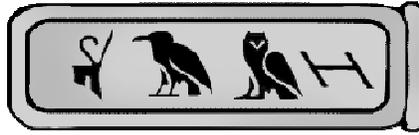


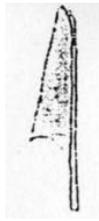
Hieroglyphic Questions

Name:

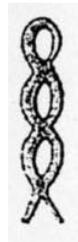
Class:



1. Why did the ancient Egyptians need to develop a system of writing?
2. What was the name of the system of writing the Egyptians developed?
3. How did the development of writing change the lives of the ancient Egyptians?
4. What is a cartouche? What was it used for?
5. For many years modern people were unable to read hieroglyphics. What discovery finally allowed us to decipher this form of writing? Explain how this discovery allowed us to understand hieroglyphics.
6. Egyptian tombs contained a great many hieroglyphics. What did these hieroglyphics tell about?



Hieroglyphics



As the wealth of Egypt grew and the economy became more complex, people needed a way to keep track of their wealth. They developed a system of writing called hieroglyphics. Hieroglyphics are little pictures. The pictures stand for an object or a sound or sometimes both.

Writing opened doors for the Egyptians. Besides recording business dealings, people began to write poetry, magic spells, and stories. They also recorded their knowledge, which later civilizations read about and learned about.

Over 5000 years ago, the ancient Egyptians wrote things down using a picture writing called hieroglyphics. The people who did the actual writing were called scribes.

Hundreds of years later, archaeologists discovered beautiful hieroglyphic writing on the walls of ancient Egyptian pyramids and tombs. The archaeologists had a problem. They knew hieroglyphics had meanings, but there was no one left in the world who remembered what the ancient hieroglyphics meant. No one could read the hieroglyphic messages.

It was not until quite recently, a mere 200 years ago, that a stone was found in Egypt. This stone had the same short story written on it in Greek, in another language called Demotic script, and in hieroglyphics. Scientists could read Greek. Scientists could read Demotic. And now, scientists could begin to read hieroglyphics. They named this stone the Rosetta Stone.



How to read Hieroglyphics



When we read English, we read from left to right, in a straight line. Hieroglyphics are written in rows or columns and can be read from left to right, right to left, or top to bottom. The key to reading hieroglyphics is to look at the animals or humans. These always face the direction the line should be read from. For instance, if all the animals are facing right, it should be read from right to left. If all the animals are facing left, it should be read from left to right. The picture below would be read from left to right, since all the animals are facing left.



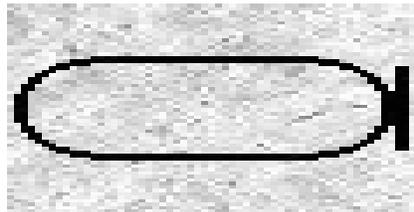
Sometimes there are two or more pictures on top of one another. If this happens, the top picture is always read before the bottom.



In Egyptian culture, rows were used in legal documents and on burial linens. Columns were used on doorways, tomb walls, and monuments. We would not know what any of the hieroglyphs meant if it weren't for the Rosetta Stone. The Rosetta Stone is a tablet written in three different languages: Hieroglyphics, Arabic (Demotic), and Greek. This tablet allowed us to translate hieroglyphs.

Cartouches

Sometimes in hieroglyphics, there is a picture that looks like an oval with a line at one end:



This is a cartouche. A real cartouche is a tablet with an inscription in it. In hieroglyphics, a cartouche is a symbol that represents authority and power. Inside of the cartouche are written names. Only the names of pharaohs and gods were written in cartouches. Nowadays you can purchase your own cartouche with your name engraved on it.



The Cartouche





Instructions

1. Read the following notes on hieroglyphics and cartouches.
2. Answer the questions sheet about hieroglyphics.
3. Using the hieroglyphic letter sheet, make your own cartouche with your own name on it. Make sure it is neat and coloured.



Instructions

1. Read the following notes on hieroglyphics and cartouches.
2. Answer the questions sheet about hieroglyphics.
3. Using the hieroglyphic letter sheet, make your own cartouche with your own name on it. Make sure it is neat and coloured.

Activity 4 Level 1: Hieroglyphics

Possible points: 20

1. Get a hieroglyphics alphabet from the center box. Then use the key to write a simple, 4-5 sentence story about Ancient Egypt in hieroglyphics. Make sure you include an English translation for your story.
2. Hieroglyphics should be artistically drawn and in colour. Use an 8 ½” by 14” size paper or larger.
3. Your hieroglyphics will be marked on following instructions, neatness, and appearance.

Things to remember: all assignments should be done in pen or on the computer: no pencil. Be neat! Be creative!

