

How long have people used pencil?



The word pencil comes from a Latin word. Long ago in Rome, a pencil was a thin brush with a fine point. The Romans used it for writing and drawing.

The Roman pencil made a thin, dark line. But the line was wet. People kept looking for a ways to write with a dry line. It would be easier.

Finally, people in English found a way. In the 1500s, they found something dark under a tree. It was softer than stone. So it could be cut and shaped. This is the same lead that we use in our pencil today.

Choose the best answer.

1. People have used pencil for _____?
a. a long time b. just a short time c. ever
2. This story tells about something we _____ with.
a. eat b. write c. play games
3. In the first part of the story, what does the word drawing mean?
a. playing games b. getting closer c. making pictures
4. The lead could be cut and shaped because it was _____.
a. soft b. heavy c. dark
5. You can guess from the story that writing with a _____ line is hard.
a. thin b. wet c. dry