

Ancient Egypt and Kush**Section 4****MAIN IDEAS**

1. The Egyptians developed a writing system using hieroglyphics.
2. The Egyptians created magnificent temples, tombs, and works of art.

Key Terms and People

hieroglyphics Egyptian writing system, one of the world's first, which used symbols

papyrus long-lasting, paper-like substance made from reeds

Rosetta Stone a stone slab discovered in 1799 that was inscribed with hieroglyphics and their Greek meanings

sphinxes huge ancient Egyptian statues of imaginary creatures with the heads of people and bodies of lions

obelisk a tall, four-sided pillar that is pointed on top

King Tutankhamen a pharaoh whose tomb was untouched by raiders, leaving much information about Egyptian art and burial practices

Section Summary**EGYPTIAN WRITING**

Egyptians invented one of the world's first writing systems, using a series of images, symbols, and pictures called **hieroglyphics** (hy-ruh-GLIH-fiks). Each symbol represented one or more sounds in the Egyptian language.

At first hieroglyphics were carved in stone. Later they were written with brushes and ink on **papyrus** (puh-PY-ruhs). Because papyrus didn't decay, many ancient Egyptian texts still survive, including government records, historical records, science texts, medical manuals, and literary works such as *The Book of the Dead*. The discovery of the **Rosetta Stone** in 1799 provided the key to reading Egyptian writing. The Rosetta Stone contained the same text inscribed in both hieroglyphics and Greek.

What language helped scholars to understand the meaning of hieroglyphics on the Rosetta Stone?

Section 4, *continued***TEMPLES, TOMBS, AND ART**

Egyptian architects are known not only for the pyramids but also for their magnificent temples. The temples were lavishly designed with numerous statues and beautifully painted walls and pillars. **Sphinxes** and **obelisks** were usually found near the entrances to the temples.

Ancient Egyptians were masterful artists and many of their greatest works are found in either the temples or the tombs of the pharaohs. Most Egyptians, however, never saw these paintings because only kings, priests, or other important people could enter these places.

Egyptian paintings depict a variety of subjects, from crowning kings to illustrating religious rituals and showing scenes from daily life. The paintings also have a particular style, with people drawn as if they were twisting as they walked, and in different sizes depending upon their stature in society. In contrast, animals appear more realistically. The Egyptians were also skilled stone and metal workers, creating beautiful statues and jewelry.

Much of what we know about Egyptian art and burial practices comes from the tomb of **King Tutankhamen**, one of the few Egyptian tombs that was left untouched by raiders looking for valuables. The tomb was discovered in 1922.

What two features are usually found near the entrances of temples?

Who got to see ancient Egyptian sculptures and paintings?

Why is the tomb of King Tutankhamen so important for the study of Egyptian history?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Analyzing Using the library or an online resource, find a key to translate Egyptian hieroglyphics into English. Write a message using hieroglyphics. Trade your message with another student to see if you can read each other's messages. Be sure to provide a copy of your message and the translation to your teacher. Do you prefer to write in hieroglyphics or English? Write a paragraph explaining your preference.

Section 4, *continued*

hieroglyphics	obelisk	Rosetta Stone
King Tutankhamen	papyrus	sphinxes

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. _____ is a long-lasting, paper-like material made from reeds.
(**Sphinxes/Papyrus**)
2. The Egyptian writing system is known as _____.
(**obelisk/hieroglyphics**)
3. The tomb of _____ was filled with treasures, including jewelry, robes, a burial mask, and ivory statues. (**King Tutankhamen/Rosetta Stone**)
4. The _____ had hieroglyphics inscribed on it and became the key to deciphering Egyptian writing. (**obelisk/Rosetta Stone**)
5. _____ were imaginary creatures with the bodies of lions and the heads of other animals or humans. (**Sphinxes/Papyrus**)
6. A(n) _____ is a tall, four-sided pillar that is pointed on top.
(**obelisk/sphinx**)