

Secret Picture Writing

Week 4 • Monday • Introducing Hieroglyphics

Today's Goals

- ✓ Learn what hieroglyphics are.
- ✓ Find out who scribes were.
- ✓ Discover what Egyptians wrote on.

Reading Time

The ancient Egyptians did not write with letters like A, B, and C. They wrote with little pictures called **hieroglyphics**! There were more than 700 picture signs — birds, snakes, eyes, water waves, and more. Some pictures stood for sounds, and some stood for whole words.

Writing with hieroglyphics was hard. It took years to learn! Special writers called **scribes** went to school for a long time to master it. Scribes were very important people — they wrote letters for the pharaoh, kept track of grain, and recorded Egypt's stories.

Egyptians carved hieroglyphics on temple walls and painted them inside tombs. They also wrote on **papyrus**, a paper made from smashed river plants. Our word 'paper' comes from 'papyrus'!

Reading Questions

1. What are hieroglyphics?

2. Who were the scribes?

3. What did Egyptians write on?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

hieroglyphics

scribe

papyrus

carve

symbol

temple

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ Hieroglyphics used pictures instead of letters.
- ☐ There were only 5 hieroglyphic signs.
- ☐ Scribes went to school to learn writing.
- ☐ Papyrus was paper made from a river plant.
- ☐ Everyone in Egypt could read and write.
- ☐ Hieroglyphics were carved on temple walls.

• **Make Your Own Picture Words**

Invent 3 of your own picture signs: one for your name, one for your favorite food, and one for your favorite animal.

Think About It

1. Would you rather write with letters or with pictures? Why?

2. Why do you think scribes were so important in Egypt?

Review

I learned...	Circle one
What hieroglyphics are	YES / NOT YET
What a scribe did	YES / NOT YET