

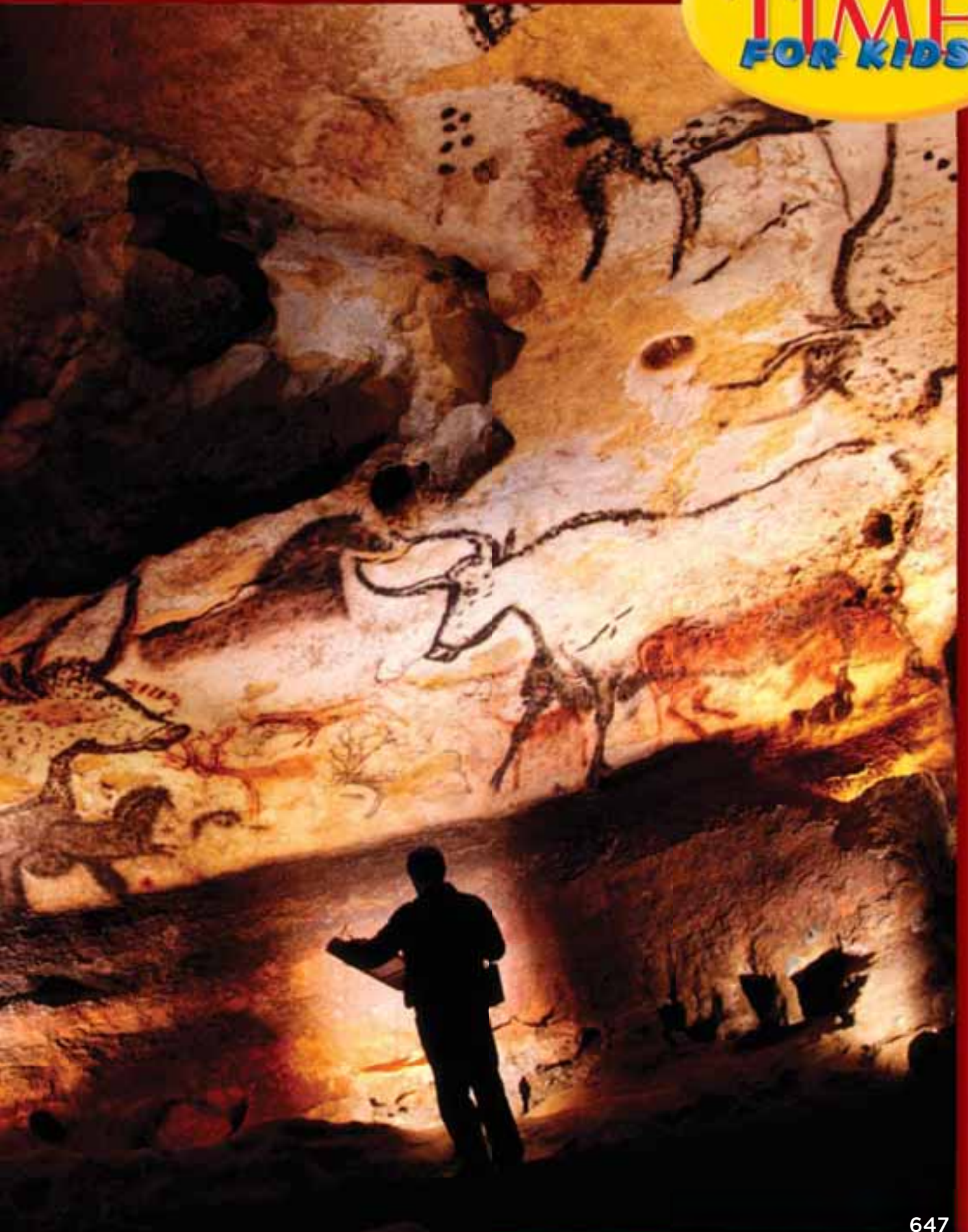
Talk About It

Why do you think it has always been important for people to figure out ways to communicate with each other?



Find out more about communication at www.macmillanmh.com

KEEPING *in* TOUCH



Vocabulary

anthropologists

presumably

immense

portable

nuisance

This 2,600-year-old stone cylinder was found in La Venta, Mexico.

AMERICA'S OLDEST WRITTEN WORDS

Scientists made a discovery in southern Mexico. The group's project leader, Mary E. D. Pohl, made the announcement: a 2,600-year-old stone cylinder, carved with symbols that seem to represent words, had been found. Pohl believes the cylinder shows the earliest known system of writing in the Americas. Although some experts doubt this claim, Pohl's report could change history as we know it!

Pohl and her team made the discovery near the city of La Venta. The Olmec lived there from 1300 B.C. to 400 B.C. The Olmec are best known for creating large stone sculptures. They also built massive pyramids and cities and created a formal government long before the Maya.

Anthropologists are scientists who study human beings and their cultures. Before this discovery, they believed

that ancient civilizations in what is now Mexico didn't have a writing system until about 300 B.C. That's when the Olmec's neighbors, the Zapotec, began writing. Pohl's findings suggest that the Olmec wrote 300 years earlier.

Olmec traditions were later adopted by other cultures and, **presumably**, they adopted Olmec writing, too. "It makes sense that they would be the first to use a system of writing," says Pohl, who will look for more proof.



SAY IT IN QUECHUA

Quechua (KETCH•wah) is the ancient language of the Inca—the native people of Peru, in South America. About 5 million people in Peru still speak it. You may already know a little Quechua. *Cocoa*, *lima* (bean), *condor*, and *llama* are Quechua words. Try saying these words and phrases. (See if you can say, “Hello, friend.”)

Napaykullayki



ENGLISH	QUECHUA	HOW YOU SAY IT
Hello	Napaykullayki	(nah•pie•coo•YAH•key)
Friend	Kuchumasi	(coo•chew•MAH•see)
Father	Tayta	(TIE•ta)
Mother	Mama	(MAH•mah)
Please	Allichu	(ah•YEE•chew)
Yes	Ari	(ah•REE)
No	Mana	(MAH•nah)
My name is ____.	Noqa kani ____.	(Nee•OH•ha CHA•nee ____)



Find out more about the Inca at www.macmillanmh.com

Communication Time

In the past two hundred years, we have made **immense** strides in the ways we communicate with each other.

- 1829 Braille, which allows blind people to read, is created.
- 1837 Invention of the telegraph.
- 1876 Invention of the telephone.
- 1893 Thomas Edison opens the first motion-picture studio.
- 1906 The first radio program is broadcast.
- 1928 Television is invented.
- 1972 Electronic mail (later called e-mail) is introduced.
- 1973 First call on a **portable** cell phone is made.
- 1989 The first provider of dial-up Internet access for consumers debuts.
- 2003 Spam, unsolicited e-mail, becomes a server-clogging **nuisance**—and accounts for about half of all e-mails.



An early TV and its inventor, August Karolus, in 1928