

EGYPTIAN ABCs!

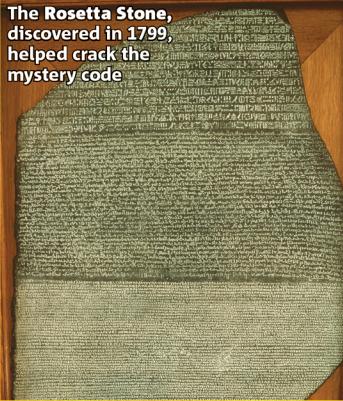
**Find out about
the famous
symbols etched
across temples
and tombs...**

 It took many years to learn the **700 pictures of animals and objects** that make up hieroglyphics, a complex script invented in around 3250 B.C. Very few Ancient Egyptians understood the complicated symbols, so being a **scribe** with the ability to read and write was a really important job.

Code busters!

Hieroglyphs faded from use after the Romans took control of Egypt, and by 5th Century A.D. no one knew how to read them! The symbols were a mystery until 1799, when a granite slab (right) was found etched with three scripts — **hieroglyphic**, a shorthand version called **demotic** and **Ancient Greek**. After years of work, a language expert called **Jean-François Champollion** eventually cracked the code in 1822, allowing the secrets of the Ancient Egyptians to be read like a book!

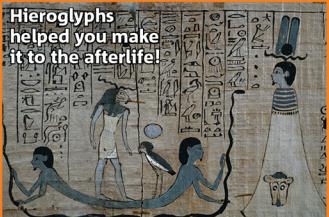
The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799, helped crack the mystery code



CRACK THE CODE!

Can you use the key below to crack the National Geographic Kids code? Why not copy it into your workbooks to get some practice with writing in Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics? Once you've cracked our code, have a go at writing your own name.





BOOK OF THE DEAD

Before reaching eternal happiness, Ancient Egyptians believed they would have to travel through a treacherous underworld. To help guide them on this terrifying journey, all tombs were stocked with the **Book of the Dead**, a collection of spells written in hieroglyphs, with tips for defeating scary-sounding demons such as **Blood Eater** and **Demolisher**!