The Phoenician Alphabet

The Phoenicians wrote from right to left. Some letters were used to represent more than one sound. They did not have the vowels in the same way that we do, but some letters were used to give the idea of the vowel sounds. To make this activity easier, read the messages from left to right. Some of the letters have been changed slightly to help you understand the meaning.
Extended activities

Teacher writes a simple cvc word on the board. Children translate the letters and discuss which vowel to insert to correspond with a picture, e.g. Picture of cat, children translate the c and t. Work out that they need the a vowel in the middle of the word to make the word complete!

Children imagine that they are Phoenician sailors writing home to their family or friends. Can they write messages using the Phoenician alphabet?

Messages on worksheet above can be translated as

Can you read this message

We hope the ship does not sink

The weather should be good. Strong winds will make the trip fast