

An Egyptian Cartouche



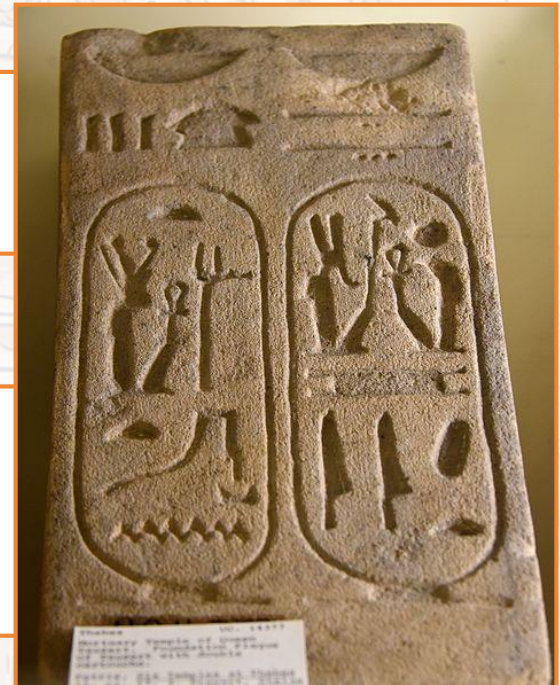
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What's in a Name?

A cartouche is an oval ring.

An important person's name, such as a pharaoh, would be surrounded by a cartouche.

It would usually be vertical with a horizontal line at the bottom.

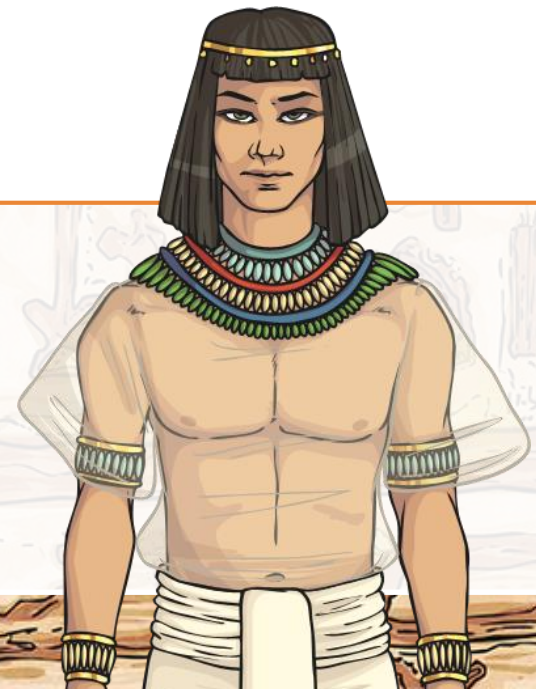


This is from the mortuary temple of Queen Twosret from the 19th Dynasty in Egypt.

Cartouche

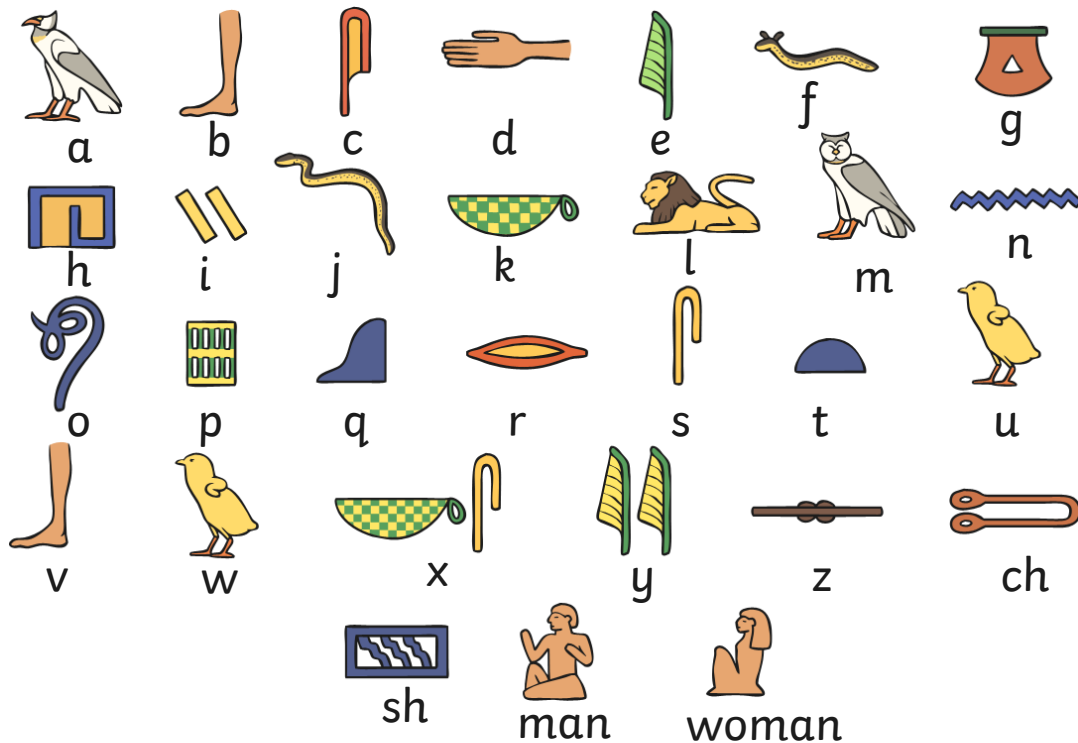
The word 'cartouche' means 'gun cartridge'. When French soldiers were in Egypt in the 19th century, they saw cartouches carved on the walls of tombs. The soldiers thought that they looked like gun cartridges.

Egyptians call cartouches 'shenu', which means 'encircle'.



Hieroglyphs

The name within the cartouche would be written in hieroglyphs.
Hieroglyphs were a form of writing created by the ancient Egyptians.



Each symbol represents a letter.
Can you spell your name using the hieroglyphs?

Symbolism

Symbolism was very important to the ancient Egyptians. The oval shape of the cartouche represented a rope which was tied at one end. This represented the pharaoh's rule over the universe.



Eternity and Protection

The shape of a cartouche is similar to the shen sign. The shen sign represents eternity and the ancient Egyptian god of eternity, Heh.

It was believed that anyone who had their name inside a cartouche would be protected for eternity by the gods.



A Useful Discovery

If archaeologists discover a cartouche, they can identify the era that the tomb was built and who the pharaoh was.

Cartouches were later used in decorative objects like rings and amulets.



These cartouches are carved into a tomb in Luxor, Egypt.



Your task -

Using your hieroglyphics you wrote down of your name last week, make your own Cartouche.

The outline of the Cartouche is to your write with your name written down the centre.

