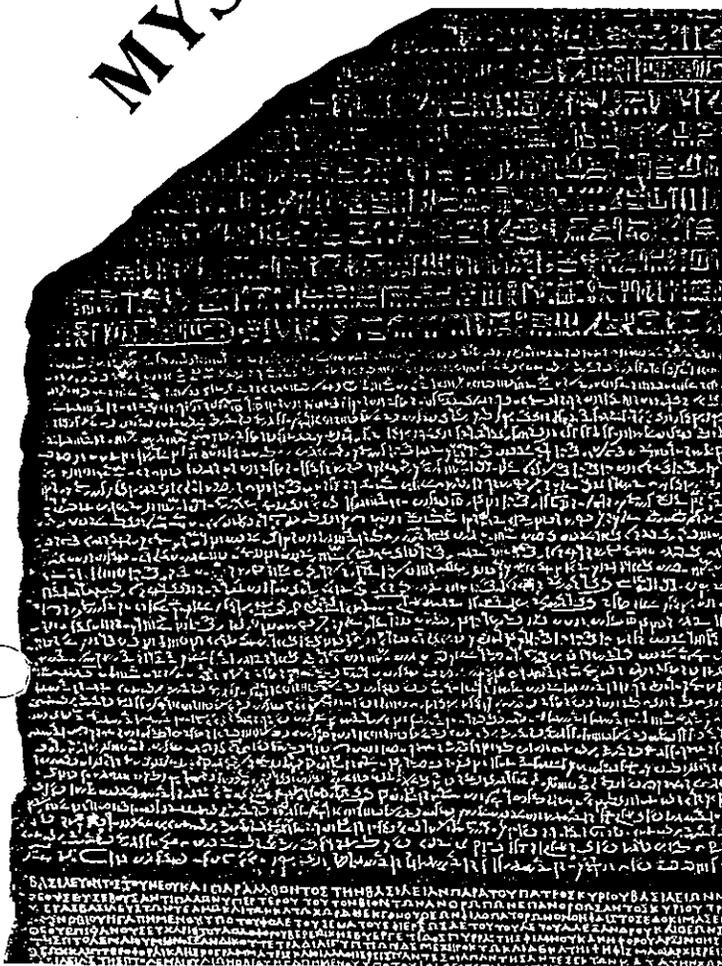


Solving the

MYSTERY of HIEROGLYPHS



Early archaeologists in Egypt had no idea how to read hieroglyphs. Strange-looking figures, piercing eyes, slithering serpents—what could it all possibly mean? No one knew—until the French invaded Egypt.

THE PLACE: Rosetta, a town on the Nile delta

THE TIME: 1799

THE SCENE: A group of French soldiers are digging a trench with their metal shovels. Suddenly, a dull thud sounds as one shovel hits something hard. More digging uncovers a large, black stone. On it, the soldiers see different sets of symbols. What could they be?

The rest, as they say, is history. The stone—named the Rosetta Stone—contained a message written in both Greek and Egyptian hieroglyphs. Many scholars could read the Greek, so using that knowledge, they figured out the rest. Sound easy? It wasn't! Scores of language experts from several countries struggled for nearly 25 years to figure it all out! When the code was finally broken by Frenchman Jean-Francois Champollion, he shouted out "I've got it!" to his brother—and then promptly fainted. At last, after 1,400 years of silence, the hieroglyphs began to reveal the secrets of ancient Egypt. ■

STRAIGHT OFF THE STONE

The message on the Rosetta Stone praised King Ptolemy, who ruled Egypt from 203 to 181 B.C. Among other things, the stone decreed that since Ptolemy was born on the last day of the month and became king on the 17th day of the month, these two days should be celebrated each month as holidays. Here's a close-up look at part of this decree on the Rosetta Stone. ■



Let be



made



days



these,



the 17th [and]



the last day



in



month



each.

Egypt's Earliest Form of Writing

What was it called?	
How did it look?	
Who decoded it?	
How was it decoded?	
Why was decoding it important?	

Answer this question ~~on the back or on another sheet of paper.~~ *below (Extra credit)*

What was ancient Egypt's social structure?

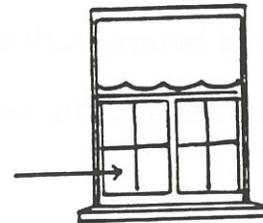
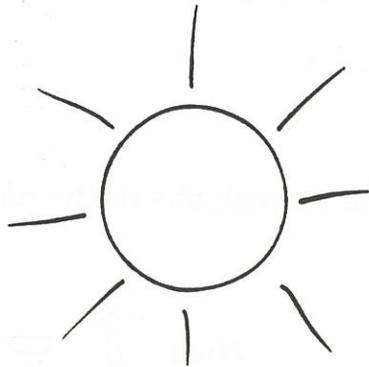
*Text
(Read p 196-197)*

Hieroglyphs

Hieroglyphs (hy-er-oh-glifs) is a system of Egyptian picture writing similar to the kind the American Indian used. It is believed that this kind of writing began as early as 3000 B.C.

When early Egyptians began writing them, they used a simple drawing to show what they meant. For example, if they wished to convey the meaning of a bee, they would draw a bee. This is called an ideogram. In time the simple pictures began to represent words or syllables which sounded like the drawn picture, but the meaning might be entirely different. For example, the figure of the bee might also mean the verb, *be*. This type of writing is known as syllabic.

Tell what these pictures may mean in ideograms and syllabic writing:



The final stage in hieroglyphs was using the symbols to represent the different sounds of the Egyptian language in the way that our alphabet does. The Egyptian alphabet consists of twenty-five symbols. In the development of the Egyptian alphabet, the ideograph and syllabic forms continued to be used, making a combination of all three forms. This combination made the writing and understanding of hieroglyphs very difficult.

In writing, the ancient Egyptians did not normally write out vowels; they simply used the consonants. In other words, the word *horse* would simply be *hrs*. To be sure the reader got the word right, sometimes an ideogram would be added after the word.

hrs



Hieroglyphs can also be written in different directions. Here is the name Samantha written four ways:

Left to right: S A M A N T H A

Top to bottom: S A M A N T H A

Right to left: A T H A N M A S

Where possible, the Egyptians liked to group the signs in squares or rectangles:



When writing names in Egyptian, two points must be remembered:

1. No double letters, such as the extra **n** in **Donna**.
2. No silent letters, such as the **h** in **Sarah**.

Look carefully at the spelling and arrangement of the hieroglyphs in the names below:

Karen: [hieroglyphs for K, A, R, E, N]

John: [hieroglyphs for J, O, H, N]

Nick: [hieroglyphs for N, I, C, K]

Bobby: [hieroglyphs for B, O, B, B, Y]

George: [hieroglyphs for G, E, O, R, G, E]

Gloria: [hieroglyphs for G, L, O, R, I, A]

Valerie: [hieroglyphs for V, A, L, E, R, I, E]

William: [hieroglyphs for W, I, L, L, I, A, M]

Judy: [hieroglyphs for J, U, D, Y]

Alex: [hieroglyphs for A, L, E, X]

Charles: [hieroglyphs for C, H, A, R, L, E, S]

Phillip: [hieroglyphs for P, H, I, L, L, I, P]

Shirley: [hieroglyphs for S, H, I, R, L, E, Y]

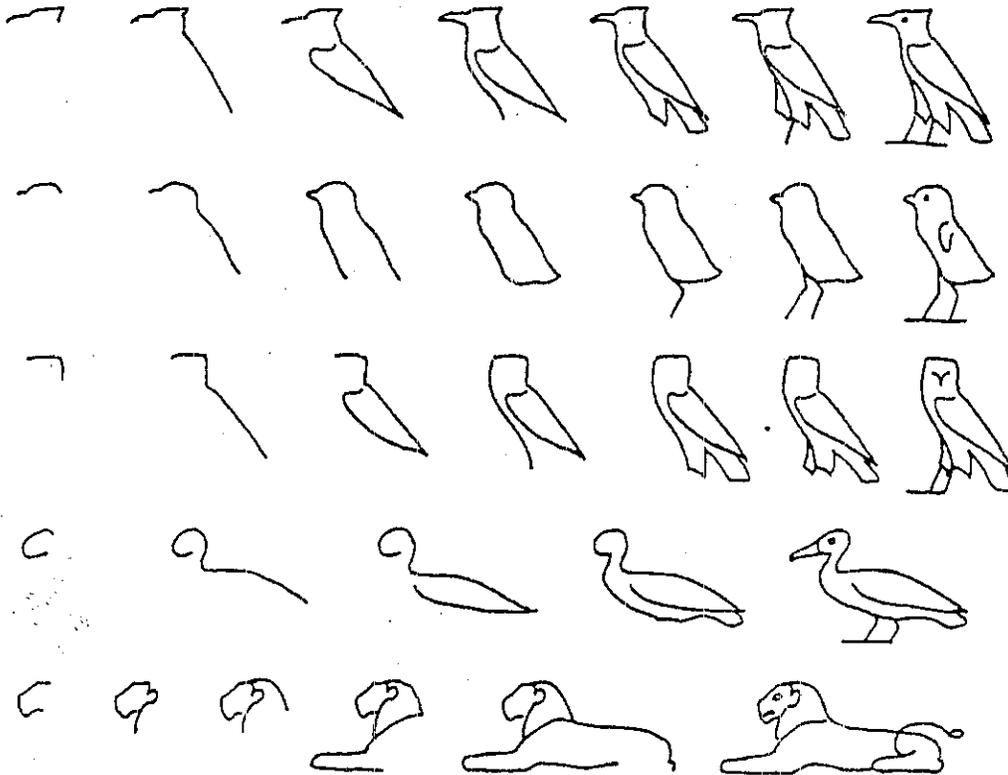
Sarah: [hieroglyphs for S, A, R, A, H]

Notice that the names are spelled by their sounds. In addition, it is possible to spell most names several different ways--experiment!

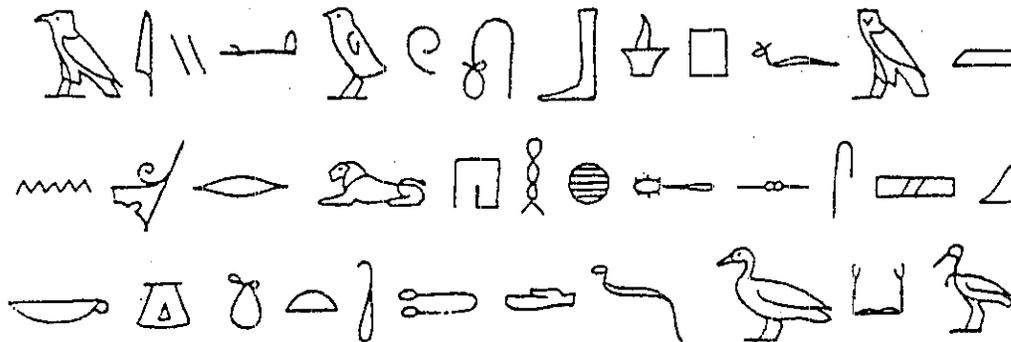
HOW TO WRITE IN HIEROGLYPHS

Hieroglyphic writing was used in Egypt for 3,400 years. Egyptian picture writing is not easy to learn. The shapes of birds are the hardest of all to draw, but they were hard for the Egyptian scribes and artists to learn too.

Here are some helpful hints for drawing difficult signs:



This is how the alphabet should look in handwritten form:



Two more signs are needed for writing male and female personal names. They are added at the end of the spelling:



Woman



Handwritten
Form



Man



Handwritten
Form

Paper from Papyrus

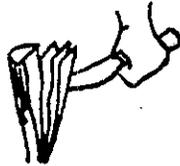
Papyrus is a tall reed plant which grows well in the marshes along the Nile River in Egypt. This reed was used by the early Egyptians for making baskets, mats, boats, pens and paper. To make paper, the workman first gathered the papyrus reeds and tied them into bundles. In his workshop he chopped the reeds into smaller pieces. The size of the pieces determined the size of the paper.



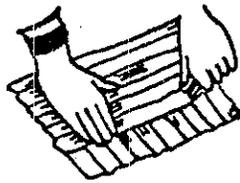
The outer covering was then carefully peeled away.



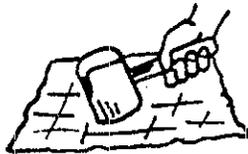
The remaining center of pith was sliced into very, very thin slices.



The layers of pith were carefully placed crosswise.



A cloth was placed over the layers and the slices were beaten with a mallet.

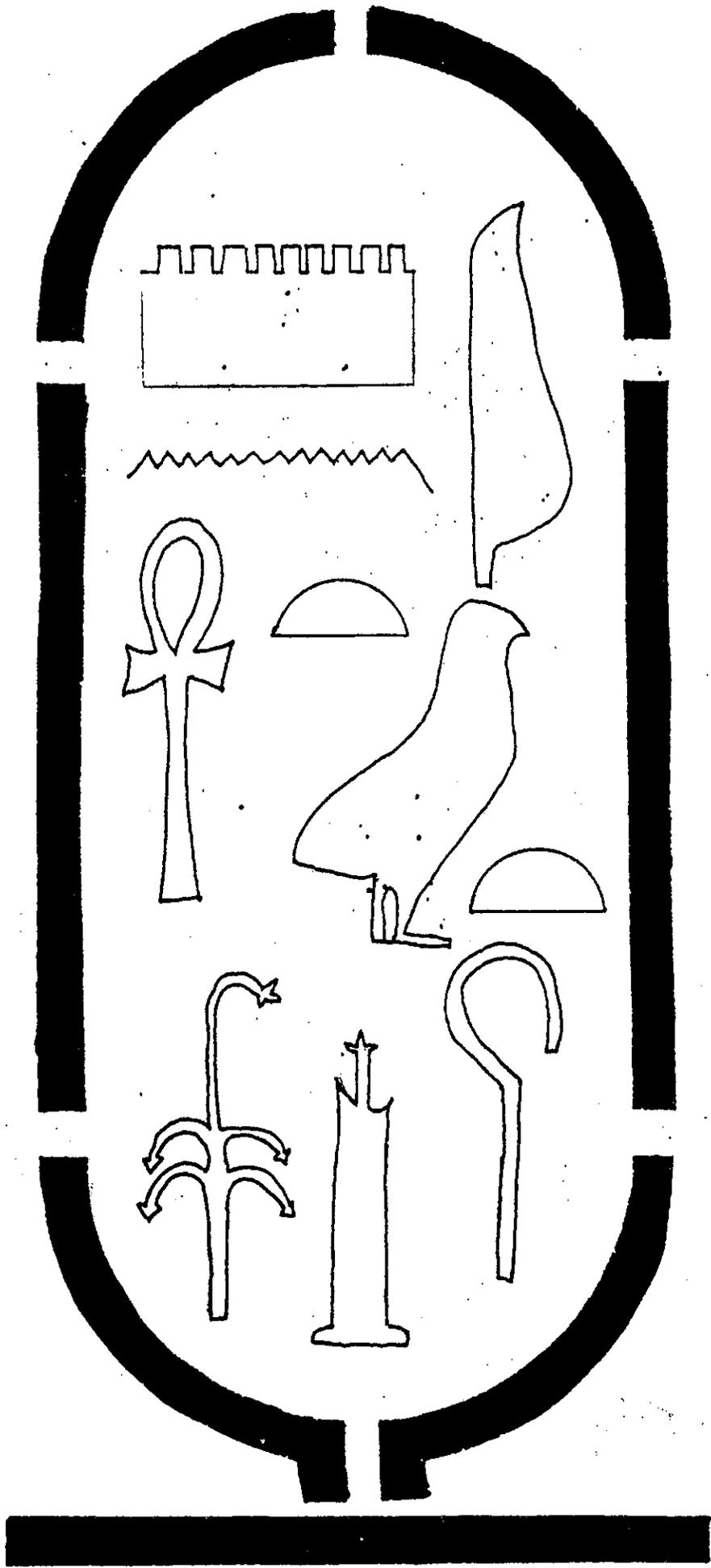


The paper was finished with a polishing stone. This made the paper smooth.



Ink made from soot and a pen from a sharpened reed were used for writing.





This design is referred to as a cartouche, and was used in Ancient Egypt to denote a name sign.

Attached in this packet you will find a cartouche of the name Tutankhamun. Read into the faces.

half sun.....T

bird wu

half sun.... T

"long life.. ankh

above.....the god sign
 Amun

below..... king of upper
 & lower Egypt

Using the charts that are part of this packet design your own cartouche.

Do it in pencil first, then in color. It should be good enough to proudly display in the classroom, or on the bulletin board in the front office.

It may be straight up as this one is, or it may lay on it's side, but it should fill the page as this one does.

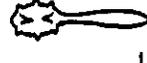
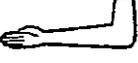
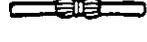
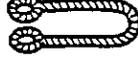
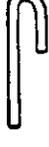
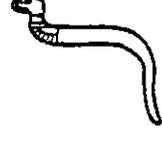
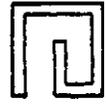
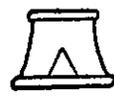
You may need to practice with the hieroglyphics.

This assignments may be started today, and completed at home.

please put your name on the back and we can have the fun of trying to read it.

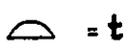
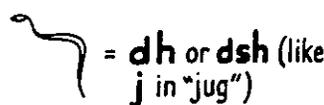
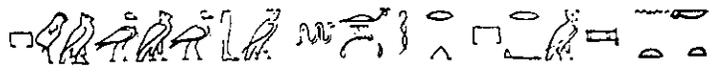
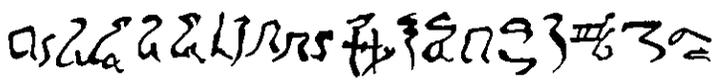
ENJOY

The Egyptian Alphabet

 <p>VULTURE A A as in <i>father</i></p>	 <p>STOOL P</p>	 <p>TWISTED FLAX H Emphatic H, as in <i>hey!</i></p>	 <p>LINEN BAG G Appears in a few old words G as in <i>great</i></p>
 <p>REED FLOWER I or E Use as I or short E for writing proper names</p>	 <p>HORNED VIPER F</p>	 <p>PLACENTA H Guttural H as in <i>Scotch loch</i></p>	 <p>BREAD LOAF T</p>
 <p>2 REED FLOWERS Y Alternate of Use as long E as in <i>peace</i></p>	 <p>OWL M</p>	 <p>ANIMAL BELLY H Uncommon sign Sound similar to German <i>ich</i></p>	 <p>PESTLE T Same value as previous sign</p>
 <p>FOREARM C Sound unknown in English. Close to A as in <i>hay</i>, but more guttural</p>	 <p>DOOR BOLT M</p>	 <p>DOOR BOLT S or Z</p>	 <p>TETHER I Use as CH, as in <i>cheese</i></p>
 <p>QUAIL CHICK W or U Long U sound as in <i>moon</i></p>	 <p>WATER N</p>	 <p>FOLDED CLOTH S Emphatic S Use as regular S</p>	 <p>HAND D</p>
 <p>QUAIL CHICK W or U Abbreviated form of Quail Chick</p>	 <p>CROWN N Derived from NT the crown of Lower Egypt</p>	 <p>POOL S SH as in <i>shine</i></p>	 <p>SNAKE D Use as J as in <i>Judge</i></p>
 <p>LASSO O Used as O in foreign names such as <i>Cleopatra</i></p>	 <p>MOUTH R or L Used as L in later times to write foreign names</p>	 <p>HILL-SLOPE K K sound produced at back of throat some- what like Q in <i>quiet</i></p>	 <p>GOOSE SA * Biliteral sign</p>
 <p>FOOT B</p>	 <p>LION R or L Used in later times Appeared as L in <i>Cleopatra</i></p>	 <p>BASKET K</p>	 <p>SPIRIT or DOUBLE KA * Biliteral sign</p>
 <p>INCENSE BURNER B Alternate of last used in later times</p>	 <p>COURTYARD H</p>	 <p>JAR STAND G G as in <i>great</i></p>	 <p>BLACK STORK BA Symbol of the soul * Biliteral sign</p>

* Glyphs marked with an asterisk are not part of the basic alphabet, but can be used for two letters in writing proper names

EVOLUTION OF THE ALPHABET

EGYPTIAN		I	II	III	IV	V
 = smooth breathing, like h in "honor". As vowel see below	 = ch (like ch in German "ich")					
 = y (in Greek times it was used as a vowel)	 = kh (like ch in Scotch "loch" or German "Bach")					
 = guttural, pronounced in back of throat; not used in English	 = s					
 = w (later f was also used; both signs as vowels, see below)	 = s (originally of slightly different sound from the preceding)					
 = b	 = sh					
 = p	 = q (in Greek times also used for k)					
 = f	 = k					
 = m (later n was also used for m)	 = g					
 = n	 = t					
 = r	 = th					
 = l in late times (originally r or rw)	 = d					
 = h	 = dh or dsh (like j in "jug")					
 						
						
						
						
						
						
						
						

The two long, vertical columns above contain letters of the Egyptian alphabet. Each of these letters represents a consonant. The Egyptians pronounced but did not write their vowels. This alphabet was in use before 3,000 B.C.

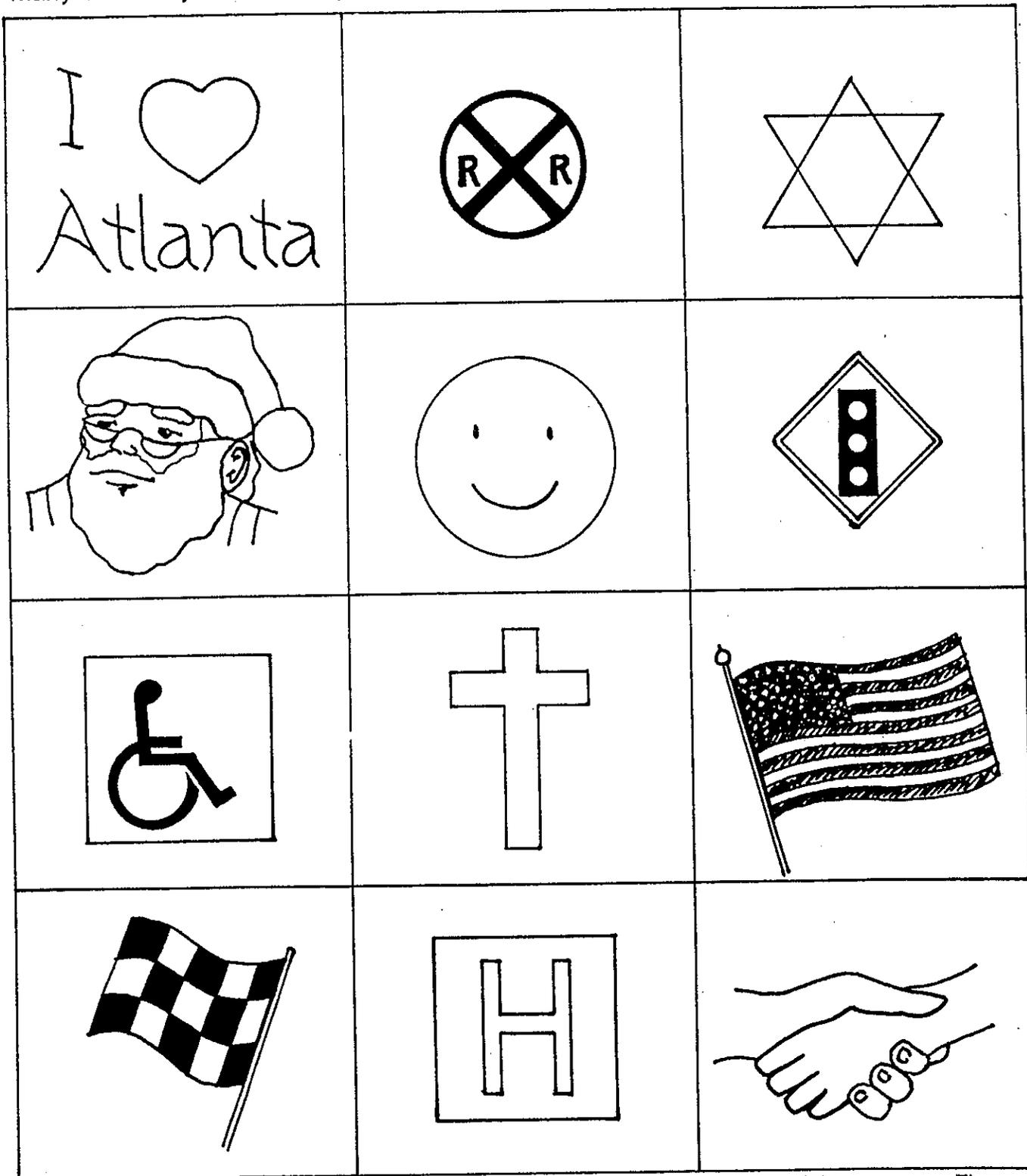
The upper horizontal line is the hieroglyphic. It is a form of picture writing. The lower line written with pen and ink on papyrus is of a later period. It is called hieratic, the writing of ordinary business.

Compare the separate columns above with each other. They show how the Phoenician letters passed through Greek and Latin forms to reach their present English forms.

Number I Phoenician
 Number II Early Greek - Read from right to left.
 Number III Later Greek - Read from left to right.
 Number IV Latin
 Number V English

Symbols, Then and Now

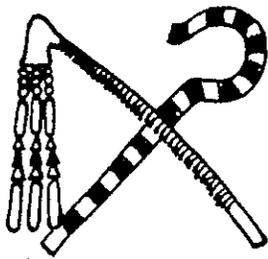
We still use symbols to suggest certain meanings just as the ancient Egyptians did. Our symbols are of course very different from theirs, and they tend to go out of style very quickly compared to those of ancient Egypt. Below are some modern symbols. See how many of them you can recognize; see how many you can add.



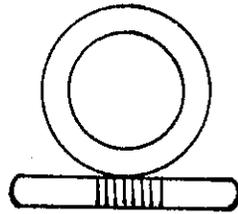
Logos are symbols which large corporations use for identification and advertising purposes. They are usually referred to as trademarks and are protected by copyright laws. Look through a magazine or newspaper for some easily identifiable logos. Bring them to class to find out how many your classmates can recognize.

Symbols, Then and Now

The ancient Egyptians used many symbols just as we do today. Symbols are drawings which have meanings that are instantly recognized. Every ancient Egyptian boy and girl could recognize the symbols below as they were very common and were popular for thousands of years. Study the symbols below; then turn to the next page to see some symbols that are common today.



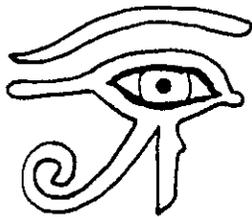
Crook and Flail
Symbols of Authority



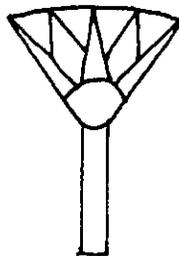
Shen
Symbol of Infinity



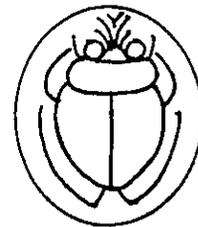
Djed Column
Symbol of Osiris' Backbone



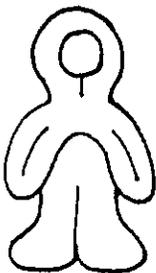
Udjat
Protective Eye Symbol



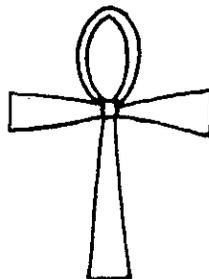
Lotus
Symbol of Rebirth



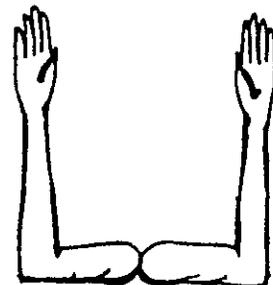
Scarab
Symbol of Renewed Life



Knot of Isis
Symbol of Fertility



Ankh
Symbol of Life



Raised Arms
Symbol of Ka, the Soul

(#)
Name _____

Decipher the Message

Use the code at the bottom of the page and the clues given to translate the story below. Write the words on the lines provided. Hint: Some words are pictured phonetically so letters may be missing.

O _____ e of the _____ e _____

 o _____  e  _____ of the a _____  o _____  _____  _____

is the  _____ a  _____ of  _____ u _____ at  _____ a

 _____ is the  _____ a  _____ e _____ of all  _____ a  _____  _____

 _____ ou _____ and  _____  _____ o  _____  _____ o _____ e _____ of

a  _____ ou _____ 2,300,000  _____  _____ o _____ of _____ o _____

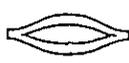
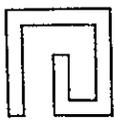
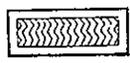
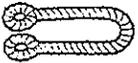
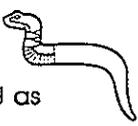
whi _____ welgh an a _____ e _____ a _____ of 2 1/2

 _____ o _____ e _____ ea _____

Key

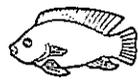
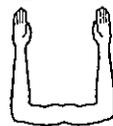
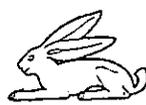
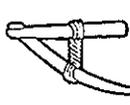
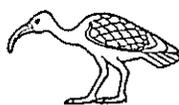
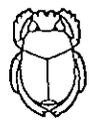
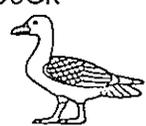
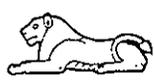
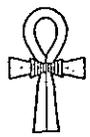
										
IV	W	B	P	F(PH) (V)	L (R)	H	H	M	J (G)	N
										
Z	S (Q)	SH	K (Q)	K (Q)	G	T	CH	D	TH	TH

The Egyptian Alphabet

VULTURE ʒ * see note Use as A as in <i>father</i> 	FOOT B 	MOUTH R 	DOOR BOLT S or Z 	JAR STAND G G as in <i>great</i> 
REED FLOWER I 	STOOL P 	COURTYARD H 	FOLDED CLOTH š Emphatic S Like regular S 	BREAD LOAF T 
2 REED FLOWERS Y Use as long E as in <i>tree</i> 	HORNED VIPER F 	TWISTED FLAX Ḥ Emphatic H, as in <i>hey!</i> 	POOL š  SH as in <i>shine</i>	TETHER I  Use as TCH, as in <i>itch</i>
FOREARM  * see note Like A as in <i>father</i>	OWL M 	PLACENTA Ḥ  Guttural Kh as in Scotch <i>loch</i>	HILL-SLOPE K  K sound some- what like Q in <i>quiet</i>	HAND D 
QUAIL CHICK W or U Long U sound as in <i>june</i> 	WATER N 	ANIMAL BELLY Ḥ  Like German <i>ich</i>	BASKET K 	COBRA D  Use as DJ as in <i>Judge</i>

No such sounds in English alphabet

2 & 3 Consonant Sound Signs

STORK Bʒ 	LOTUS FLOWER / POND Yš 	BULTI FISH IN 	SWALLOW WR 	BEE BIT 
FLYING PINTAIL DUCK Pʒ 	ARMS EXTENDED Kʒ 	DESERT HARE WN 	HOE MR 	VULTURE MT MWT 
LOTUS LEAF & STALK Ḥʒ 	ANTELOPE FOAL IW 	IBIS GM 	FACE ḤR 	SCARAB BEETLE ḤPR 
PINTAIL DUCK Sʒ 	LION RW 	MILK JUG IN NET MI 	TIE OR STRAP ʒNH 	FLAMINGO DšR 