

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____

LT: I can explain why symbolic language is a unique form of communication

Do Now: Take out Evolution of Early Humans packet

Symbolic Language

Part 1: Notes

What are the characteristics of humans?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Definition

Symbolic Language:

Part 2. Gestural Communication

Write what you think our volunteer is trying to communicate.

*Round 1:**Round 2:*

Is using gestures an effective method of communication? Explain (1-2 sentences)

Part 3: Communicating with simple words

It's likely that human language developed slowly, moving from gestures to grunts and eventually, a limited language. To simulate that, you and your group are going to come up with 5-6 lines about one of the following prompts:

1. How should we try to kill that mammoth?
2. Explain why you should marry me.
3. Give directions for a simple task.
4. Come up with a plan to improve our cave.
5. Describe a physical landscape.

Part 3, Continued

Write your sentences here

Is limited language an effective method of communication? Explain (1-2 sentences)

Part 4: Thinking Bigger

1. What were the advantages of limited language over gestures? (1-2 sentences)

2. The English language has about 1 million words. What advantage does this give us over limited language? (1-2 sentences)

3. Read the following passage about sperm whales:

Sperm whales communicate through Morse-code-like patterns of clicks called "codas," which are different than the echolocation clicks they emit to find squid and other prey. Shortly after birth, whales begin to babble, and eventually pick up a dialect, which distinguishes them as members of a particular "vocal clan." Each clan can encompass thousands of sperm whales. Members of different vocal clans are culturally different: they might not travel the same routes, and won't interact much. "Sperm whales seem to have a segregated society based on clans," says Whitehead..." -<http://www.macleans.ca/>

Compare/Contrast sperm whale communication compares to human communication. Is it as good/effective as ours? Better? Worse? (2-3 sentences)