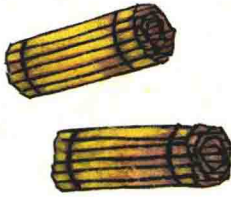


我国古代时，
竹片充当纸。
小刀当作笔，
竹上刻文字。

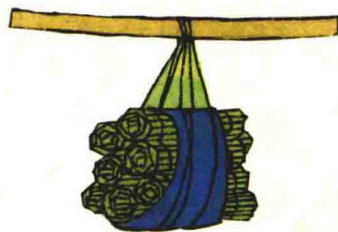


In ancient China, people used bamboo chips as paper,
and gravers as pens; people carved characters on bamboo chips.



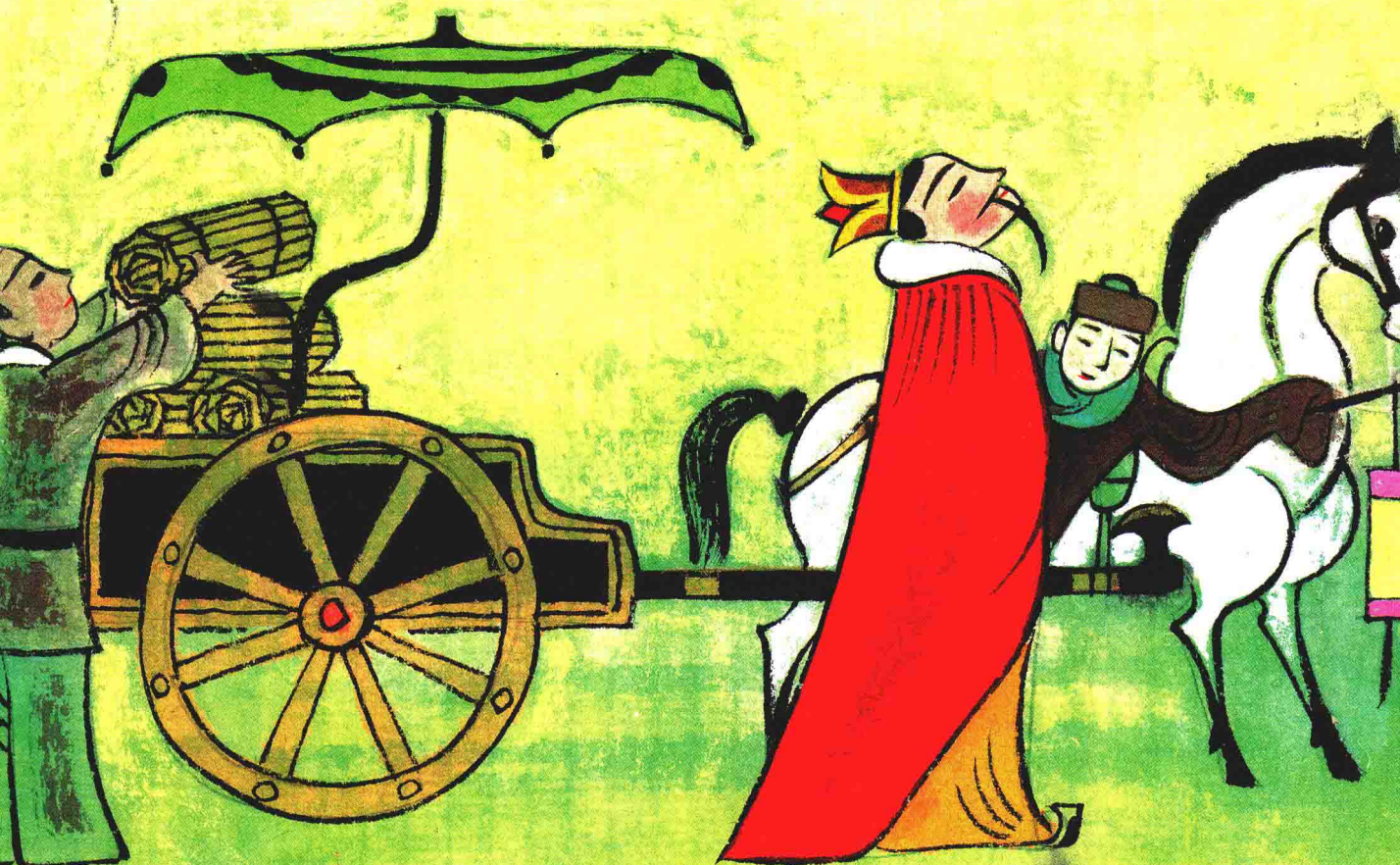


竹简很笨重，刻字真麻烦。
一直到东汉，仍然未改变。



Bamboo slips were cumbersome to carry and troublesome to carve on.

This situation did not change until the Eastern Han dynasty.



有个小徒弟，名字叫蔡伦。

读书很刻苦，满腹是学问。



There was a young apprentice named Cai Lun,
who was hardworking and knowledgeable.



宫廷请他去，派他管器械。

样样详载记，记录费脑筋。



The palace hired him to manage all the equipment.

Every single piece needed to be recorded, which racked his brain.



蔡伦立志，决心要造纸。

反复找材料，试过几百次。



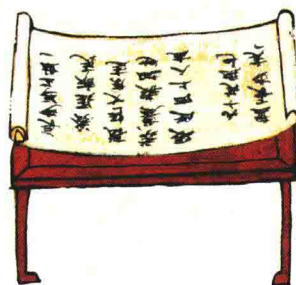
Cai Lun determined to invent lighter paper.

He tried different materials and did hundreds of experiments.



帛上能写字，漂亮又好使。

可惜价钱贵，书写不合适。



Silk fabric was writeable, artistic, and useful,
but too pricey to be used as paper.



一天工匠来，送来几捆丝。

当中有丝片，上面写满字。



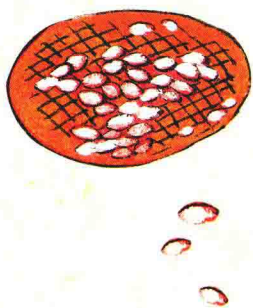
One day, a craftsman brought several bundles of silk and a few pieces of yarn sheets★ full of words on it.

★ Yarn sheets: A piece of fabric made by silk thread.



丝片怎么做？成本高或低？

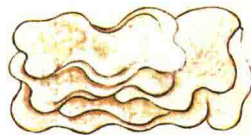
蔡伦下工房，一一看仔细。



"How to make yarn sheets?" "How much is the cost to make it?"
wondered Cai Lun and went to the workshop to check it out.



工房竹席旁，人们劳动忙。
做完丝绵后，丝片留几方。



In the workshop beside a bamboo sheet,
workers were busy producing silk.
Yarn sheets were left behind after silk was made.