









Chinese writing is fundamentally logo-graphic: there is an exact correspondence between a single symbol, or character, in the script and an idea or morpheme. Early forms of characters were often clearly pictorial or iconic.



Picture writing is a mode of expressing thoughts, or noting facts, by marks. It is one distinctive form of thought writing without reference to sound-gesture language being the earlier form. It is thought that picture writing preceded and generated the graphic systems of Egypt, Assyria and China, but in North

But some symbols have been used to signify so many different (and often opposing) ideas that they become very difficult to define with any consistency.

Also, extreme historical circumstances might affect the use and understanding of one of these ideographs, forever limiting its possible meanings to those centered around the tragic events.

Indeed, words themselves can become so charged that they become ideographs, representing far more than the standard definition of the word.

An **ideogram** or ideograph (from Greek $i\bar{b}\bar{e}a$ idea "idea" + $yo\bar{e}g\omega$ grapho "to write") is a graphical symbol that represents an idea, rather than a group of letters arranged according to the phonemes of a spoken language, as is done in alphabetic languages.

The concept of ideographic writing is a most interesting notion. There is great appeal in the concept of written symbols conveying their message directly to our
minds, thus bypassing the restrictive intermediary of
speech. And it seems so plausible. Surely ideas
immediately pop into our minds when we see a
road sign, a death's head label on a bottle of medicine,
a number on a clock.

APIE AND IDMORAPHS

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