



Name _____

Date: _____

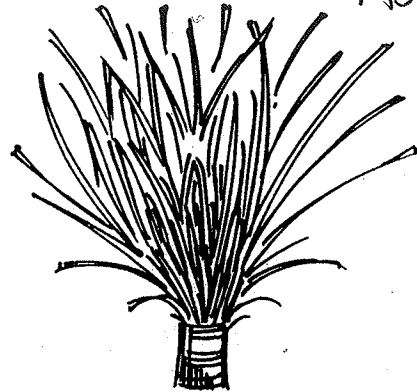
Per: _____

Assign. # _____

THE IMPORTANCE OF PAPYRUS

Papyrus, a reedy plant which grew in abundance along the Nile River in Lower Egypt, became the symbol for ancient Lower Egypt. Papyrus grows from 3 to 10 feet tall. The lower part of the stem can be as thick as a person's arm.

The ancient Egyptians used parts of the papyrus plant for both decorative and practical purposes. They made wreaths, sandals, boxes, boats, rope, and baskets from papyrus. They dried the roots for fuel and boiled the pith to eat.

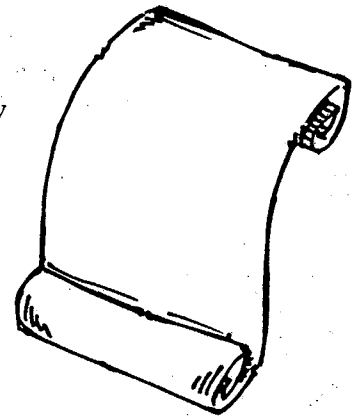


1. Use a dictionary. Define pith. _____

The most important use of papyrus was for making paper. To do this, the Egyptians cut the reeds into sections about 18 inches long and removed the green outer skin. The pith inside was cut into wafer-thin slices, then rolled or pressed to flatten them and eliminate moisture.

Two layers of flattened pith were placed on top of each other at right angles and moistened with water, then placed between pieces of fabric and pressed between heavy stone slabs for several days until completely dried. Finally, the sheets were rubbed with ivory or a shell to make a smooth surface.

Sheets of papyrus were made into rolls, often 20 to 30 feet long. The oldest known books today were written on papyrus scrolls.



2. Imagine reading a novel written on papyrus rather than in the book form we use. Which do you think would be easier to handle? Why?

3. Number these steps of paper-making in order.

- _____ cut pith into thin layers
- _____ cut reed into sections
- _____ press or roll to remove moisture
- _____ remove outer skin
- _____ smooth by rubbing with ivory or a shell
- _____ press between stone slabs

Name _____



EGYPTIAN WRITING



At first, Egyptian writing consisted of small pictures called hieroglyphs. Each picture represented a word or idea. However, that type of writing could be confusing when recording complex ideas.



A picture like this could stand for a person's foot. It also could mean walking, traveling, running, or other action words.

1. For each picture, write three possible meanings.



A. _____ B. _____ C. _____

Eventually the pictures came to stand for specific sounds instead of whole words. Only special scholars called scribes learned to read and write. The chart on the *Egyptian Writing* transparency shows the symbols used and the English sounds they represent.

2. Draw small pictures to represent the following words.

man

woman

food

many

river

hot weather

3. Use your own ideas to write these sentences in pictures.

A. *The man walked for three days across the desert.*

B. *The crops were better last year than this year.*

4. Compare your drawings with the ones drawn by a partner. Which symbols did you both use that were similar?



REVERSE DICTIONARY

You've just found a page from an ancient Egyptian dictionary. It has some words that have survived for thousands of years, but some of the ink has not. The definitions are still there, but the words that are being defined have worn away. It's up to you to help!

1 Translate each hieroglyphic definition into English, using the hieroglyphic alphabet on page 78. The first one has been done for you.

s _ c _ a _ l _ y _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

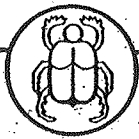
2 Determine what word is being defined and write it on the line (in English). You are given a hint for each: the number of letters in the word.

_____ (9 letters)











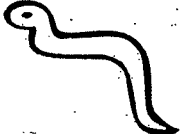













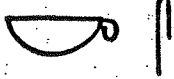


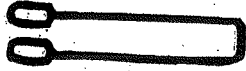
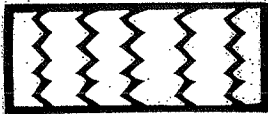
_____ (7 letters)

_____ (5 letters)

_____ (10 letters)



HIEROGLYPHIC ALPHABET

A  eagle	B  leg	C  basket as in <i>cat</i>  folded cloth as in <i>cent</i>	D  hand
E  two reed flowers	F  horned viper	G  a stand for a jar	H  reed shelter
I  reed flower	J  snake	K  basket	L  lion
M  owl	N  water	O  chick	P  stool
Q  hill	R  mole	S  folded cloth	T  loaf of bread
U  chick	V  horned viper	W  chick	X  sounds like <i>k + s</i> as in <i>six</i>
Y  two reed flowers	Z  a bolt	CH  tethering rope	SH  pond