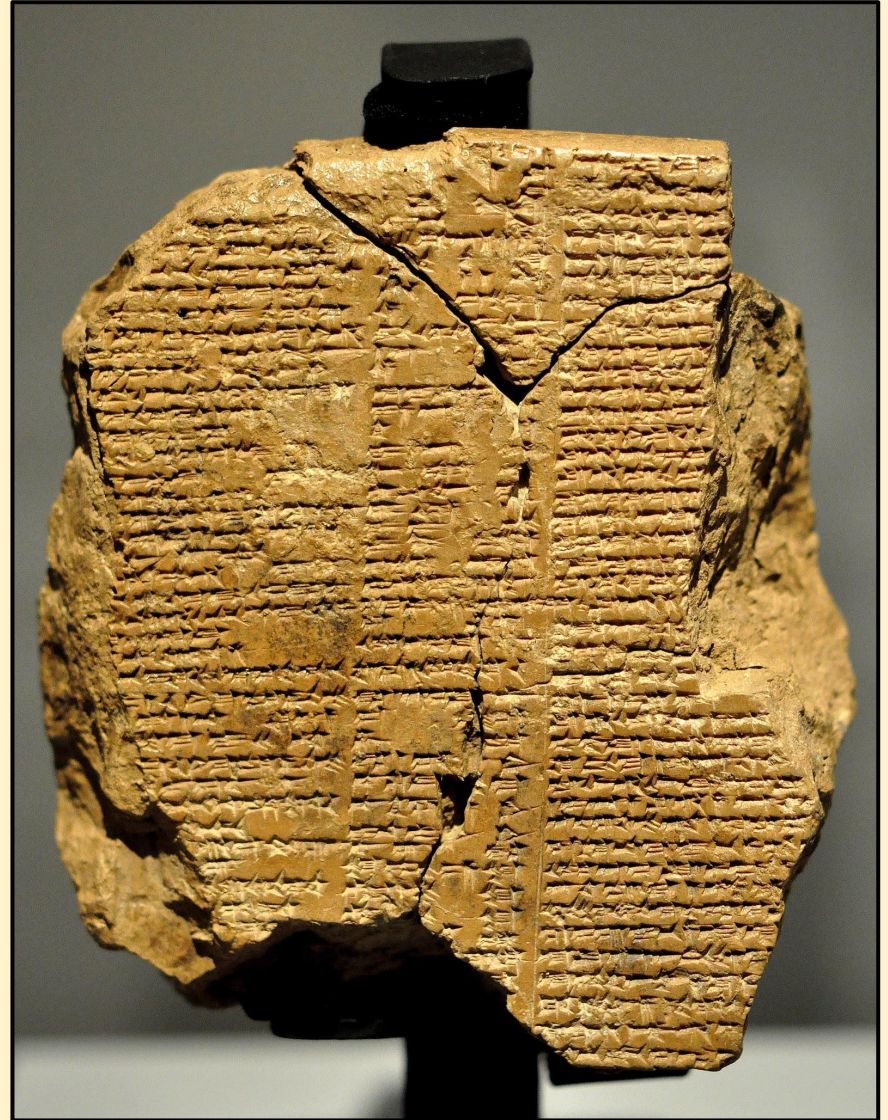
1. Epic of Gilgamesh

Clay tablet with part of the poem
The Epic of Gilgamesh written on
it

The poem is one of the earliest
examples of literature or poetry
that we know of

Dates to between 2000 and 1500
BCE from Mesopotamia – modern
day Iraq

Written using cuneiform, a system
of symbols which is the earliest
known form of writing



2. Phaistos Disc



Clay discs with symbols dating from between 2000 and 1000 BCE

Found at Phaistos on Crete, no one knows what the symbols on the discs mean

3. Rhind Mathematical Papyrus



One of the best known examples of Egyptian mathematical writing, the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus dates from about 1550 BCE

It was written on papyrus by a scribe called Ahmes using hieroglyphs. It has examples of maths problems involving fractions and areas of shapes

4. Minoan clay tablet



Minoan clay tablet recording amounts of olive oil offered to the gods. Found at Knossos on Crete. Dates from about 1400 BCE.

Written using Linear B symbols, the earliest type of Ancient Greek writing

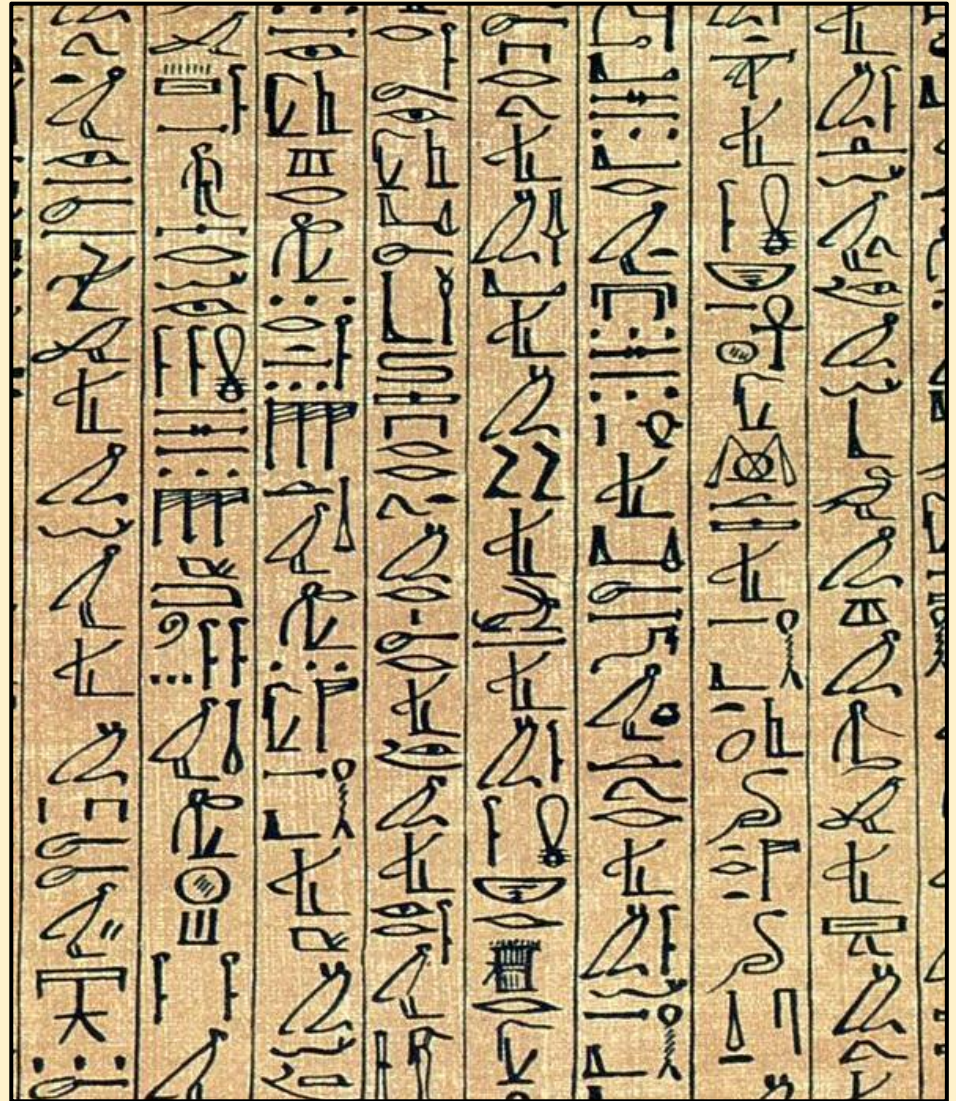
5. The Book of the Dead

Ancient Egyptian text written using hieroglyphs on papyrus

The text is called the Papyrus of Ani and was written to place in the coffin of a scribe called Ani to help protect them after they had died

It dates from 1250 BCE

It contains protection spells and other text about Ani

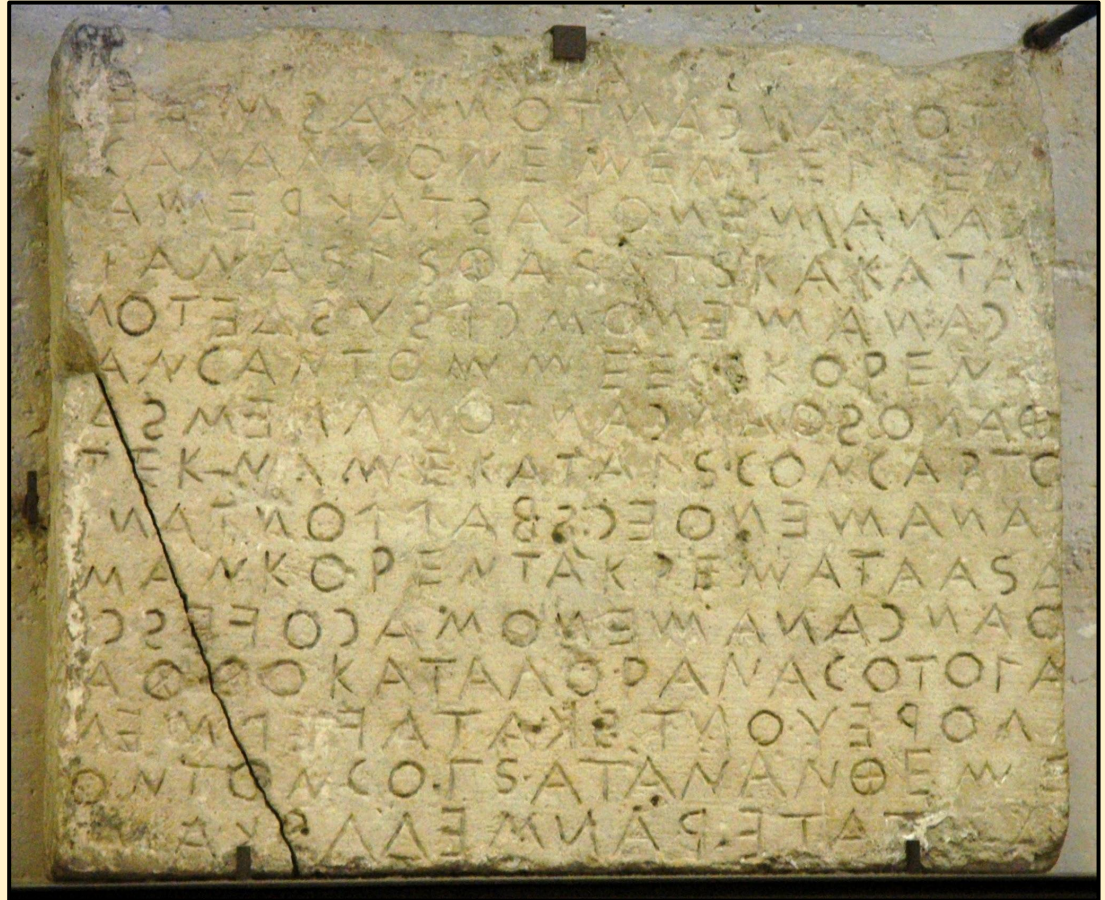


6. Code of Gortyn

Carved on stone, this is a set of laws written down

It was made at Gortyn in Crete in about 550 BCE and is the earliest example of a written Greek legal code that we know of

The code is written in Dorian, a form of Ancient Greek



7. Uruk astronomy

Clay tablet from Uruk, in
modern day Iraq

The tablet records the
positions of stars and
constellations

It dates from about 300
BCE

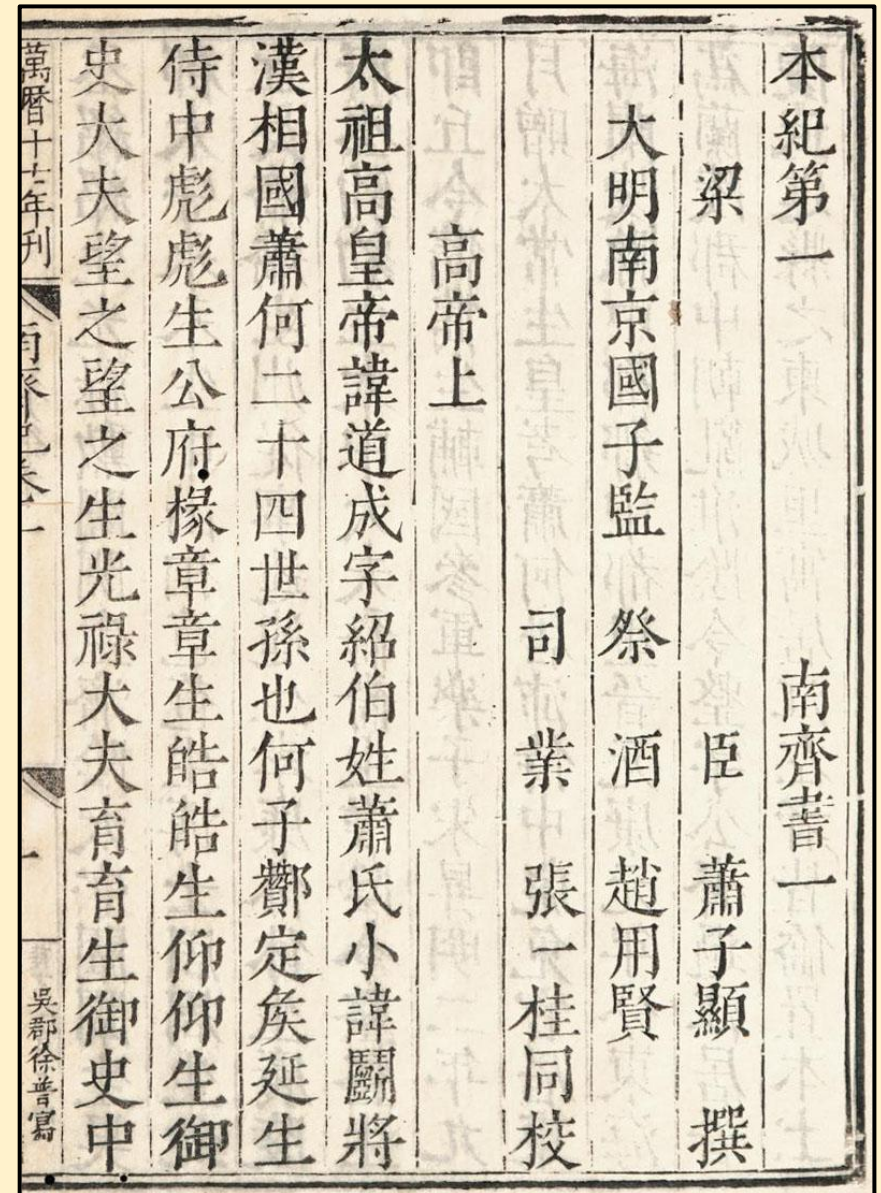


8. Book of Qi

Chinese text written in ink on paper

Written by Xiao Zixian, the Book of Qi dates from about 500 CE

The book tells the history and traditions of people from southern China



9. Guqin musical notation

From a book called
Shenqi Mipu, this is a
set of music notes to
be played

The notation is from China and is for a stringed instrument called a Gugin

The book was printed
on paper and
published in 1425 CE



Where the exhibits come from

Crete is a Greek island in the Mediterranean Sea



Mesopotamia was in the area that modern day Iraq is in



Egypt is at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea



China is a large country east of India and south of Russia