

THE ROSETTA STONE



A. **Warm up activity.** What do you know about ancient Egypt? Make a list of words about Egypt and share it with your classmates.

B. **Watch the video.** You are going to watch a video about a very important stone that solved an ancient mystery. Watch carefully and answer the following questions:

1. *When was the Rosetta stone made?*

2. *Who found it?*

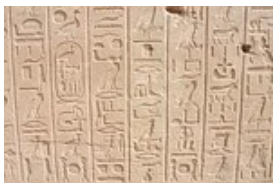
3. *What kind of texts did the Rosetta stone have on it?* _____

4. *Who **deciphered** the hieroglyphs?* _____

5. *Where is the Rosetta stone now?* _____



C. **Watch the video again.** Fill in the gaps with the correct word: *scripts, exhibits, decree, troops, scribes, inscribe*



More than 2000 years ago, in 196 B.C. King Ptolemy V was the King of Egypt. King Ptolemy issued _____, which were official messages. The King had a lot of _____, whose job was to _____ those messages onto stone. One of those messages was written onto a stone slab in three different _____: in hieroglyphs, in Demotic Egyptian and in Ancient Greek. As time went by, hieroglyphs went out of use and the knowledge of how they were used and what they meant was lost.

In 1798 Napoleon Bonaparte, the French general, sent his _____ to Egypt. In 1799 one of his soldiers accidentally discovered the stone near the town of Rashid (Rosetta) in the Nile Delta. Until then nobody had been able to read the hieroglyphs. A French



linguist named Jean-Francois Champollion, using the ancient Greek text as a starting point, managed to “unlock” their secret. Thanks to ancient Greek, archaeologists were able to read and understand the hieroglyphs. They no longer were a mystery!



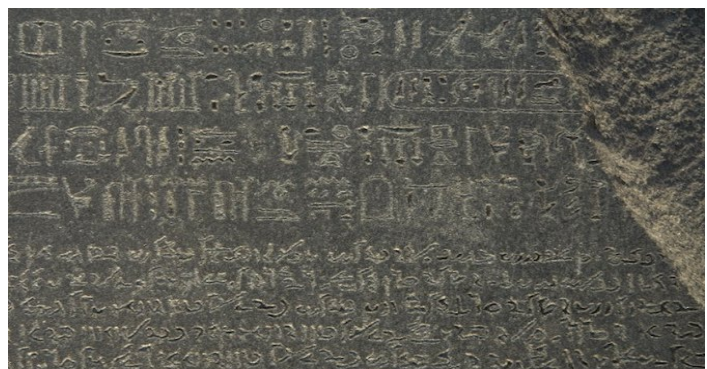
Today, the Rosetta stone , along with the Parthenon marbles, is at the British museum in London and it’s one of its most famous _____.

D. Are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)?































1. The Rosetta stone had only hieroglyphs and ancient Greek inscribed on it. T / F
2. Archeologists knew how to read hieroglyphs. T / F
3. Ancient Greek was the key to the mystery of the hieroglyphs. T / F
4. The stone was found by one of Napoleon’s soldiers. T/ F
5. The Rosetta stone is in a museum in Cairo. T/ F



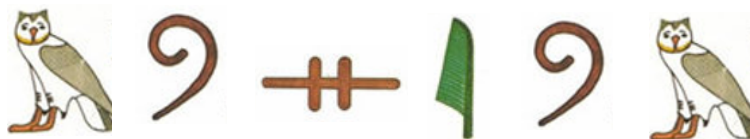
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E. How good are you at cracking codes? Study the hieroglyphs below and find out what the secret message is. *Clue: It is the name of our next destination!*

 A	 B	 B	 C	 D	 E
 F	 G	 H	 H	 I	 J
 K	 L	 M	 N	 N	 O
 P	 Q	 R	 S	 T	 T
 U	 V	 W	 X	 Y	 Z

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- First let's visit the British museum's blog to find out more about the Rosetta stone

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-the-rosetta-stone/>

- Then let's take a virtual tour inside the British Museum via Google's Arts&Culture Platform, where the Rosetta stone is displayed (room 4)
https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/british-museum/AwEp68JO4NEckQ?sv_lng=-0.1274712589983835&sv_lat=51.51918711209975&sv_h=234.41719868801232&sv_p=-13.452566683812023&sv_pid=03uM-NCdPTwEA1fuyubWWA&sv_z=0.9999999999999997
- And the museum's most important room, where the Parthenon marbles are displayed (Room 18): https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/british-museum/AwEp68JO4NEckQ?sv_h=-20&sv_p=0&sv_pid=NH7eJxyFuHq1IJvG6ti-jQ&sv_lid=3582009757710443819&sv_lng=-0.1284279997271085&sv_lat=51.51907905423855&sv_z=0.6158686808497831

The following article offers a ton of information about how the Parthenon marbles were stolen:

- How the Parthenon lost its marbles / National Geographic
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2017/03-04/parthenon-sculptures-british-museum-controversy/>

Speaking Activity: Expressing opinion/ agreement/disagreement

Προβάλλεται στον πίνακα ένα από τα επιχειρήματα του Βρετανικού Μουσείου στα αιτήματα επιστροφής της στήλης της Ροζέτας και των μαρμάρων του Παρθενώνα, αναφέροντας και τονίζοντας το αντεπιχείρημα της ελληνικής πλευράς, πως στην περίπτωση των μαρμάρων, αυτά δεν αποτελούν ένα μεμονωμένο αντικείμενο, αλλά μέρος ενός ολόκληρου μνημείου. Το επιχείρημα του Βρετανικού Μουσείου είναι το εξής:

"Museums serve not just the citizens of one nation, but the people of every nation"

