Name:	edI	Helper

## Hieroglyphics

Ancient Egyptians wrote using symbols. They did not use letters and words. This kind of writing is called hieroglyphics (hye-ruh-GLIF-iks). Each picture or symbol stood for a sound or an object. There were seven hundred or more symbols. Straight lines like tally marks were used for the numbers from one to nine. The number ten looked like an upside down "U". The symbols were written on a kind of paper made from reeds. This paper was called papyrus. Reeds were used like pencils. Each reed was sharpened to a point. Then it was dipped in ink and used to draw the symbols on papyrus. Ink was made from burned wood or soot. Hieroglyphics were found inside the pyramids. Some were painted



on the walls. Some were carved on stone slabs. This kind of writing is five thousand years old! It is one of the oldest kinds of writing in the world.

Hieroglyphics

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1.	Ancient Egyptians wrote using
2.	About how many symbols made up the Egyptian writing system known as hieroglyphics?  A. more than 700  B. more than 300  C. more than 500  D. more than 100
3.	Numbers from one to nine were symbols like  A. dots B. zeros C. tally marks D. the letter U
4.	Which of these best states the main idea of this story?
	<ul><li>A. Ancient Egyptians wrote using pictures and symbols.</li><li>B. The symbols were written on a kind of paper made from reeds.</li></ul>

C. This form of writing is five thousand years old!

D. There were more than seven hundred hieroglyphs.

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5.	Ancient Egyptians used the same alphabet that we use today	

A. false B. true

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How many of these can you write about? Think! Write! Check all the ones you answered.	
Make up your own word symbols and write a message using them. Then make a key showing symbol means. Give them both to a friend and see if he or she can read your message!	what each
Why do you think people wrote things down so long ago? What kinds of things do you think we hieroglyphics?	ere written in