**Learning outcome:** I can say why the Rosetta Stone is important.

| **Learning cycles**  1. Describe the finding of the Rosetta Stone  2. Explain how it helped understand hieroglyphics  3. Discuss why this was important for learning about ancient Egypt | **Suggested prior knowledge**  • Basic understanding of ancient Egypt as a civilization  • Familiarity with the concept of writing systems  • Knowledge that different languages exist  • Understanding that artefacts can provide historical clues | |
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| **Key learning points**  1. The Rosetta Stone was key to understanding Egyptian hieroglyphics  2. It featured inscriptions in three scripts: Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics  3. The discovery helped scholars translate ancient texts  4. The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799 by French soldiers in Egypt  **Misconception**s **& common errors**  1. Some pupils may think the Rosetta Stone is just an old rock, but it was crucial for decoding hieroglyphics.  2. Before the Rosetta Stone, hieroglyphics were largely a mystery. It was key in their translation.  3. undefined | **Keywords** |  |
| **Rosetta Stone** | An ancient stone that helped decode Egyptian hieroglyphics. |
| **Hieroglyphics** | Symbols used in ancient Egyptian writing. |
| **Translate** | To change words from one language to another. |
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**Prior knowledge starter quiz**

| 1. What is the purpose of writing systems?  A. To communicate ideas and information ✓  B. To create patterns  C. To decorate objects | 2. What civilization is known for building pyramids and using hieroglyphics?  A. Ancient Egypt ✓  B. Ancient Greece  C. Ancient Rome | 3. What is an artefact?  A. A living organism  B. A natural rock formation  C. An object made by humans from the past ✓ |
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| 4. Why is it important to study artefacts?  A. They are colourful  B. They are fun to look at  C. They provide clues about history ✓ | 5. What role does language play in history?  A. It helps us understand cultures ✓  B. It is only for reading  C. It is only for speaking | 6. What is the name of the river that was central to ancient Egyptian civilization?  A. The Amazon  B. The Nile ✓  C. The Thames |

**Learning cycles**

| **Explanation** | **Checks for understanding** | **Practice** | **Feedback** |
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| The discovery of the Rosetta Stone | | | |
| \* Introduce the Rosetta Stone as a significant archaeological find.  \* Explain it was discovered in 1799 by French soldiers in Egypt near the town of Rosetta.  \* Describe how it is a large stone slab with inscriptions in three different scripts.  \* Highlight that the inscriptions are in Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics.  \* Discuss the initial excitement among historians about the potential to understand hieroglyphics. | 1. What year was the Rosetta Stone discovered?  A. 1799 ✓  B. 1812  C. 1901  2. Which languages were inscribed on the Rosetta Stone?  A. Demotic, Latin, and Arabic  B. Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics ✓  C. Greek, Latin, and hieroglyphics | Create a simple timeline showing the year 1799 and label it as the discovery of the Rosetta Stone. Draw a small map marking Rosetta's location in Egypt. | Model answer: The Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799 near Rosetta, Egypt. It features Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics inscriptions. |

| Deciphering the hieroglyphics | | | |
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| \* Introduce the challenge historians faced with understanding hieroglyphics before the Rosetta Stone.  \* Explain how the presence of Greek text, a known language, was crucial for translation.  \* Discuss the work of scholars, particularly Jean-François Champollion, in decoding the inscriptions.  \* Highlight the breakthrough in understanding that hieroglyphics represented sounds, not just pictures.  \* Explain how this discovery opened up the study of many other ancient Egyptian texts. | 1. Who was a key figure in deciphering the Rosetta Stone?  A. Howard Carter  B. Jean-François Champollion ✓  C. Lord Carnarvon  2. What did the hieroglyphics on the Rosetta Stone represent?  A. Pictures  B. Sounds ✓  C. Symbols | Match examples of hieroglyphic symbols with their corresponding sounds using a chart provided. | Model answer: The Greek text on the Rosetta Stone helped scholars like Champollion understand that hieroglyphics represented sounds. |

| The impact on understanding ancient Egypt | | | |
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| \* Explain how deciphering hieroglyphics opened up new insights into ancient Egyptian civilization.  \* Discuss the types of texts that became accessible, including religious texts like the Book of the Dead, administrative records detailing tax collections, and stories like the Tale of Sinuhe.  \* Highlight how understanding these texts enriched knowledge of Egyptian daily life, beliefs, and governance, such as the significance of the Nile and pharaohs' roles.  \* Describe the influence of this discovery on modern Egyptology and archaeology, enabling detailed studies of pharaohs like Ramses II and Akhenaten.  \* Emphasize the ongoing importance of the Rosetta Stone in historical studies, allowing continued exploration of Egyptian culture and advancements in medicine and architecture. | 1. What types of texts did deciphering hieroglyphics reveal?  A. Only religious texts  B. Only stories  C. Religious, administrative, and stories ✓  2. How did understanding hieroglyphics impact modern studies of Egypt?  A. It changed modern writing styles  B. It enriched knowledge of culture and history ✓  C. It led to new languages | Write a short paragraph describing how deciphering hieroglyphics changed our understanding of ancient Egyptian culture. Include examples such as the Book of the Dead and the Tale of Sinuhe. | Model answer: Understanding hieroglyphics gave us access to texts like the Book of the Dead, detailing religious beliefs, and administrative records, enriching our knowledge of Egyptian civilization. |

**Assessment exit quiz**

| 1. What year was the Rosetta Stone discovered?  A. 1799 ✓  B. 1812  C. 1901 | 2. Which languages were inscribed on the Rosetta Stone?  A. Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics ✓  B. Greek, Latin, and Arabic  C. Latin, Demotic, and hieroglyphics | 3. Who was a key figure in deciphering the Rosetta Stone?  A. Howard Carter  B. Jean-François Champollion ✓  C. Lord Carnarvon |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4. What did understanding hieroglyphics reveal about ancient Egypt?  A. Insights into culture, religion, and daily life ✓  B. New mathematical systems  C. New scientific laws | 5. What types of texts did deciphering hieroglyphics reveal?  A. Only administrative texts  B. Only religious texts  C. Religious, administrative, and stories ✓ | 6. What is the Rosetta Stone?  A. A pyramid in Egypt  B. A stone that helped decode hieroglyphics ✓  C. A tool used in construction |