Formation of the Gospels
3 stages

Stage 1 The Historical Jesus (actual life of Jesus)

Jesus actually lived, performed miracles, told parables, was crucified and rose from the dead.

Nothing was written about him at this stage.

Why not?
Stage 2: Oral Tradition
Convinced that JESUS was the Messiah the apostles preach and baptize. The Church begins.

As the name implies - nothing was written yet. Why not?
The Apostles' oral preaching took three forms.

Kerygma: Preaching to unbelievers. Those who had no first-hand knowledge of Jesus.  
\[ \text{Luke } 4:16-19 \]

Didache: Teaching. To repeat the message and explain it in more depth. Emphasize teachings and sayings of Jesus.  
\[ \text{Matthew } 5:1-12 \]

Liturgy: Worship, participation in the work of God. Primarily, Christians met for the Eucharist and the teachings and actions of Jesus were repeated (Do this in memory of me)  
\[ \text{John } 6:52-58 \]
Stage 3: actual writing of the New Testament. Earliest (first writings) were the Letters of Paul. As a missionary Paul kept in contact with the communities he had founded by writing letters. These are the letters we have in the New Testament today.

Gospels were composed later (see dates in text page 50)
Gospels were compiled from the oral tradition

the writers took

From the oral tradition

and combined than into a

Gospel account.
Why were the Gospels finally written down?