Starter:



What do most Egyptian women wear?

Who sometimes looks after the children all day?

What do Egyptian women typically buy from the market?

How do they keep the insects away?

Explain how Egyptian women do their laundry.

Which items are used to fuel the fire?

What was used instead of sugar?

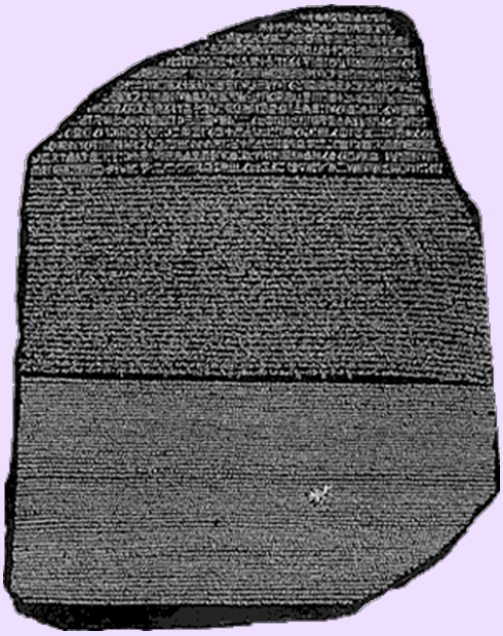
How did the Egyptian's know when to go to bed?

How do we know how to read Egyptian hieroglyphs?



LO: to explain how the Rosetta Stone helped solve the meaning of hieroglyphs.

When people outside of Egypt discovered the large amount of picture writing called 'hieroglyphs', they spent years trying to figure out what the ancient Egyptians were saying. Many professionals devoted almost their entire lives to making an attempt at translation. Try as they might, they just couldn't decipher it. It wasn't until the Rosetta Stone was found, that they had a way to hear the messages of the ancient Egyptians.



Read the text.

The Rosetta Stone Fact Sheet

Before the Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799, Egyptian hieroglyphs were considered a simple form of picture writing. No one was able to **decipher** them because it was thought that each image had a literal meaning. For example, a bird would mean they were talking about a bird.

When the stone was discovered, **archaeologists** found it had the same piece of writing in two languages and three scripts. They were famiiar with one of the languages on the stone - this helped them understand and decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs. The Rosetta Stone can almost be considered a 'dictionary'.



Two Languages and Three Scripts



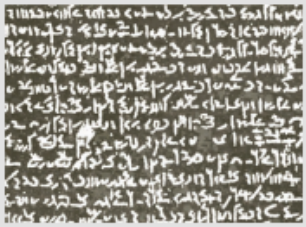
The difference between a language and a script is that a language is a method of communication whereas a script is the symbols that are used to write a language. The two languages on the Rosetta Stone are **Egyptian** and **Greek**.

The Three Scripts

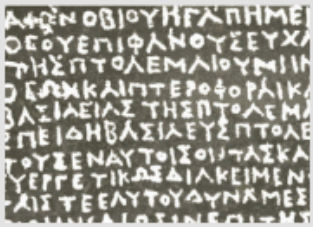
Hieroglyphic



Demotic



Ancient Greek



Because **scholars** still spoke ancient Greek in 1799, they were able to read the 53 lines of ancient Greek and use this to decipher the 32 lines in Demotic and the 14 lines in hieroglyphic script. This was then used to decipher hieroglyphic writings in many other ancient Egyptian **artefacts** and walls.

The Discovery

Soldiers from **Napoleon Bonaparte's** army made the discovery in 1799 in Egypt. While they were digging the foundations for a new building, they found the stone built into a very old wall. An officer, Pierre-François Buchard, realised the importance of the stone.

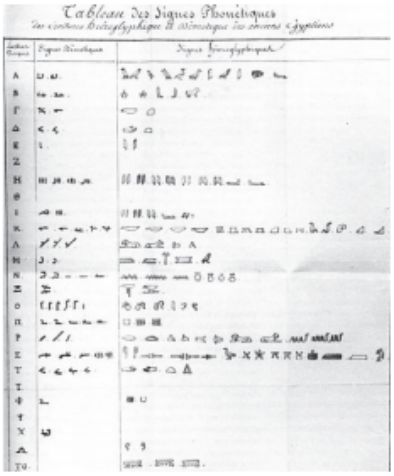
Deciphering the Rosetta Stone

When the British defeated Napoleon, the Rosetta Stone became the property of the British government. The stone was taken to England, where it has been permanently exhibited at the British Museum ever since.

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The Rosetta Stone Fact Sheet

The two people recognised as having deciphered the Rosetta Stone are Thomas Young and Jean-François Champollion. Young, a British physicist, was the first to match the name 'Ptolemy' in the Greek text to one of the **cartouches.** He also figured out that some hieroglyphic signs had a specific sound.



Champollion, a French **linguist**, used the cartouches within the Rosetta Stone and other artefacts to make a phonetic hieroglyphic **alphabet**.

The stone contained an official message about King Ptolemy V Epiphanes, the pharaoh who ruled in Egypt between 204 and 180 BC. It says that the priests of a temple in Memphis (Egypt) supported him and it lists all the things that the pharaoh did which were good for the priests and the people of Egypt.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeQ-6eyMQ_o

What extra information did you find out?

LO: to explain how the Rosetta Stone helped solve the meaning of hieroglyphs.

Using the information from the text, write a paragraph explaining how the Rosetta Stone helped solve the meaning of hieroglyphs. Think about the following-

Discovery - who/when

The languages on the stone - which one was key?

Deciphering it - how?

The message

How does it help us?

The discovery - what information do I need to highlight in the text?

When was the Rosetta stone discovered?

Who discovered it?

Where did they discover it?

How did they discover it?

The languages - what information do I need to highlight in the text?

What two languages feature on the stone?

Which three scripts feature?

What is the difference between a language and a script?

What language did scholars speak? How did this help?

Deciphering it - what information do I need to highlight in the text?

Where is the stone permanently exhibited?

Name the two people who are recognized as deciphering it.

Who was Thomas Young? What was he the first to do?

Who was Jean-François Champollion? What did he find out?

Why were the cartouches integral to understanding it?

The message - what information do I need to highlight in the text?

Who does it contain a message about?

What does it say about the priests?

What does it list about the pharaohs?

What did it tell us in the video?

How does it help us understand Ancient Egypt?

If the Rosetta Stone was never deciphered, ...