

Name: _____
Period: _____

THE ROSETTA STONE

The ancient Egyptians were a great mystery to scientists until they deciphered hieroglyphics, the writing of the ancient people. Egypt was mentioned in the Bible, but outsiders did not learn much about Egyptian history until a troop of French soldiers found a dark grey-pinkish granite stone near the Egyptian city Rosetta in 1799.



Jean Champollion

The Rosetta Stone was less than four feet tall and 2½ feet wide. It was inscribed with laws made in 196BC.

The laws were written in three scripts. The first writing was ancient hieroglyphics, which was the script

used by the Egyptians for important or religious documents. The second was the everyday writing used by Egyptian writers at that time. The third was the Greek lettering of the rulers of Egypt.

A French scholar named Jean Champollion translated the hieroglyphic writing in 1824. By working out what some hieroglyphs stood for, Champollion could make educated guesses about what the others represented. Champollion concluded that hieroglyphics had originally been pictographs, but they stood for sounds in later times. Today the Rosetta Stone is used as a metaphor that refers to anything that is a key to figuring out a difficult problem.

Fill in the Blanks

Hieroglyphics is a misnamed word. It is a Greek word that means “sacred carved letters.” Today we know that h_e_o_l_p_ic writing was used for both secular and religious matters. We know this because of the R_____ Stone, a large s_____ found by F_____ soldiers near the c_____ of Rosetta *_____ years ago. The stone was i_____ with a l_____ written 196 years before the *c_____ era.

A French s_h_l_r named Jean C_____ spent more than t_____ years deciphering the mysterious text. Champollion concluded that h_____ were originally p_c_o_r_p_s but later represented s_____.

Answer in complete sentences

*1. Who or what was the Rosetta Stone named for?

2. Explain how the Rosetta Stone made it possible for Champollion to decipher hieroglyphics.

23. What conclusion did Champollion reach regarding the Rosetta Stone?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.