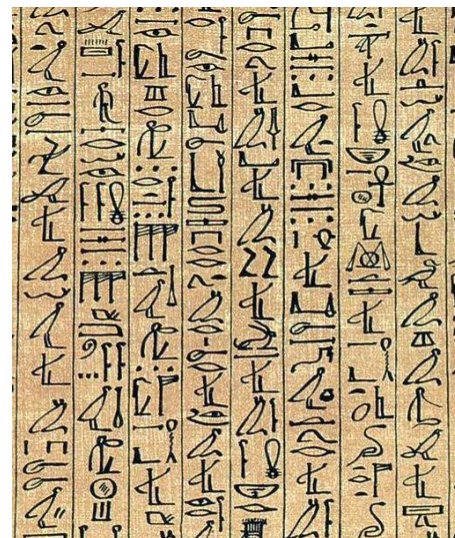


ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS

The original (2002) Art Heritage unit on Ancient Egyptian Art was created with the assistance of **Connie Langford**, who provided valuable information from her first-hand experiences in Egypt. ©This article was written for use by the Art Heritage Program. No part may be copied in part or in whole without permission. Certain materials are included under the fair use exemption of the U.S. Copyright Law and have been prepared according to the multimedia fair use guidelines and are restricted from further use.

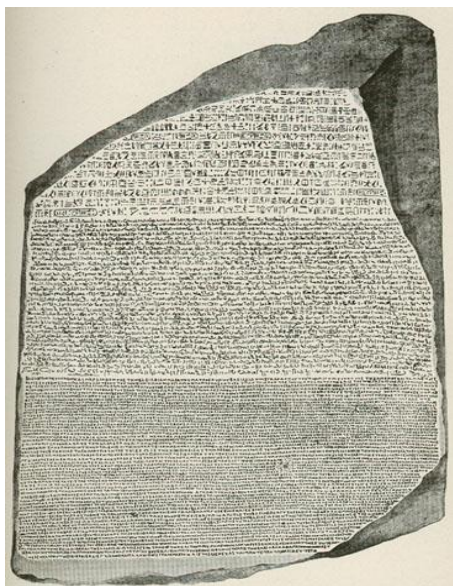
Colorado Dept. of Education- Visual Arts Standards: The Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyph lesson meets the following standards:

- ✓ **Observe and Learn to Comprehend**
- ✓ **Envision and Critique to Reflect**
- ✓ **Invent and Discover to Create**
- ✓ **Relate and Connect to Transfer**



A section of the Papyrus of Ani showing cursive hieroglyphs.

Ancient Egypt is perhaps the most fascinating of the ancient civilizations. Even the ancient Greeks looked at themselves as a young and unknowing society compared to the Egyptians. Beginning in approximately 3000 BC and lasting until nearly 300 BC, the Egyptian civilization was unique in its ability to retain the past with relatively little change. For example, today in the United States we drastically change the style of our clothing each decade, while Egyptian attire did not vary over the thousands of years. There was a civilization where ancient was still modern. (<http://www.touregypt.net/kids/life.htm>)



This Art Heritage unit focuses on a form of calligraphic writing called Egyptian Hieroglyph (HI row glif) “Hieroglyph” is a Greek word meaning ‘sacred carving’. Ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphic writing as a formal writing system, similar to word pictures, which combined visual symbols and alphabetic elements. There are more than 2,000 hieroglyphic characters. Cursive hieroglyphs were used for religious literature on papyrus (a thick paper-like material from the papyrus plant) stone and wood. (Wikipedia) There were a few different types of hieroglyphs. Some stood for entire words, others were used for individual sounds, and still others represented groups of sounds or syllables. Egyptians also used hieroglyphs for math.

For many centuries the meaning of ancient Egypt’s symbolic language was thought to have been lost. However, in the early 18th century, the Rosetta Stone was discovered. The Rosetta Stone is an ancient Egyptian artifact with carved text made up of three translations of a single passage; two in Egyptian language scripts and one in classical Greek. It had been created in 196 BC and is a decree from Ptolemy V, describing the repeal of various taxes and instructions to erect statues in temples. The discovery of the artifact was instrumental in bringing modern understanding of Egyptian hieroglyphic writing.

The stone is 45 in. high at its highest point, 28.5 in. wide and 11 in. thick. It is unfinished on its sides and reverse. It weighs about 1,700 lb. and was originally thought to be granite or basalt. However, it currently is described as granodiorite of a dark pinkish-gray color. The stone has been on public display at the British Museum since 1802.

The suggested art project for this unit is for students to create a cartouche of their name. A **cartouche** is an oblong enclosure with a horizontal line at one end, indicating that the text enclosed is a royal name. The name usually included the “throne name”, a symbol for the “Son of Re” title. At times, amulets were given the form of a cartouche displaying the name of a king and placed in tombs. Such items are often important to archeologists for dating the tomb and its contents.

While no one communicates using hieroglyphs today, scientists and mathematicians use symbolic representations all the time. The key to becoming fluent in science and math is to understand the signs and symbols used in the fields.

Just as some Ancient Egyptians could look at a hieroglyph and immediately know what it meant, scientists and mathematicians can instantly translate the symbolic representations of their work.

Using Hieroglyphic Symbols for “Egyptian-like” Writing

The www.greatscott.com website states: “alphabet characters were the basis for hieroglyphic writings. The basic hieroglyph characters are referred to as the ALPHABET. They 'spell out' names or anything which can't be represented by other characters. The alphabet characters are read as the sound of the object they represented.

Websites

Translate your name: <http://hieroglyphs.net/0301/cgi/pager.pl?p=42>

Great Scott website: www.greatscott.com

KidZone Cartouches: <http://www.kidzone.ws/cultures/egypt/hieroglyph.htm>

POWER POINT:

1. Let's pretend we are traveling back in time...to a time over 5000 years ago...to ancient Egypt.
2. A group of people in Egypt built amazing structures and art: pyramids, temples, sphinx, great cities and monuments were created using the power of people's strength (not machines!)
3. (images)
4. The ancient Egyptians created a form of writing called "hieroglyph" that included symbols and alphabetic letters to communicate. These "word pictures" were written on papyrus, (a form of reed that was made into paper) wood and stone.
5. The hieroglyphic writing was used to write about people's lives, to make note of buying and selling of property, to tell stories of their leaders and for religious purposes. "Scribes" were people who were specially trained to do the hieroglyphic writing. The job of scribe was handed down from father to son for many generations.
6. (image)
7. It has been almost 2,000 years since people used these hieroglyphs to communicate. So how do we know how to read the characters? In 1799, in a town in Egypt called Rosetta, a soldier unearthed a large black stone. The stone came to be known as the Rosetta Stone because of where it was found.

On the stone, there were three different types of writing that seemed to say the same thing and one was definitely Greek, and the other two were scripts used in Ancient Egypt. Even though people could read the Greek words, many years went by before anyone could understand the hieroglyphics. Finally, in 1822, a Frenchman named Jean François Champollion cracked the code. It was originally thought to be granite or basalt but is currently described as granodiorite of a dark pinkish-gray color. The stone has been on public display at The British Museum since 1802.
8. Since 1802, the Rosetta Stone has been kept at the British Museum in London, England. If you visit the museum, you can see this incredible artifact on display.
9. There were a few different types of hieroglyphs. Some stood for entire words, others were used for individual sounds, and still others represented groups of sounds or syllables. Egyptians also used hieroglyphs for math. Just as some Ancient Egyptians could look at a hieroglyph and immediately know what it meant, scientists and mathematicians can instantly translate the symbolic representations of their work.
10. While no one communicates using ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs today, symbols are used in science and math. What written symbols do YOU use to communicate? (Heart sign for love, math symbols of addition/subtraction/division/multiplication, etc.)

Featured Art Project

For this lesson you will need:

- **Scrap paper** (for students to practice their design before using the copper)
- **Sharpened pencils with good erasers (and/or ballpoint pens)** These will be the tools used to incise and smooth the copper)
- **Soft padding:** student's spiral notebooks, newspaper mat, soft magazines to use as a base for the students to work upon.
- **Masking Tape** – to tape the paper design OVER the copper
- Optional: dark liquid shoe polish or water-based paint/paintbrushes/soft cloth (if you wish, the design may be embellished by brushing a dark stain and rubbing it off quickly, without crushing the design. This will leave a darkened area wherever the design has been inscribed.)
- Optional: 7 x 7 inch (or larger) dark paper and double-stick tape. Mount the finished copper piece on the paper backing with tape.

Your supply box includes 36 gauge copper-colored tooling foil, an Egyptian hieroglyphic alphabet chart and copyright-free images. The copper is prepared in 7 foot classroom-sized rolls.

PREPARATION: YOU WILL NEED TO CUT THE COPPER (using scissors or a paper cutter) into 6 inch square pieces. (There is enough in each roll to provide 28 squares of copper per classroom.)



COPPER CARTOUCHES

Students create an Egyptian-style design of their name (or other design) on copper tooling foil. If you wish, you may want to obtain a list of your student's names and printing samples for them to use—use phonetic spelling rather than exact spelling of names to keep it simple.

1. Demonstrate: Art volunteers view the PowerPoint presentation with students. Discuss how the ancient Egyptians used visual images to communicate (using hieroglyphic alphabet, writing on papyrus to create books and to record information. They also created relief images on the walls of pyramids and tombs)
2. Safety: Show students how to use the edge of their wooden pencil to smooth all four sides of their tooling foil.
3. Example: Show students your example of your cartouche and/or Egyptian images. Demonstrate how you created your design (see below)
4. Students use scrap paper to practice writing their name. Coloring page may be used if student prefers.
5. Have students lightly transfer or create their designs on the foil. Once the initial design is completely transferred, remove the cover paper. Use your pencil to go over the outline and enhance the lines, flipping it over and back to emphasize lines. Be careful not to poke holes through the foil piece!

Art Heritage Program

student reflection paper



We learned about Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs in our Art Heritage class today. The ancient Egyptian people left information about their lives that were discovered many years later. Their alphabet used symbols and letters.



How to spot an Egyptian Hieroglyph:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
