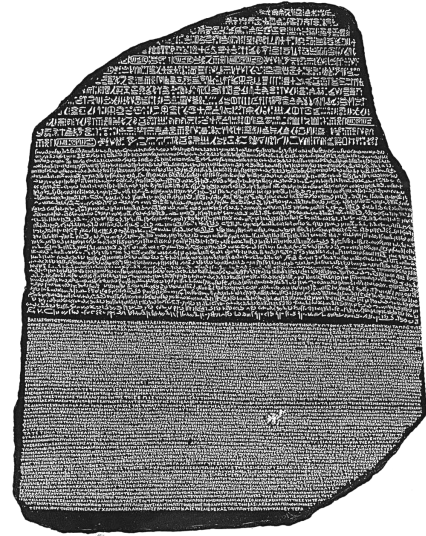


The Rosetta Stone

The Rosetta Stone is a stele, a piece of stone with writing on it. It was discovered by French soldiers in Napoleon's army when he invaded Egypt. The basalt slab was found in the town of Rosetta (now Rashid) in 1799. What has come to be called the Rosetta Stone was written on March 27, 196 B.C.

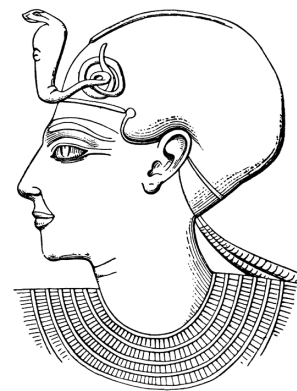
Carved into the stone was a decree praising King Ptolemy V. What was written on the stone was not of great importance, but the way it was written was very important! The Rosetta Stone has the same information in three different languages: Egyptian hieroglyphics; Demotic (a late form of hieroglyphics), and the third section was written in Greek. When the stone was found in 1799, no one knew how to read hieroglyphs or Demotic, but they could read ancient Greek. Although people tried, no one was able to figure out the meaning of the Egyptian writing.

Finally, though, a French expert in languages was able to unlock the key to the translation. Jean-François Champollion was able to read Coptic, Arabic, and Hebrew, three languages related to Egyptian. Using his background and the conclusion that all three passages said the same thing, he figured out the sounds for each the hieroglyphs. He then could identify the characters of the Egyptian alphabet, along with the fact that some hieroglyphs stood for whole words. Amazingly in 1822, Champollion became the first person in 1500 years to be able to read the language of the ancient Egyptians.



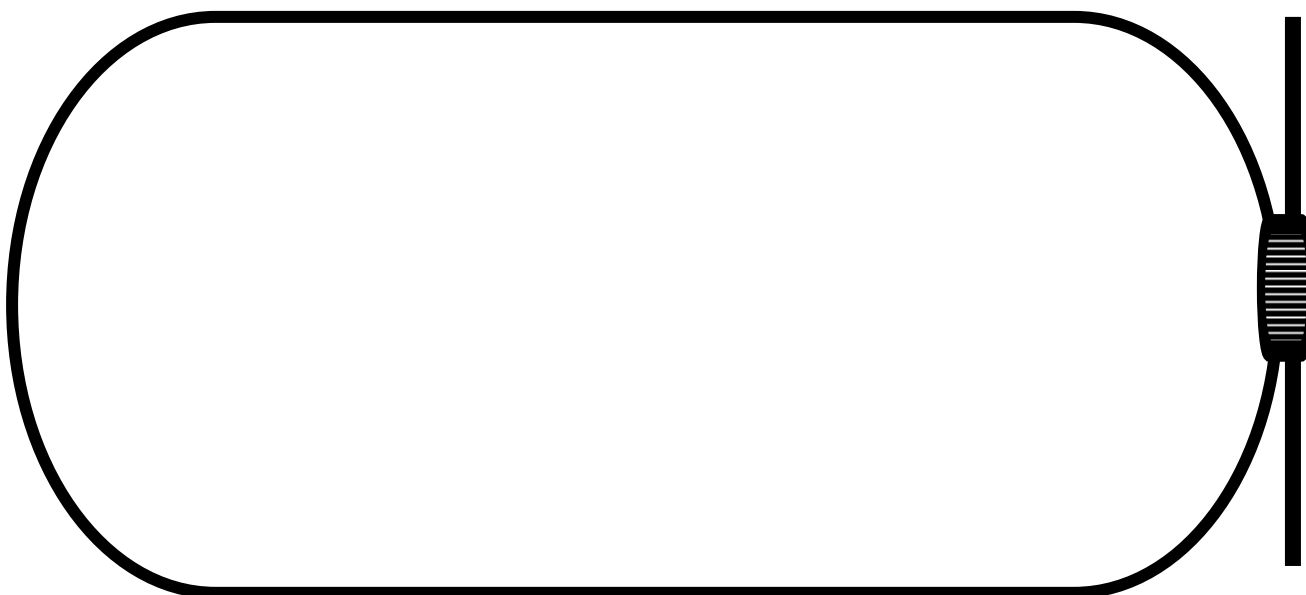
Based on your study of Ancient Egypt, explain why Champollion's discovery was so important. _____

Pharaoh FOR A DAY



DIRECTIONS: Based on the Rosetta Stone, scholars learned that cartouches (decorative panel) like the one below were used in hieroglyphics to indicate the name of a pharaoh or possibly some other member of the royal family. Use the hieroglyphic alphabet to write your own name in the cartouche. **NOTE** that hieroglyphics are written from right to left.

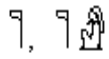
A		H		N		U	
B		I		O		V	
C	or	J		P		W	
D		K		Q		X	
E	or or	L		R		Y	or
F		M		S		Z	
G		T		SH			





So It Shall Be Written...

DIRECTIONS: Now use both the hieroglyphic alphabet and some of the word-symbols shown to write a short decree of your own on the “stele” below. Be creative!



god



man



woman



in, as, by, with, from, of



to, for



to, at concerning, more than, from, so that



this



other, another



there



place, quality of...



thing



is, are



name



say, speak



together with, and



know



great



heart, wish (n. & v.)



lord, master



every, all



hear



ka, soul, spirit



come into being, become



sun, day



earth, land



sky, heaven



exist, be



not



house, temple, palace



town, village, city



son



daughter



father



servant



stable



great, important, greatness, much, very



utterance, speech, mouth



upon, because of, face



give, cause



live, life



rest, peace



good, beautiful



praise, worship



see



make, do, act, create

