

● Read and answer with your partner.

(Questions 1–4)

The wheel was invented around 5,500 years ago by the ancient Sumerians. They lived on the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East. It was called Sumer. This land is now a modern country called Iraq.

1 What would be the best title for the passage above?

2 What did the ancient Sumerians invent?

3 When was the wheel invented?

4 What was Iraq called during ancient times?

(Questions 5–8)

The Sumerians were very inventive people. They invented many things to make their lives better. Besides the wheel, they also invented the sailboat, schools, and canals. The canals helped them bring water to their land for farming. And, there is one more great invention! The Sumerians invented the very first writing system in the world. It is known as cuneiform.

5 What would be the best title for the passage above?

6 What else did the Sumerians invent besides the wheel?

7 How did the canals help the Sumerians?

8 What was the Sumerians' first writing system called?
