

Hieroglyphs and letters

1. In hieroglyphics there are no gaps between words, no commas, no full stops or paragraphs. Here is something written in our alphabet but written down in the style of hieroglyphs. Write down what it says.

wemayfindthewordsverydifficulttoread



2. Write a sentence or two in the style of hieroglyphs. Can anyone read it?





3. Sometimes hieroglyphs were written from right to left. What does the following say?

daerotykcirteboslayamyawsiht



4. Write a sentence or two from right to left in the style of hieroglyphs. Can anyone read it?





5. Sometimes hieroglyphs were written in columns from left to right:

i	m	f	t	h	e	i	m
t	o	f	w	e	r	n	n
g	r	i	h	l	s	c	s
e	e	c	e	e	a	o	
t	d	u	n	t	r	l	
s	i	l	t	t	e	u	

or from right to left:

e	n	a	e	h
a	y	i	g	e
d	o	n	o	r
i	u	c	a	e
t	r	a	g	w

What do the letters in each column say?

6. Make your own letter columns and see if any one can read them.

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Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

Using the worksheet

Let the students look at the hieroglyphs on page 22. Discuss with the students how the hieroglyphs look like squiggles and small pictures, then let the students look at the chart on page 23. Tell the students that in addition to the hieroglyphs having different meanings they can also be arranged in different ways on a wall. Issue the worksheet and then go through the steps slowly.

Answers

1. We may find the words very difficult to read.
3. This way may also be tricky to read.
5. (left to right) It gets more difficult when the letters are in columns.
(right to left) Here we go again can you read it.

Younger students

You may like to have some teacher helpers in the class to help the students with all the steps. You may like to write some simpler exercises on the board for some students.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Appreciate that the sequence of symbols makes reading hieroglyphs difficult.
- Write in the style of hieroglyphs using our alphabet.

Older students

Let the students work on their own for steps 1, 3 and 5. Let the students work in pairs for steps 2, 4 and 6.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Appreciate that the sequence of symbols makes reading hieroglyphs difficult.
- Write in the style of hieroglyphs using our alphabet.