

EGYPTIAN ABCs!

Find out about the famous symbols etched across temples and tombs...

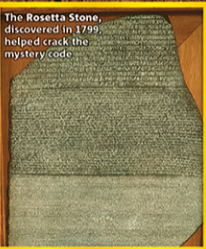


It took many years to learn the 700 pictures of animals and objects that make up hieroglyphics, a complex script invented in around 3250 BC. Very few Ancient Egyptians understood the complicated symbols, so being a scribe with the ability to read and write was a really important job.

Code busters!

Hieroglyphs faded from use after the Romans took control of Egypt, and by 5th Century AD no one knew how to read them! The symbols were a mystery until 1799, when a granite slab (right) was found etched with three scripts — hieroglyphic, a shorthand version called demotic and Ancient Greek. After years of work, a language expert called Jean-François Champollion eventually cracked the code in 1822, allowing the secrets of the Ancient Egyptians to be read like a book!

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, helped crack the mystery code



CRACK THE CODE!

Can you use the key below to crack the National Geographic Kids code? Why not copy it into your workbooks to get some practice with writing in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics? Once you've cracked our code, have a go at writing your own name.





Hieroglyphs helped you make it to the afterlife!



BOOK OF THE DEAD

Before reaching eternal happiness, Ancient Egyptians believed they would have to travel through a treacherous underworld. To help guide them on this terrifying journey, all tombs were stocked with the *Book of the Dead*, a collection of spells written in hieroglyphs, with tips for defeating scary-sounding demons such as Blood Eater and Demolisher!