

Name: _____

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

Questions

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?

- A. Ancient Egyptians wrote using pictures and symbols.
- B. The symbols were written on a kind of paper made from reeds.
- 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

