Write like an Egyptian!

Includes: A brief history & fun translation activity

Student centered & Common Core!
Egyptian hieroglyphs, known the Ancient Egyptians as mdw·w·nṯr (god’s words), was a formal writing system used as early as 4000BC. However, most scholars believe that the idea of hieroglyphs was adopted from the neighboring Sumerians of Mesopotamia (they called it cuneiform). Hieroglyphics combined logographic and alphabetic symbols which resembled small pictures that represented sounds, and eventually would be placed together to make words. Egyptians used cursive hieroglyphs for religious literature on papyrus paper and wood. In the era of the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom and the New Kingdom, about 800 hieroglyphs existed.

As writing developed and became more widespread among the Egyptian people, simplified glyph forms developed. This resulted in two variations of writing, the hieratic (priestly) and demotic (popular) scripts. These variants were also more suited than hieroglyphs for use on papyrus. Hieroglyphic writing was not eradicated, but existed alongside the other forms, especially on monuments and other formal writing. The Rosetta Stone (left) contains three parallel scripts – hieroglyphic, demotic, and Greek. The stone artifact was a key find during the Napoleonic Wars that enabled historians to accurately decipher hieroglyphics.

Write an excerpt (portion of text) that best supports the following statement: Egyptian hieroglyphics evolved or changed over time.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Translate The Message

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kay</td>
<td>Baa</td>
<td>Cee</td>
<td>Daa</td>
<td>Eeey</td>
<td>Ffay</td>
<td>Ggaa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Line 1: Write the message as it appears above.

Line 2

You try it! Write your first and last name in hieroglyphs.

First

Last

Printed for you on only the finest Egyptian papyrus!