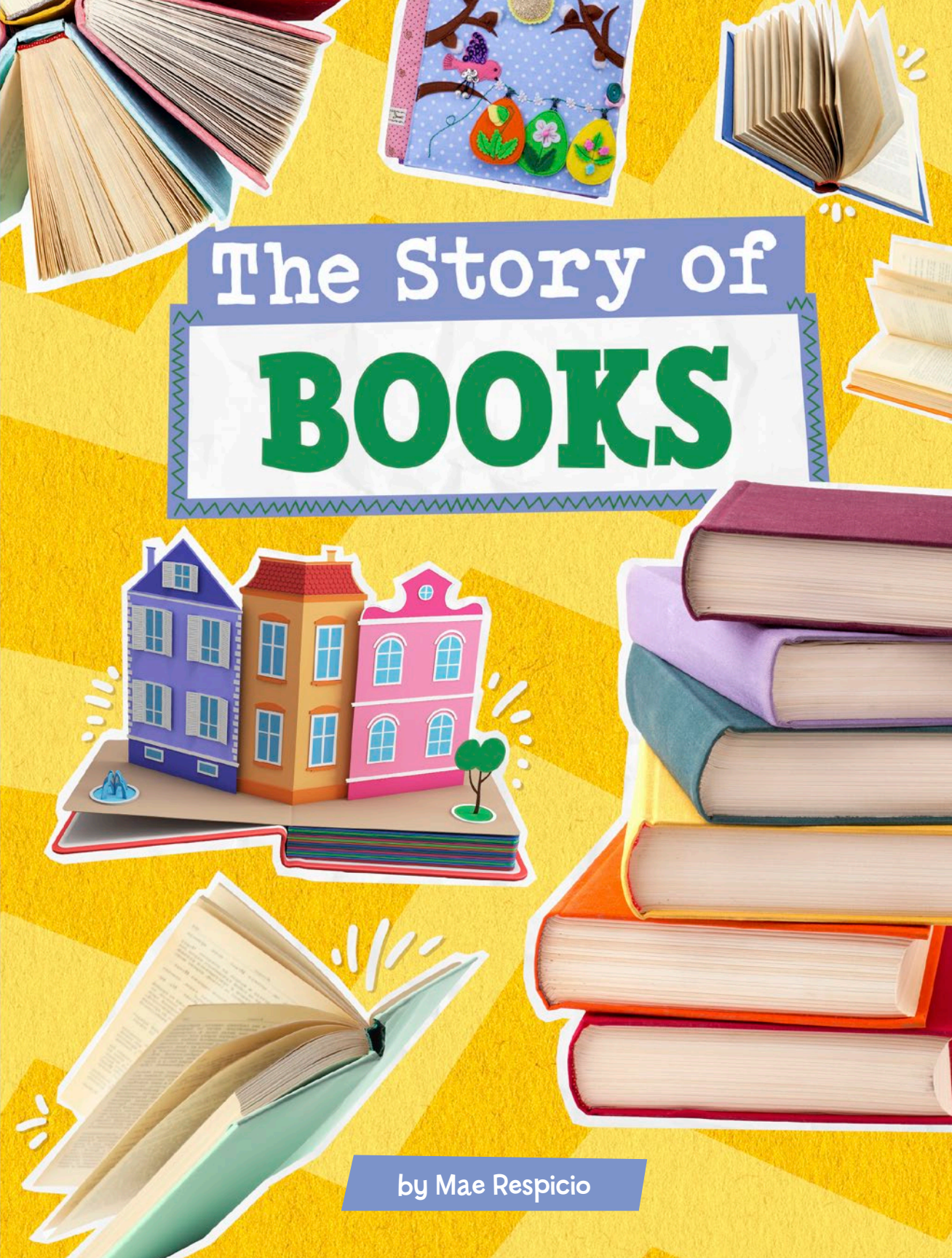




The Story of **BOOKS**

by Mae Respicio

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Words in **bold** appear in the glossary.

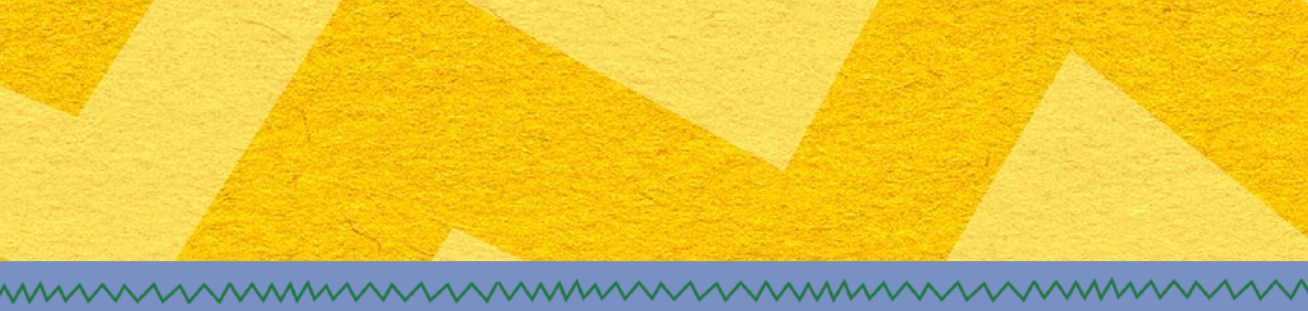
History of Books

Books help us learn. They entertain us. They spark our imagination. Books are for everyone!





Books come in different forms. They can be printed, **electronic**, and **audio**. There are more than 150 million titles in the world today!



But books have been a part of our lives since ancient times. Long ago, people wrote stories on stone slabs and bark. The ancient Egyptians wrote on many things. They used clay, stone, and bone.

They also wrote on material from a plant called **papyrus**. Egyptians wove the plant stems together. Then they pounded them flat. This made a page.

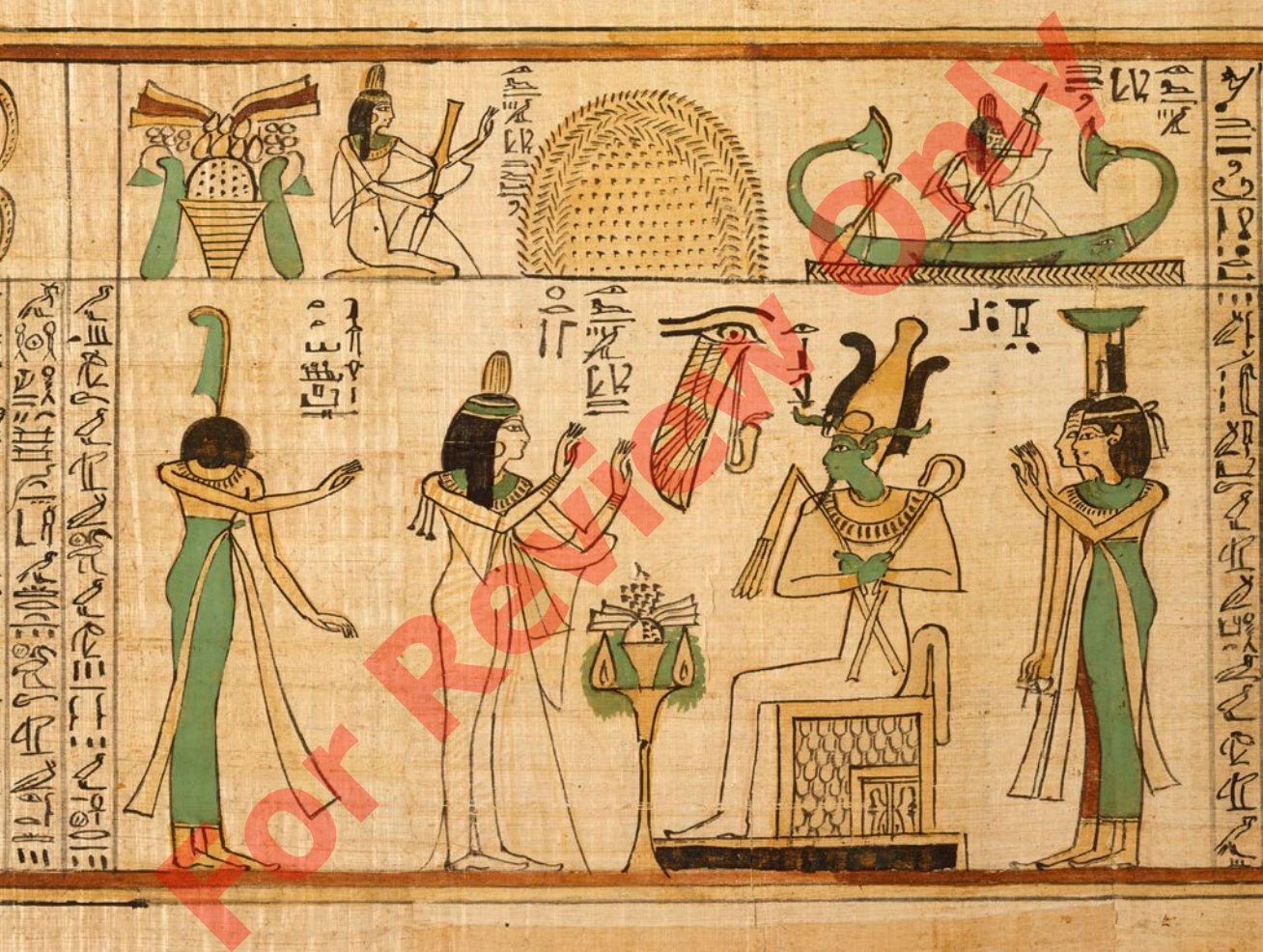


Strips and rolled sheets from the stems of papyrus

They used pens to write on each page. But they didn't use pens like you use. Their pens were made from reeds. Then pages were glued together to form a long scroll. A scroll is a long book that is rolled up.

A scroll is one of the first types of books. The longest Egyptian scroll ever found stretched more than 133 feet (40 meters) long! That's as long as the Statue of Liberty is tall.

After the scroll came the codex. This was what ancient Romans called their book. A codex was made of materials such as papyrus and **parchment**. They bound the pages together. A codex looked similar to what a book looks like now.



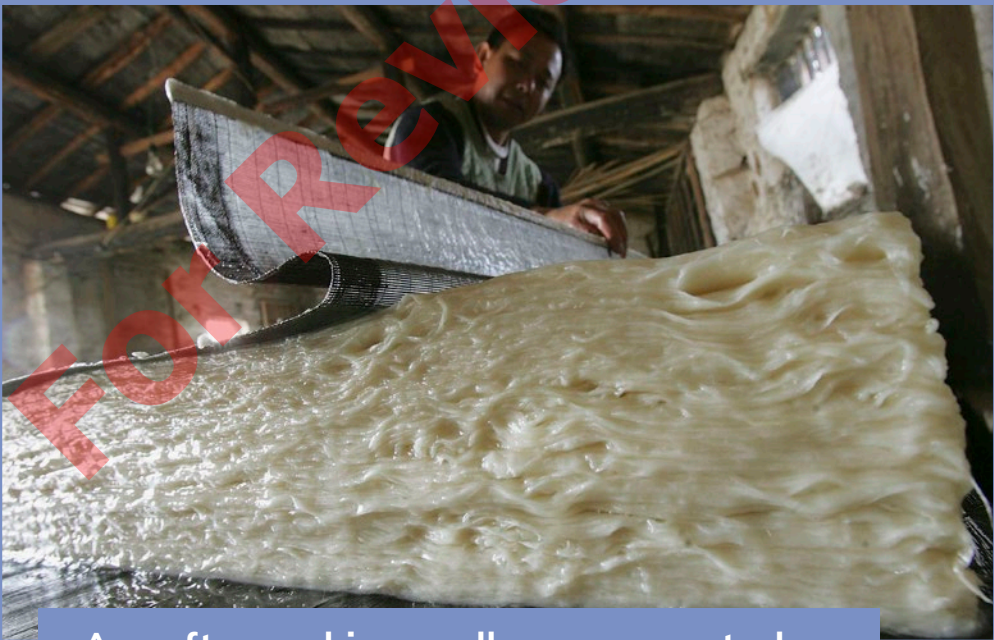
Part of an ancient Egyptian scroll on papyrus



At first, people made books.
Each page was written by hand.
It took a very long time. What
changed this? The woodblock.

In 868 CE, Chinese craftsmen
carved pictures and words into
a woodblock with knives. Each
block had a full page of words and
pictures on it. They put ink on the
blocks. Then they pressed them
onto paper.

The paper they used was made from many materials. These included **hemp**, bark, mulberries, and even fish nets. The materials formed **pulp**. The pulp was pressed and dried to make a page.



A crafter making mulberry paper today.