罗塞塔石碑 The Rosetta Stone

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Rob.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是罗伯。

And I'm Sam.

我是萨姆。

In this programme, we'll be unlocking the secrets of the ancient Egyptians, pyramid builders and the inventors of hieroglyphs - a writing system which uses pictures and symbols to represent words.

在本期节目中，我们将解锁古代埃及人的秘密，他们是金字塔的建造者，也是象形文字——使用图形和符号来代表文字的书写系统——的发明者。

The meaning of Egyptian hieroglyphs remained a mystery until 1799 when Napoleon's soldiers unearthed a dark, damaged rock in the Egyptian coastal town of Rosetta.

埃及象形文字的含义直到 1799 年都是一个谜，当时拿破仑的士兵在埃及的沿海小镇罗塞塔挖出了一个深色的破坏了的岩石。

On the broken granite stone three scripts were faintly carved: Greek at the bottom, Demotic in the middle and Hieroglyphs at the top.

在破裂的花岗岩上依稀刻着三种文本：最下面是希腊语，中间是通俗文字，最上面是象形文字。

Today, the Rosetta Stone is perhaps the most famous museum object in the world.

如今罗塞塔石碑可能是世界上最有名的博物馆展品了。

But what's actually written on it is quite dull!

但是它上面的内容其实很无趣！

In fact, the Rosetta Stone contains a tax break!

事实上，罗塞塔石碑上的内容包含了一份税收减免！

It describes an agreement exempting priests from paying taxes to the King.

它描述的是豁免牧师不给国王交税的协议。

Ah, the famous Egyptian pharaohs!

啊，就是那些有名的埃及法老！

Exactly - but which one, Sam?

没错，但是是哪一个呢，萨姆？

Let's test your ancient Egyptian knowledge with this quiz question: the writing on the Rosetta Stone is a tax agreement between the priests and which Egyptian pharaoh?

让我用这个问题来测试你的古埃及知识吧：罗塞塔石碑上的文字是牧师和哪个埃及法老之间的税收协议？

Is it a) Cleopatra, b) Ptolemy, or c) Ramesses?

是 A. 克莉奥帕特拉，B.托勒密，还是 C. 拉美西斯？

I'll guess a) Cleopatra.

我要猜 A. 克莉奥帕特拉。

OK, Sam, I'll reveal the answer to that mystery later on.

好的，萨姆，我稍后会揭晓这个谜题的答案。

Before the discovery of the Stone, no scholar had been able to understand the strange symbols carved on the great pyramids.

在石碑被发现之前，没有学者能够理解刻在金字塔上的奇怪符号。

Egyptologist, Richard Parker, was in charge of the Rosetta Stone exhibition at the British Museum for twenty years.

埃及学家理查德·帕克二十年来负责大英博物馆的罗塞塔石碑展。

Here he is, telling BBC Radio 4 programme, In Our Time, about circumstances before the discovery of the Stone.

以下就是他跟 BBC 电台 4 频道的节目《我们的时代》讲述石碑发现前的情况。

People were exploring all sorts of means of trying to decipher, including trying to link the script with Chinese to see if that offered a parallel.

人们探索了各种方式努力解码，包括把文本跟中文联系看看能否有对应。

It was known from the classical authors that the Egyptian script contained great, mysterious pearls of wisdom from the Egyptian philosophers and people had hugely high expectations and all attempts to decipher, to get a grip on the script, I think, had really failed.

从经典作家那里可以知道埃及语文本包含来自埃及哲学家们伟大而神秘的睿智言论，所以人们期望很高，所有解码，理解，文本的努力，我认为，都失败了。

Before the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, no-one had managed to decipher hieroglyphs - to work out the meaning of writing which is difficult to read.

在罗塞塔石碑发现之前，没有人成功地解码象形文字 —— 弄清楚难读的文字的意思。

Experts hoped that the Egyptian script contained great pearls of wisdom – wise words, sayings or advice.

专家们希望这份埃及文本包含伟大的睿智言论 —— 智慧对的话语、谚语或建议。

As we know, the actual meaning of the text turned out to be quite dull.

如我们所知，文本的真实意思结果很无趣。

But it was the fact that the messages were written in three scripts, including Greek - a language scholars already knew - that provided the key to finally crack the code.

但是正是这份信息用三种文本，包括希腊语 —— 学者们已经了解的语言 ——，写就的事实提供了最终破解密码的关键。

In 1801 the race was on between Egyptologists in Britain and France to be the first to translate the entire system of hieroglyphs.

在 1801 年英国和法国的埃及学家们比赛要率先翻译出整个象形文字体系。

In the end, it was a young Frenchman named Jean-François Champollion who became the first person to understand hieroglyphs since the ancient Egyptians themselves, nearly two thousand years earlier.

最终是一名叫做 Jean-François Champollion 的年轻法国人成为了自将近两千年前以来，古埃及人以外第一个理解象形文字的人。

Here's Penelope Wilson, Professor of Egyptian Archaeology at Durham University, explaining more about this remarkable young Frenchman to BBC Radio 4's, In Our Time.

以下是杜伦大学埃及考古学的教授佩妮洛普·威尔逊向 BBC 电台 4 频道的节目《我们的时代》进一步解释这位杰出的年轻法国人。

He was certainly a prodigy, I think as far as language is concerned, but also had a fascination for Egypt I think, and the story is he was taught Coptic by a Coptic priest, and at that lecture was one of the first to argue that Coptic was related to ancient Egyptian.

我认为他在语言方面绝对是个天才，而且对埃及着迷，而且有一个科普特牧师教他科普特语，而且在那个讲座上是第一个争论科普特语跟古埃及语有关的人。

So, he was also encouraged in this by his older brother, so I think there was soon to be no holding him back, once he got the bug he was encouraged and he made great strides.

他的哥哥也鼓励他，所以我认为一旦他对被鼓舞的事情着迷，他就势不可挡，而且他取得了很大的进展。

When Penelope Wilson calls Champollion a prodigy, she means someone young with a great natural talent for something, in this case, studying languages.

当佩妮洛普·威尔逊称 Champollion 为天才时，她指的是在某些方面很有天分的年轻人，在这里指的是研究语言。

Added to his natural ability was a fascination with Egypt and the encouragement of his brother, so Champollion soon got the bug – suddenly developed a strong enthusiasm for something.

除了他的天分之外，他也对埃及着迷，也受到了他哥哥的鼓励，所以 Champollion 很快就入迷了 —— 突然对某事产生了兴趣。

In English, we often add a noun to describe exactly what someone is enthusiastic about - so, for example, the skiing bug, for someone who loves to ski.

在英语中，我们经常增加一个名词来描述某人真正感兴趣的东西 —— 比如，滑雪迷表示很喜欢滑雪的人。

Champollion was so enthusiastic, there was no holding him back - an idiom to say that you are doing something so eagerly, you cannot be stopped.

Champollion 非常有热情，他势不可挡 —— 这个习语的意思是你非常渴望做某事，无法阻止你。

The story goes that he worked so hard deciphering hieroglyphs, when he finally finished, he ran through the streets of Paris shouting, "I've done it!", before collapsing unconscious.

传说他非常努力地破解象形文字，当他最终完成的时候，他跑过巴黎的街道上大喊："我做到了！"，然后就倒下了，昏迷不醒。

Rob, earlier you asked me which pharaoh ordered the Stone to be written.

罗伯，之前你问我哪个法老下令写下了石碑。

Yes. And what did you say?

是的。你说的是什么？

I thought it was Cleopatra.

我认为是克莉奥帕特拉。

Was I right?

我答对了吗？

Well, Cleopatra was from the same dynasty but a little later than the correct answer, which was b) Ptolemy, the pharaoh who ruled from around 300 BCE.

嗯，克莉奥帕特拉是一个朝代的，但是比正确答案的那个人要晚一点，答案是 B. 托勒密，在大约公元前 300 年统治埃及的法老。

OK. Let's recap the vocabulary we've learned, starting with hieroglyphs - symbols used represents words in ancient Egypt.

好的。我们来回顾一下我们学习的词汇，从象形文字开始 —— 在古埃及用来代表文字的符号。

The challenge was to decipher them - to uncover the meaning of writing which is difficult to read or understand.

挑战就是解码——揭露很难读或很难懂的文字的含义 —— 它们。

Maybe they contained pearls of wisdom - wise words, sayings or advice.

也学许它们包含睿智言论 —— 智慧的话语，谚语或建议。

The hieroglyphic code was finally cracked by Jean-François Champollion - a prodigy or young person with a great natural talent.

象形文字最终被 Jean-François Champollion —— 很有天分的天才或年轻人 —— 破解。

When Champollion got the bug, or suddenly became very enthusiastic about understanding hieroglyphs, there was no holding him back - nothing could stop him from succeeding.

当 Champollion 着迷，或者说突然对理解象形文字变得感兴趣，他就势不可挡了 —— 没有东西能够阻止他成功。

And nothing can stop us from saying goodbye, because our six minutes are up!

没有什么能够阻止我们说再见，因为我们的六分钟时间到了！

Goodbye!

再见！