

The Rosetta Stone

Week 4 • Tuesday • Cracking the Ancient Code

Reading Time

Here is a mystery: for hundreds of years, NOBODY could read hieroglyphics. The last people who knew how had died long ago. Egypt's walls were covered in messages no one could understand. It was like a giant locked treasure chest with no key!

Then, in 1799, soldiers digging near a town called Rosetta in Egypt found a big black stone. The **Rosetta Stone** had the SAME message written three ways: in hieroglyphics, in another Egyptian script, and in Greek. And people could still read Greek!

A clever French scholar named **Jean-François Champollion** studied the stone for years. In 1822, he cracked the code! Thanks to the Rosetta Stone, historians can now read the words of ancient Egypt — their stories, prayers, and even their jokes.

Reading Questions

1. Why couldn't anyone read hieroglyphics for hundreds of years?

2. What made the Rosetta Stone so special?

3. Who cracked the code, and how did the Greek writing help?

The Story in Order

Number these events 1 to 4 in the order they happened.

Event	Order (1-4)
Champollion cracks the code in 1822	
Ancient Egyptians write in hieroglyphics	
Soldiers find the Rosetta Stone in 1799	
Everyone forgets how to read hieroglyphics	

Fill in the Blanks

Rosetta Greek code three Champollion

1. The famous stone was found near a town called _____.

2. The stone had the same message written _____ ways.

3. People could still read the _____ writing on the stone.

4. _____ was the scholar who solved the mystery.

5. He cracked the _____ of hieroglyphics in 1822.

Hands-On: Crack a Code

Secret code: ★ = A, ☾ = E, ♦ = L, * = N, ♥ = I, ● = C, ▲ = T.

Now decode this word: ★ * ● ♥ ☾ * ▲ → write your answer on the line below!

You just did what Champollion did — you used a key to crack a code!

Code	Your answer
★ * ● ♥ ☾ * ▲	
▲ ★ ♦ ☾	

Think About It

1. Why was cracking the hieroglyphic code so important for historians?

2. How do you think Champollion felt the day he solved it?
