Source: <http://www.ancientscripts.com/tamil.html>

* The Tamil script evolved from an ancient southern form of the Brahmi script, but was also influenced by the Grantha script. It is currently used to write the Tamil language in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as in Sri Lanka. Interestingly, the Tamil language is one of the oldest recorded languages in southern India.
* The earliest texts, written in the southern variant of Brahmi, date from just before the 1st century CE. Overtime the script changed, and by the 8th century CE the Tamil script has evolved into more or less its modern form.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil-Brahmi>

* Tamil-Brahmi is a variant of the Brahmi script used to write inscriptions in the early form of the Tamil language.
* The Tamil-Brahmi script has been paleographically and stratigraphically dated **between 3rd-century BCE and 1st-century CE**, and it constitutes the earliest known writing system evidenced in many parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Sri Lanka.
* Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been found on cave entrances, stone beds, potsherds,Jar burials, coins, seals, and rings
* Artifacts such as inscribed potsherds, coins or others are found in Tamil Nadu archaeological sites have graffiti and inscriptions. The potsherds recovered from Kodumanal, for example, have markings that on the basis of stratigraphical analysis appear to be from the 4th century BCE. According to K. Rajan, the "large number of graffiti marks and subsequent Tamil Brahmi script" unearthed in Tamil Nadu and Kerala suggest that that this region had a "linguistic cohesiveness well before 5th-4th century BCE".  
  **Citation :** Rajan, K (2008), "Situating the Beginning of Early Historic Times in Tamil Nadu: Some Issues and Reflections", Social Scientist, 36 (1/2): 40–42