

**Grade6****Reading History****The Discovery of the Rosetta Stone**

Passage: In 1799, during Napoleon Bonaparte's campaign to conquer Egypt, a groundbreaking discovery was made that would change the course of history and our understanding of ancient civilizations. Amidst the dust and ruins of an old fort near the town of Rosetta, a French soldier stumbled upon a large stone slab. This slab, later named the Rosetta Stone, was inscribed with three different scripts: Greek, Demotic, and Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

The Rosetta Stone immediately caught the attention of scholars and historians around the world. For centuries, the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs had been a mystery, an indecipherable code lost to time. However, with the Rosetta Stone, there was a glimmer of hope. The Greek text, which was well understood by the scholars, provided a key to unlocking the secrets of the ancient Egyptian language.

It took several years of relentless study and effort before progress was made. The British scholar Thomas Young made the first breakthrough, identifying that some of the hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone were phonetic, representing sounds rather than ideas. However, it was the French scholar, Jean-François Champollion, who finally cracked the code in 1822. Champollion's knowledge of both Greek and Egyptian languages, along with his keen understanding of linguistics, allowed him to make the necessary connections between the hieroglyphs and their phonetic counterparts.

Champollion's discovery was monumental. It opened up a new world of understanding about ancient Egypt, its culture, its people, and its history. Scholars were now able to read the inscriptions on tombs, temples, and monuments that had been silent for thousands of

years. The Rosetta Stone had bridged the gap between the modern world and ancient Egypt, bringing the past back to life.

Today, the Rosetta Stone is housed in the British Museum in London, where it continues to be a symbol of discovery, perseverance, and the unlocking of ancient secrets. It serves as a reminder of the importance of understanding our past and the role that language plays in connecting us to our history.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where was the Rosetta Stone discovered?

- A) In a temple
- B) Near the town of Rosetta
- C) In a pyramid
- D) In Paris Correct

2. Who discovered the Rosetta Stone?

- A) A British scholar
- B) A French soldier
- C) A Greek historian
- D) Napoleon Bonaparte

3. In which year was the Rosetta Stone discovered?

- A) 1822
- B) 1799
- C) 1805
- D) 1850

4. How many scripts were inscribed on the Rosetta Stone?

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five Correct

5. What were the three scripts on the Rosetta Stone?

- A) Latin, Greek, and Arabic
- B) Greek, Demotic, and Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs
- C) Greek, Latin, and Coptic
- D) Demotic, Coptic, and Arabic

6. Who made the first breakthrough in deciphering the Rosetta Stone?

- A) Napoleon Bonaparte
- B) Jean-François Champollion
- C) Thomas Young
- D) A British soldier

7. Who finally deciphered the Rosetta Stone?

- A) Thomas Young
- B) Jean-François Champollion
- C) A French soldier
- D) A British scholar

8. What did the deciphering of the Rosetta Stone allow scholars to do?

- A) Translate Greek texts
- B) Understand modern Egyptian
- C) Read ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs
- D) Speak ancient Egyptian

9. Where is the Rosetta Stone housed today?

- A) In Egypt
- B) In the Louvre Museum
- C) In the British Museum
- D) In the Vatican

10. What does the Rosetta Stone symbolize?

- A) The conquest of Egypt by Napoleon
- B) The importance of understanding our past
- C) The power of the French army
- D) The wealth of ancient Egypt

1. Answer: B) Near the town of Rosetta Explanation: The passage mentions that the Rosetta Stone was discovered near the town of Rosetta.
2. Correct Answer: B) A French soldier Explanation: The passage states that a French soldier stumbled upon the Rosetta Stone.
3. Correct Answer: B) 1799 Explanation: The passage mentions that the Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799.
4. Answer: B) Three Explanation: The Rosetta Stone had three different scripts inscribed on it.
5. Correct Answer: B) Greek, Demotic, and Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs Explanation: The passage states that the Rosetta Stone was inscribed with Greek, Demotic, and Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.
6. Correct Answer: C) Thomas Young Explanation: Thomas Young made the first breakthrough in identifying that some of the hieroglyphs were phonetic.
7. Correct Answer: B) Jean-François Champollion Explanation: Jean-François Champollion was the scholar who finally deciphered the Rosetta Stone.
8. Correct Answer: C) Read ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs Explanation: The deciphering of the Rosetta Stone allowed scholars to read ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.
9. Correct Answer: C) In the British Museum Explanation: The passage states that the Rosetta Stone is currently housed in the British Museum in London.
10. Correct Answer: B) The importance of understanding our past Explanation: The Rosetta Stone is described as a symbol of discovery, perseverance, and the connection to our history, highlighting the importance of understanding our past.