

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Cracking the Code: The Mystery of Hieroglyphics

### Short Answer Key

1. The Rosetta Stone was an ancient artifact with inscriptions in three scripts: Greek, demotic, and hieroglyphics. It was crucial because it provided the same text in multiple scripts, allowing scholars to use the known Greek script to decipher hieroglyphics.
2. Jean-François Champollion was a French scholar who played a vital role in deciphering hieroglyphics. He used the Rosetta Stone as a starting point and compared the Greek text to hieroglyphics. He identified phonetic signs and realized that hieroglyphics combined logograms and phonetic signs, paving the way for decipherment.
3. Realizing this allowed scholars to understand that hieroglyphics represented not only whole words or ideas (logograms) but also individual sounds (phonetic signs). This breakthrough enabled the reading and pronunciation of hieroglyphic inscriptions.
4. Deciphering hieroglyphics was complex because it required understanding an ancient Egyptian language that was different from any known language at the time. Scholars had to decode not only the symbols but also the grammar and syntax of the language.
5. Hieroglyphics have provided valuable insights into ancient Egyptian history, culture, and daily life. They have helped decipher inscriptions on tombs, temples, and monuments, allowing us to learn about pharaohs, gods, rituals, and more.

