

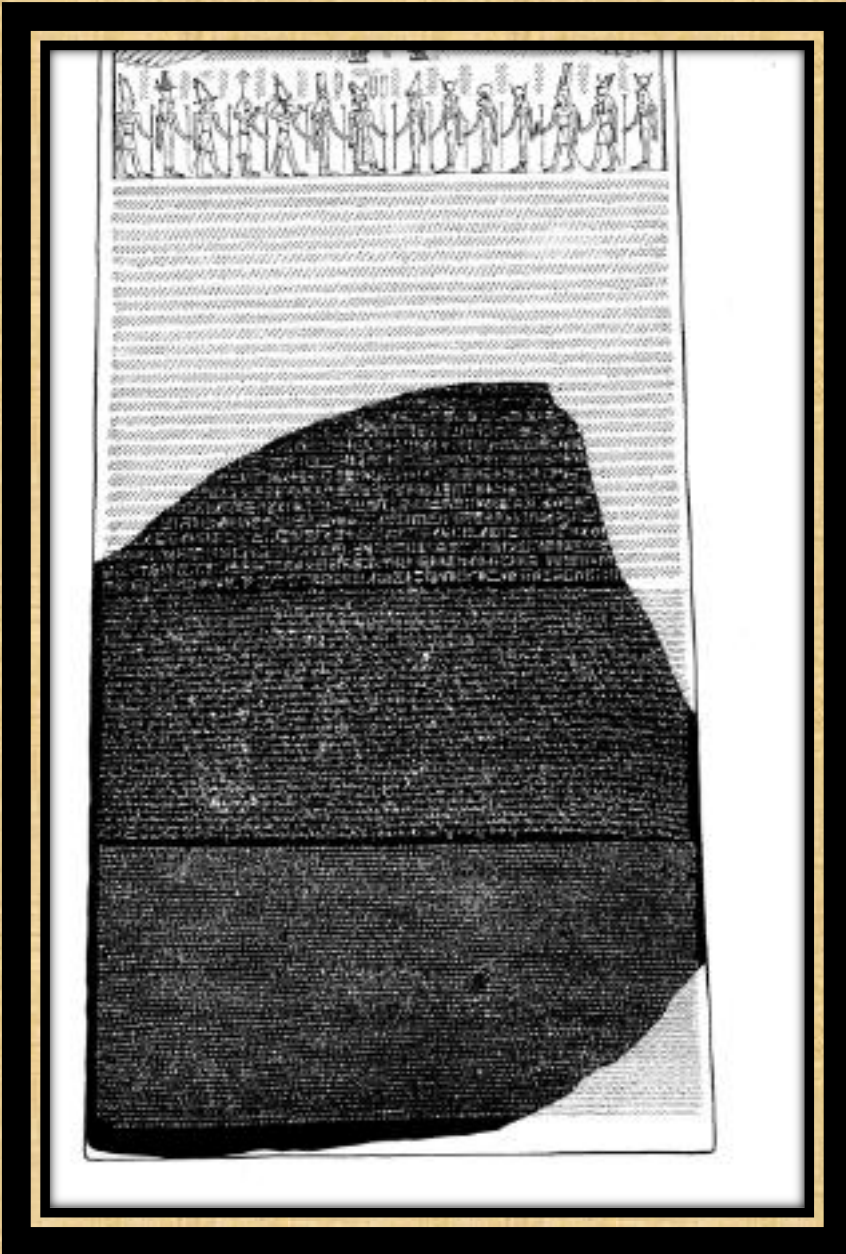
The background of the image is a close-up photograph of the Rosetta Stone, showing its characteristic triangular shape and the hieroglyphs carved into its surface. The stone is set against a light-colored, textured background.

The Rosetta Stone

Essential Question:

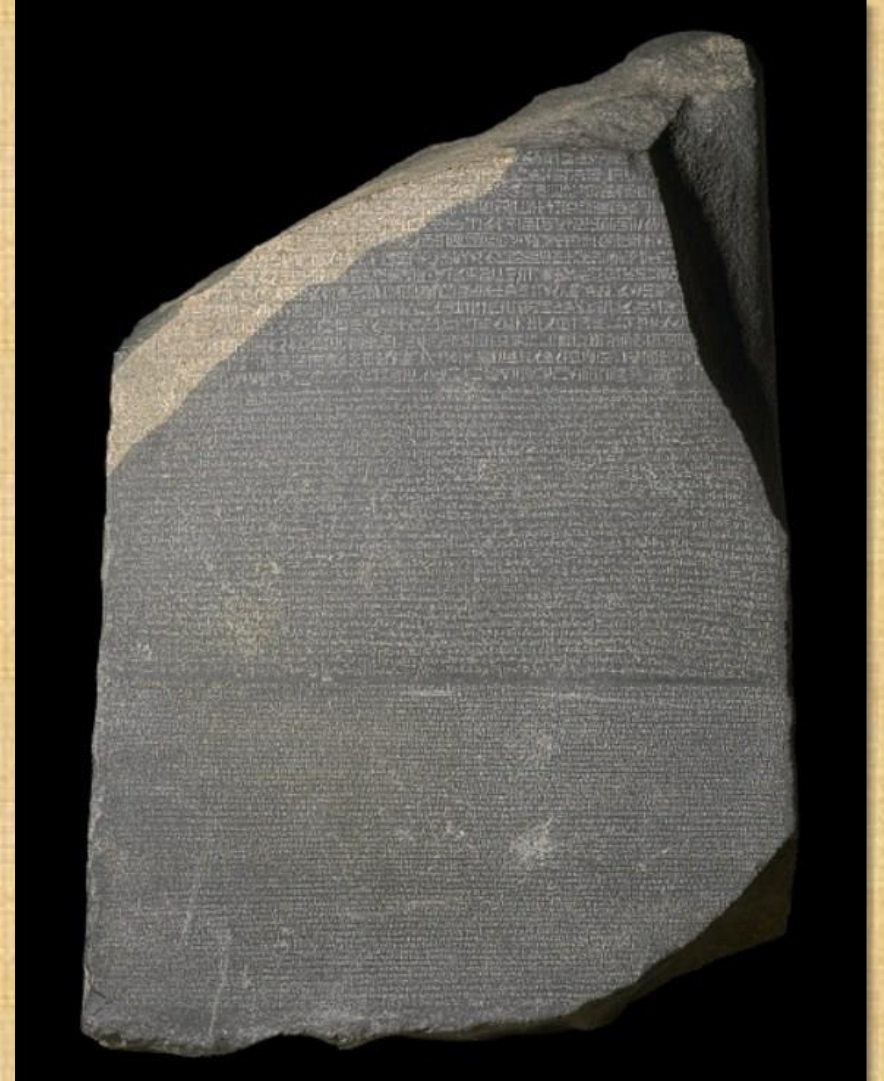
What is the
importance of the
Rosetta Stone?

What is the Rosetta Stone?



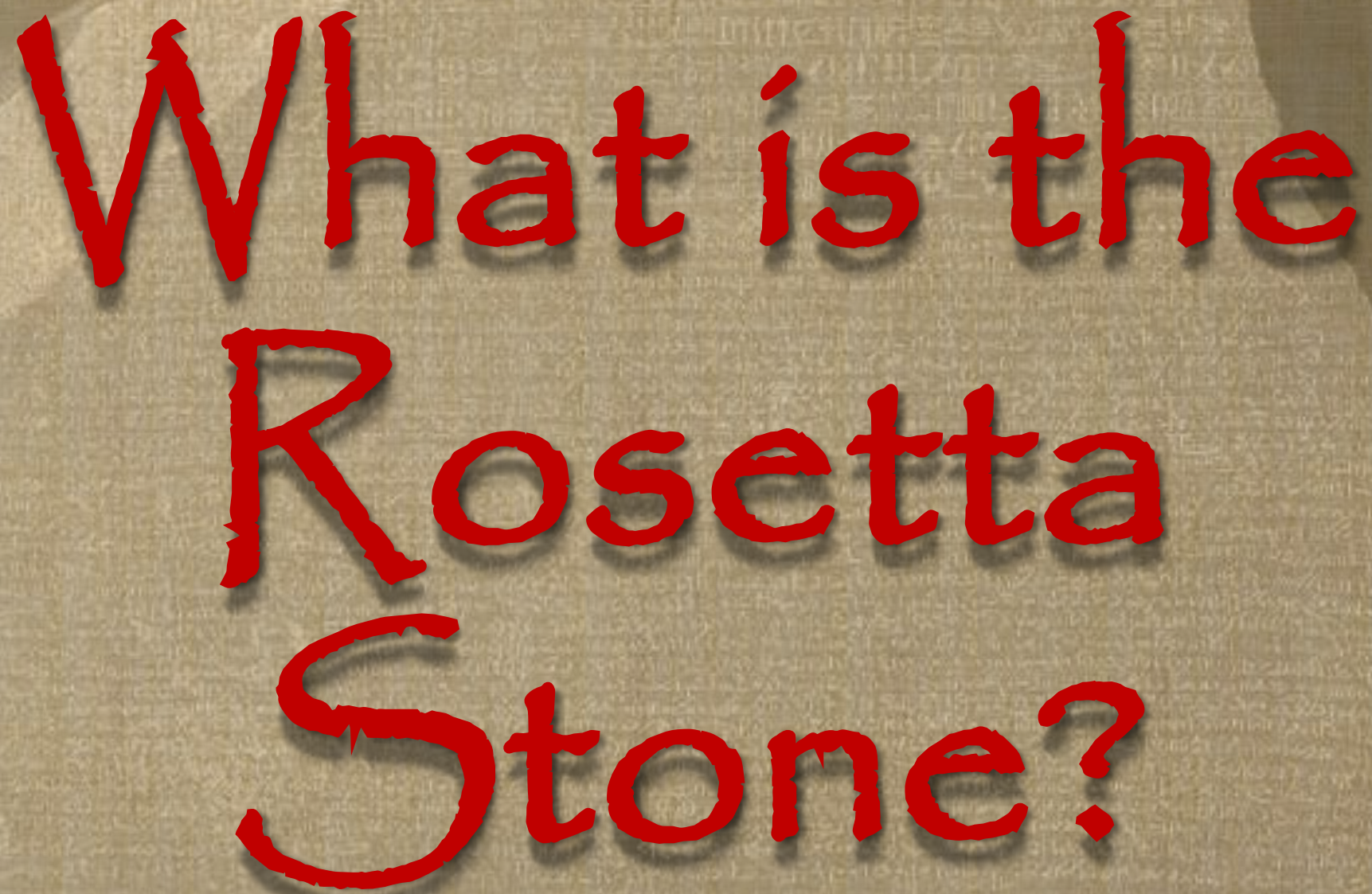
- KING PTOLEMY V was a GREEK who ruled Egypt from 205-180 BC
- Ptolemy issued an official message, or DECREE, to be posted in the Egyptian temples.
- The decree was written as a "THANK YOU" from the priests to the King because he had been so kind to them.

- The decree written on a **STELA** and posted in several places.
- It was written in Egyptian **HIEROGLYPHS** (the priestly language) Egyptian **DEMOTIC** (the language of the people), and **GREEK**. (Because Ptolemy couldn't read Egyptian)
- The Rosetta Stone is a **FRAGMENT** of one of those posted decrees.



The last line of the stone (in Greek) reads:

- "This decree shall be inscribed on a stela of hard stone in sacred (hieroglyphic) and native (Demotic) and Greek characters and set up in each of the first, second and third rank temples beside the image of the ever-living king."
- This is how people knew all three scripts said the same thing.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of the Rosetta Stone, showing its characteristic weathered surface and the faint traces of ancient inscriptions. The text is overlaid on this image.

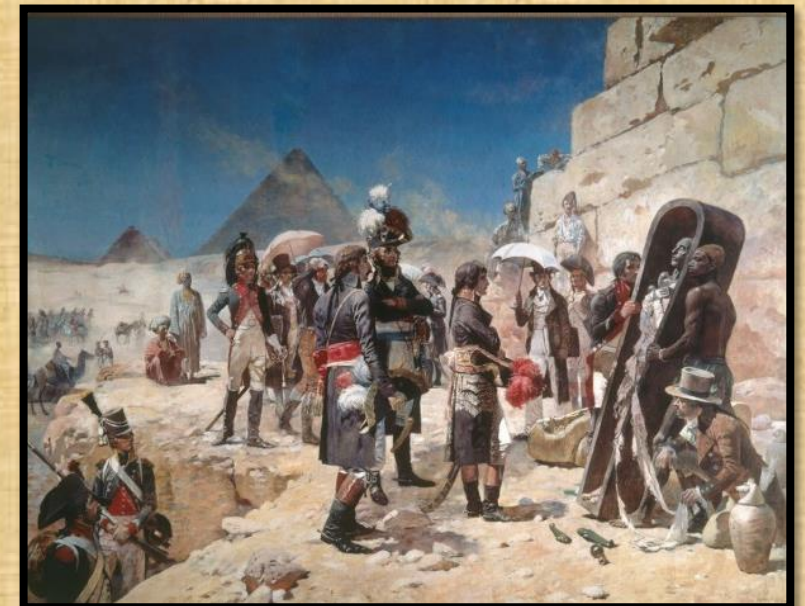
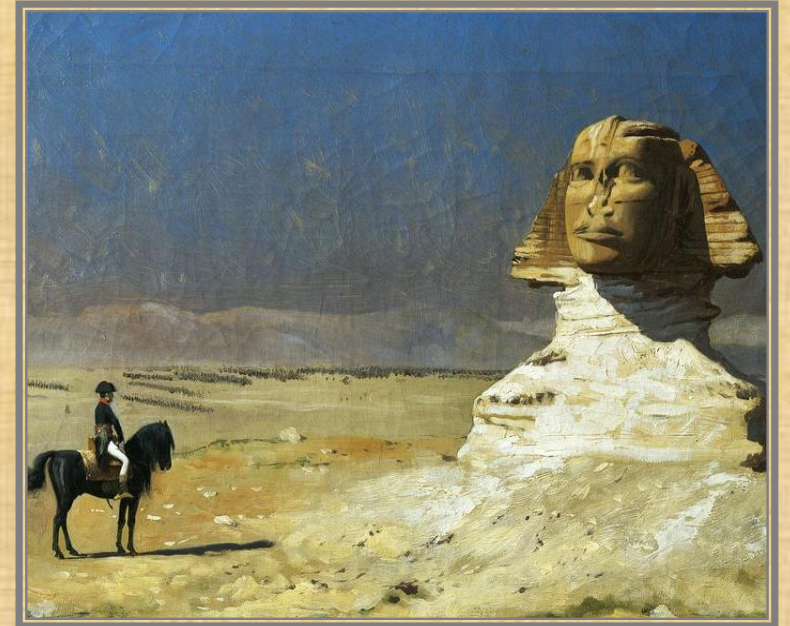
What is the
Rosetta
Stone?

How was the stone discovered?

- NAPOLEON BONAPARTE was a FRENCH general who wanted to gain control of the Eastern Mediterranean and control British trade through Egypt.
- He took 55,000 SOLDIERS on ships to EGYPT
- He was in Egypt from 1798 to 1801
- When Napoleon set sail for Egypt, he did not tell his soldiers where they were going.



- He also took 150 Scholars with him to **COLLECT INFORMATION** and samples from Egypt
- Napoleon didn't just want to conquer the trade routes, he wanted to **UNDERSTAND** Egyptian civilization, as it was mostly still a mystery.
- His scholars and scientists took detailed notes about what they saw
- This was the beginning of **EGYPTOLOGY**





- There was a **FORT** near the town of Rashid (Rosetta) in the Nile Delta
- A **FRAGMENT** of the decree about Ptolemy had been built into the **WALL**.
- The stone was discovered on **JULY 15, 1799**

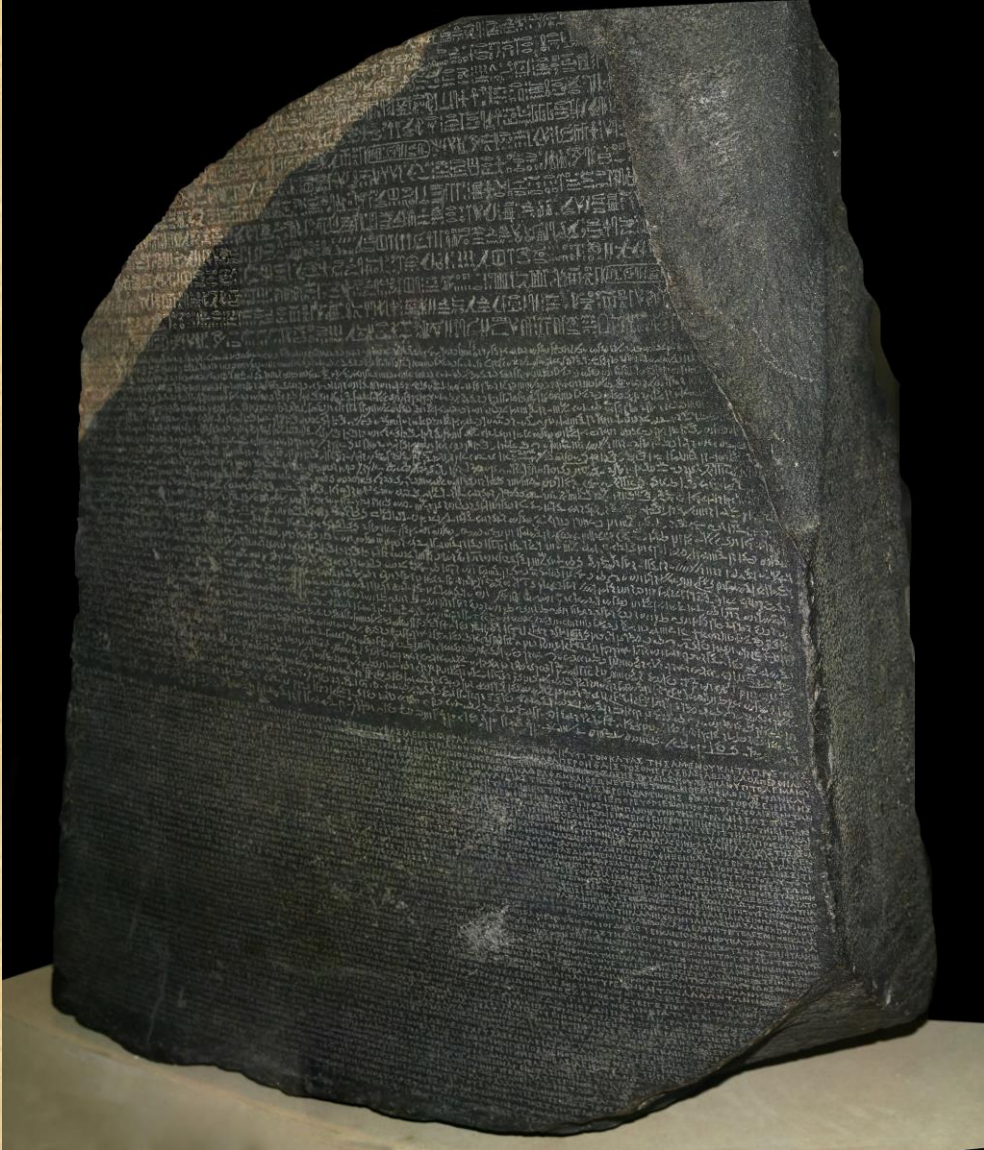
Defeat of French and British taking stone

- The **BRITISH** discovered Napoleon's secret plan and **DEFEATED** him in a Naval battle.
- **NAPOLEON** lost terribly, his ships were destroyed, and he was left stranded in Egypt.



- A treaty was reached, and Napoleon was allowed to return to France, but the **BRITISH** took possession of all the **ARTIFACTS** the French scientists had collected, including the **ROSETTA STONE**.
- Before the British took the stone, the **FRENCH** made several **RUBBINGS**, or copies, of it





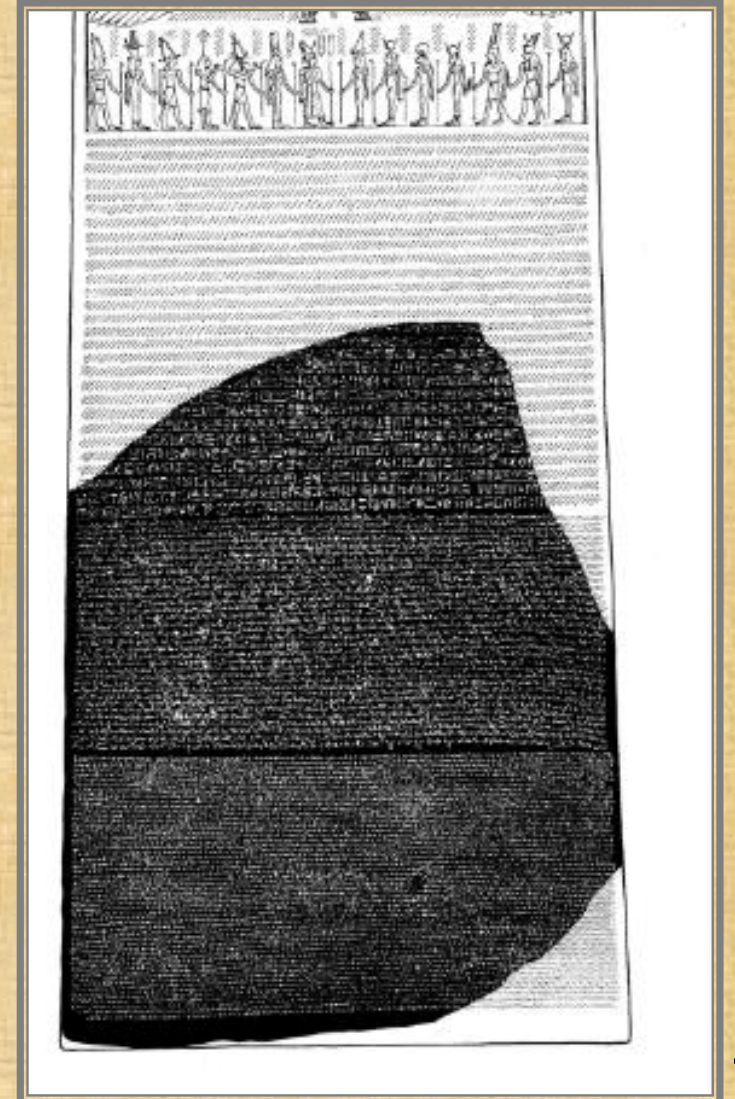
- Although the stone appears black, it is actually **RED GRANITE** stone
- It looks black because of all the rubbings made on it.
- The stone is located in the **BRITISH MUSEUM** in London
- Up until 1999, visitors could touch the original stone, now it is incased in glass, with a replica nearby that visitors can handle.

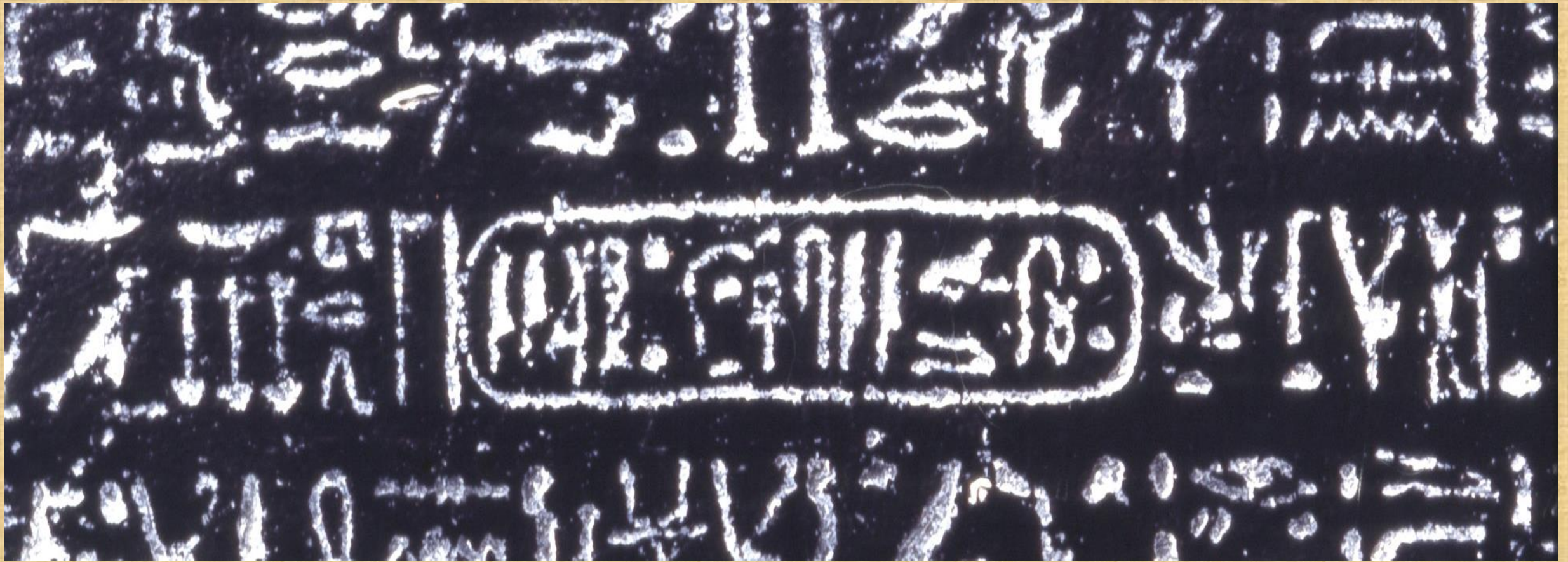
How was the
stone
discovered?

Use questions 3, 6-7, 9-10

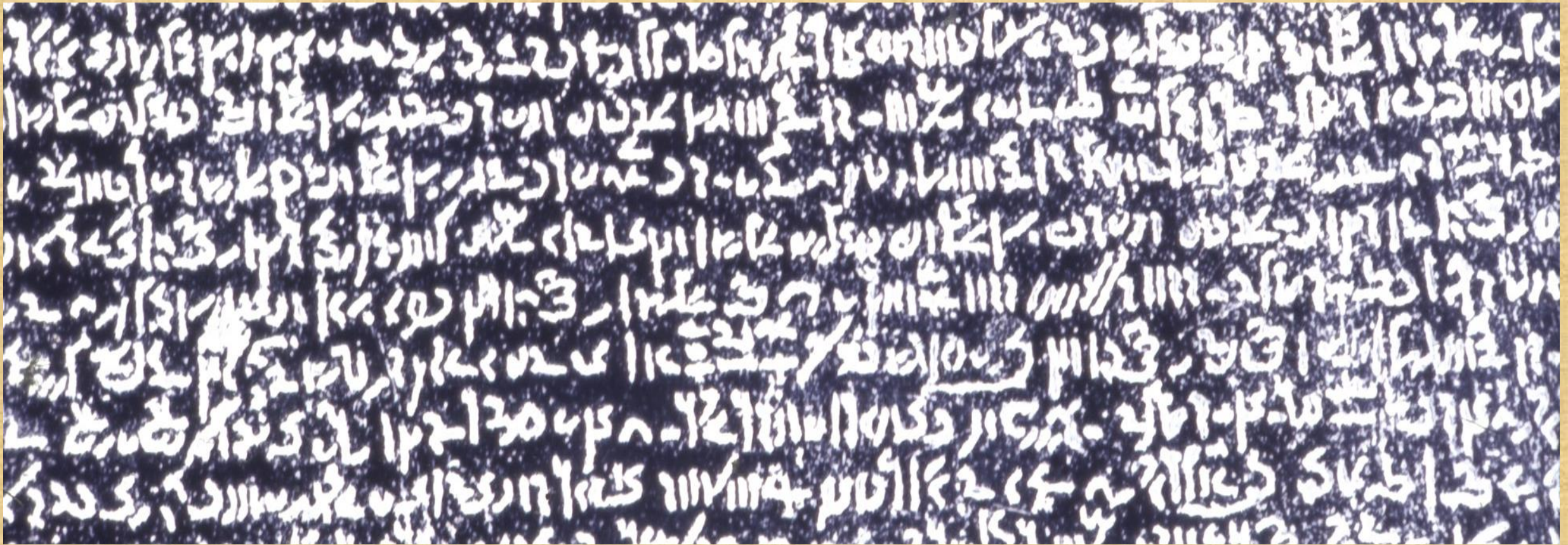
What languages are on the stone?

- There were TWO LANGUAGES written on the stone
 - EGYPTIAN and GREEK
- There were two *scripts* in Egyptian
 - Hieroglyphic (the sacred writing)
 - Demotic (writing of the people)
- The decree was incomplete on the stone, as it had broken off the original stela

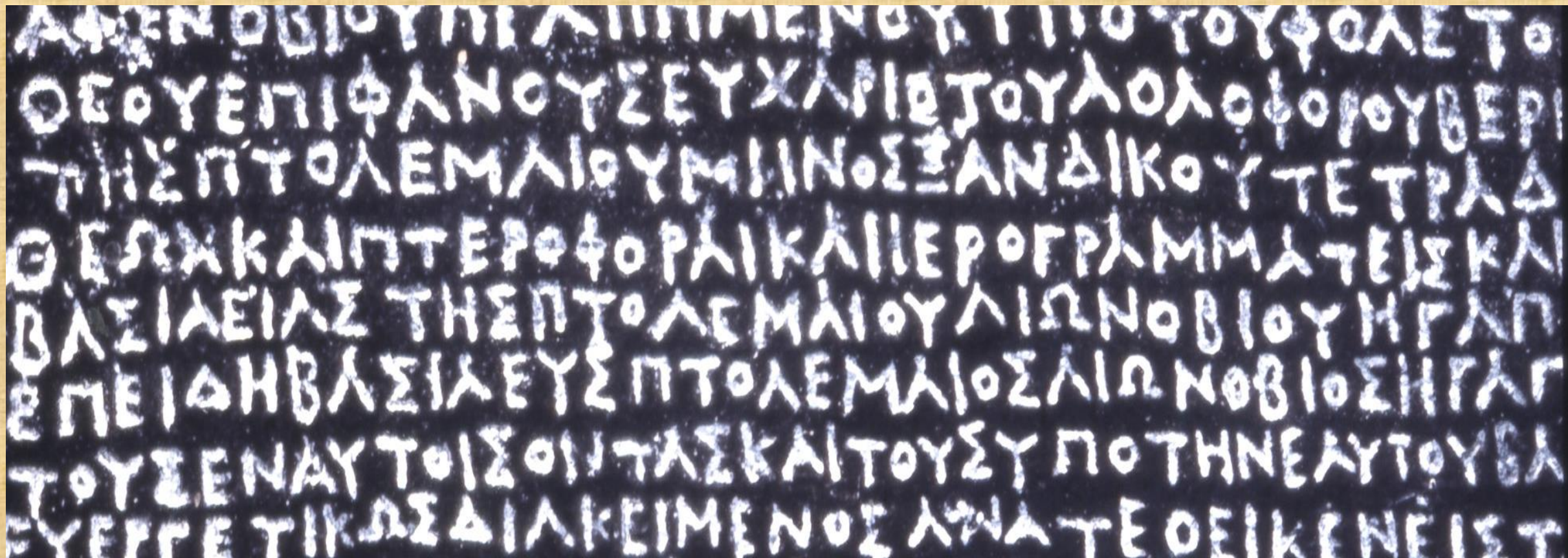




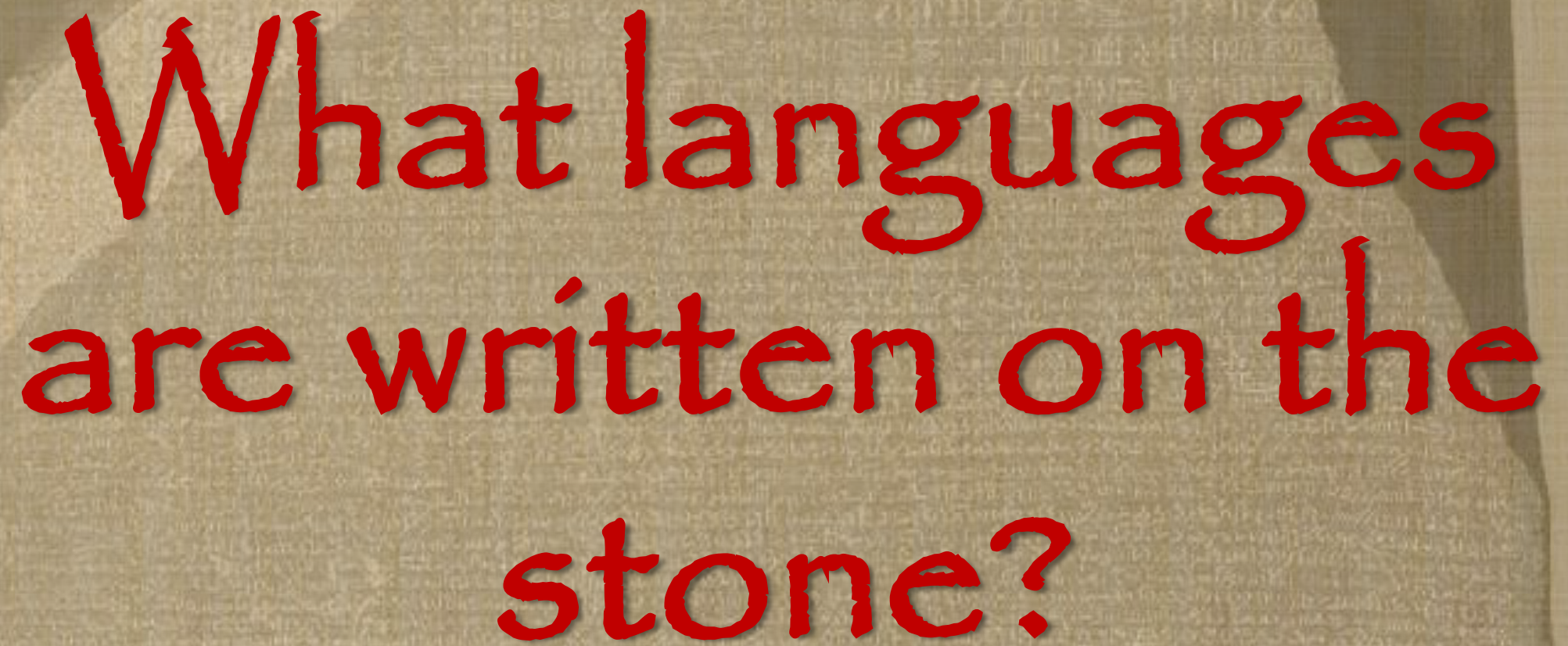
14 lines in hieroglyphic script



32 lines in Demotic Script



53 lines in Ancient Greek

A stone tablet with ancient script, overlaid with a red question. The text is written in a large, red, serif font with a slight shadow effect. The background is a textured, light brown stone surface with faint, illegible ancient script visible in the upper portion.

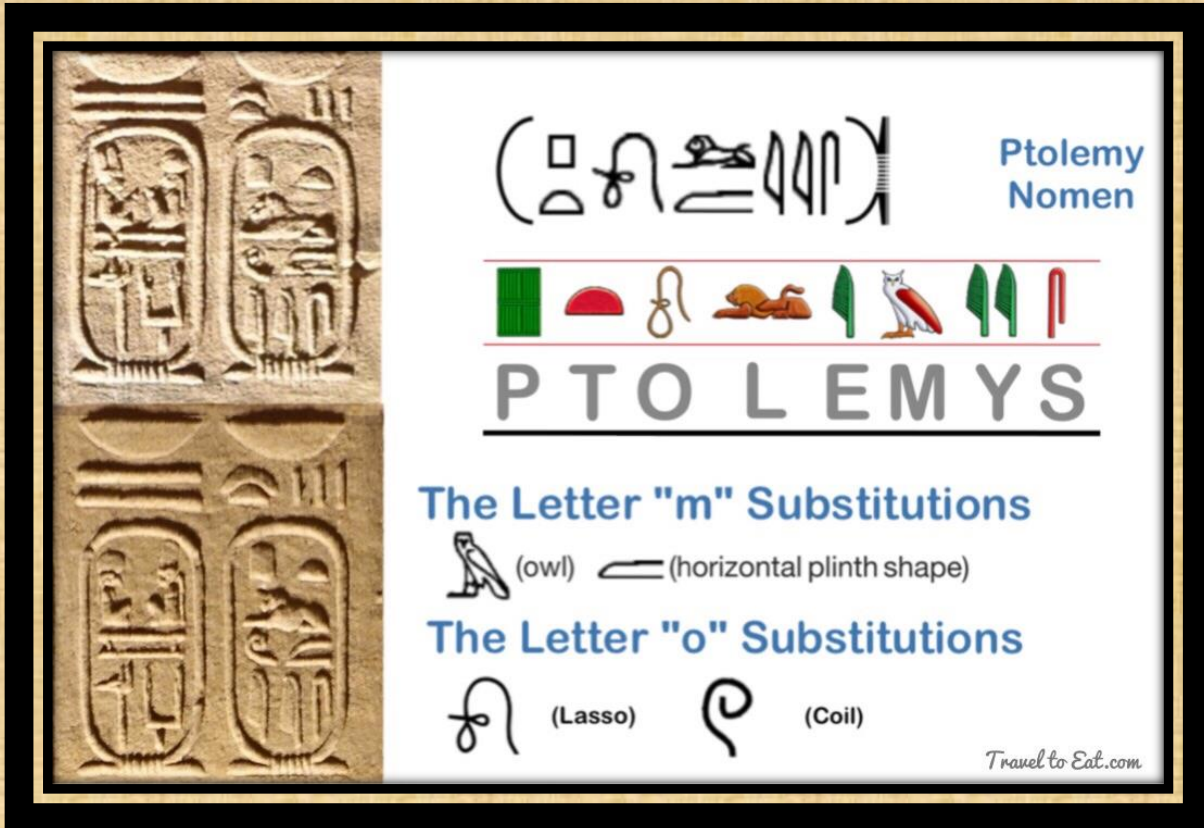
What languages
are written on the
stone?

Who translated the Rosetta Stone?

- For a thousand years, everyone had assumed that HIEROGLYPHS were purely PICTORIAL
- They thought that a picture of a hand meant a hand, and a picture of a duck meant a duck
- Because of this misconception, NO ONE was able to READ the writing.

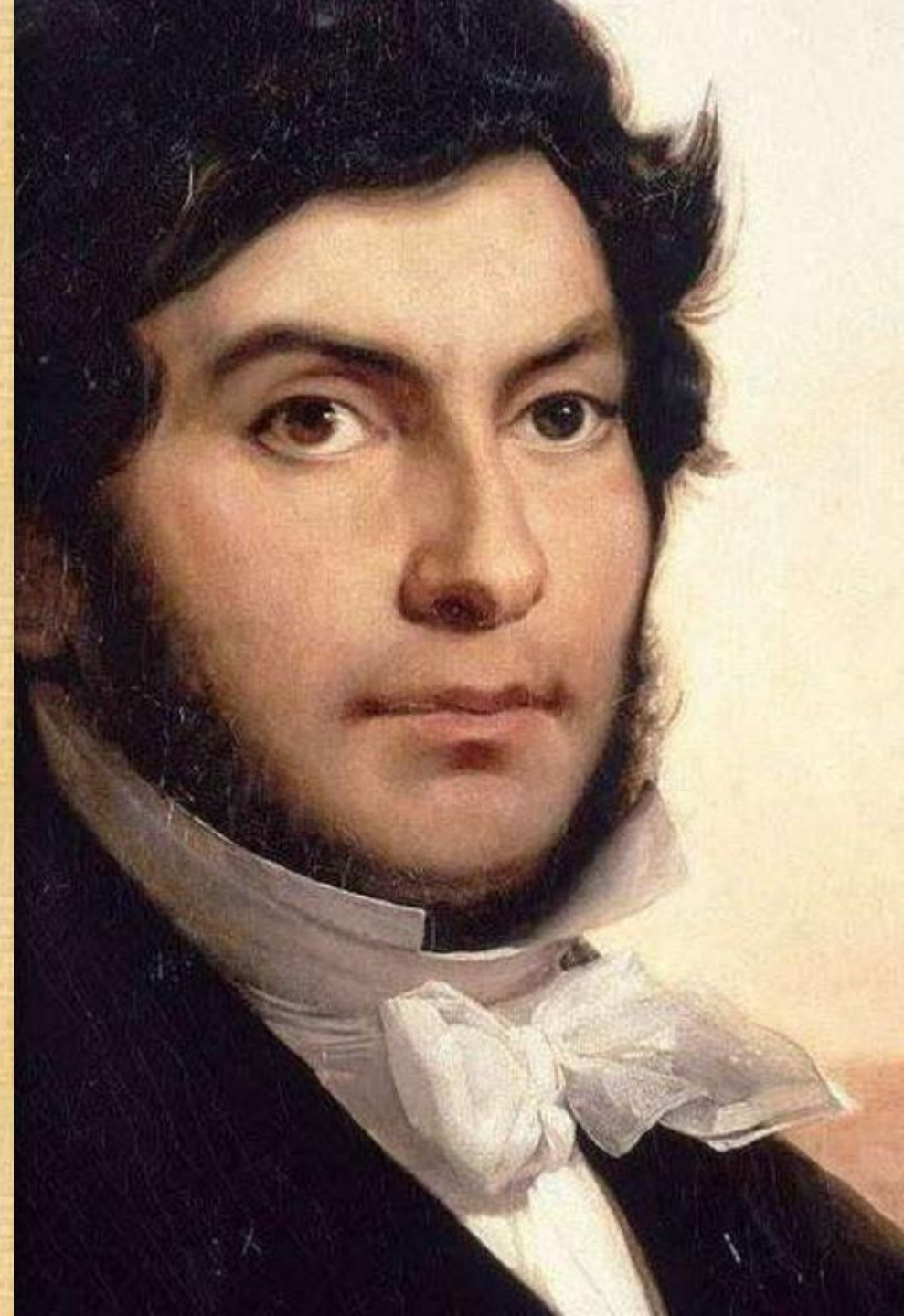
Thomas Young

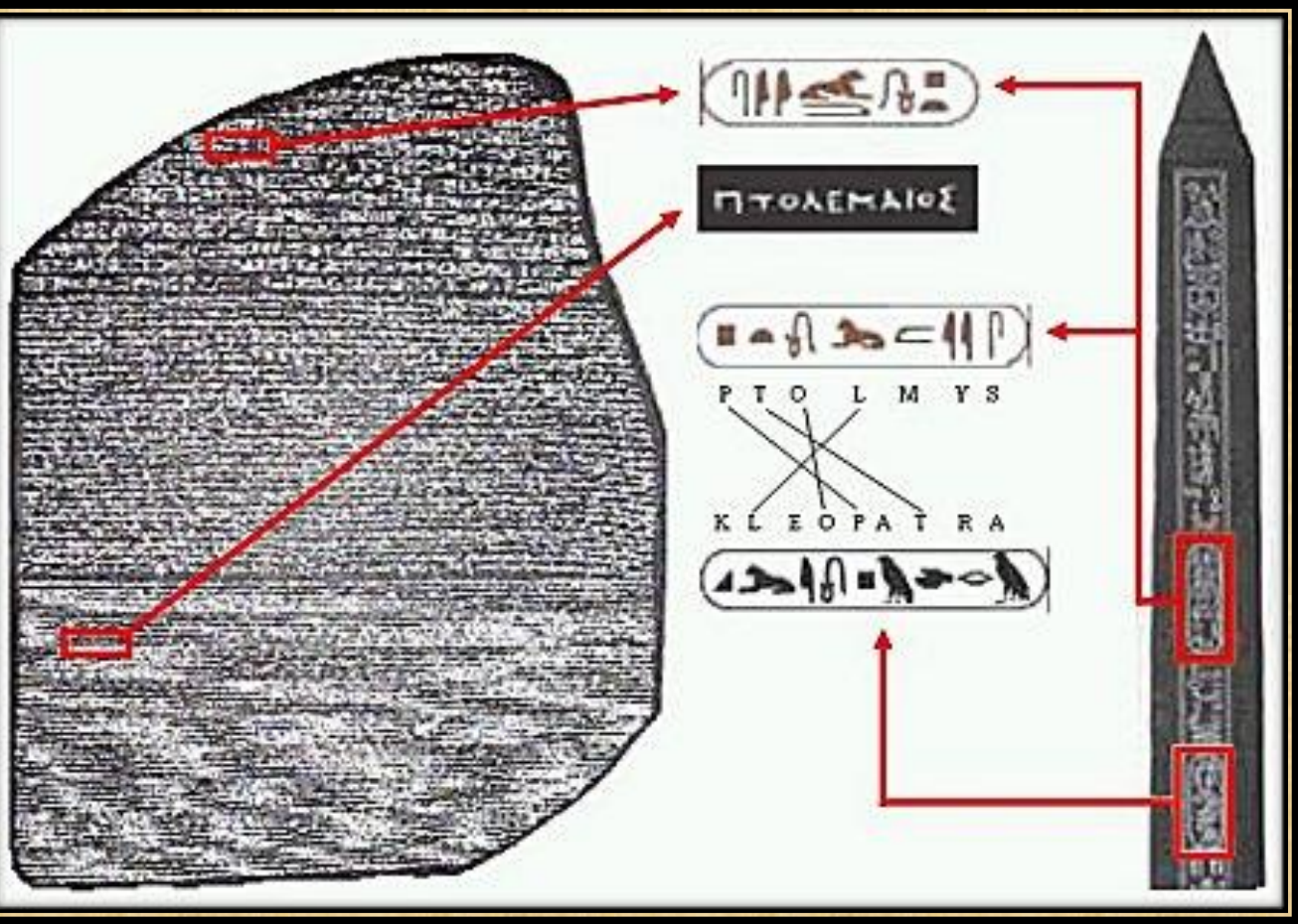
- 1773-1829
- ENGLISH Physicist
- Realized that names of rulers had to be spelled phonetically, not with pictures
- Thought the names of KINGS were written in CARTOUCHES.
- Found a royal name in one of the cartouches
- TRANSLATED the name Ptolemy



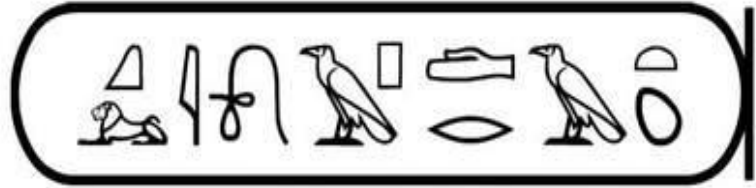
Jean-Francois Champollion

- 1790-1832
- **CHAMPOLLION** was a **FRENCH** man; he spoke over 8 languages by the time he was 16
- Champollion realized that the **LANGUAGE** was **PHONETIC**, and not completely pictorial.
- He paired up the names of Egyptian rulers to the names of NON-Egyptian rulers and saw that the same symbols were used for the same sounds in different names.
- He knew how to **READ** the language, but not what it meant.






Κ Ε Ο Α Ρ Τ Α

Gleopatra = 

L R

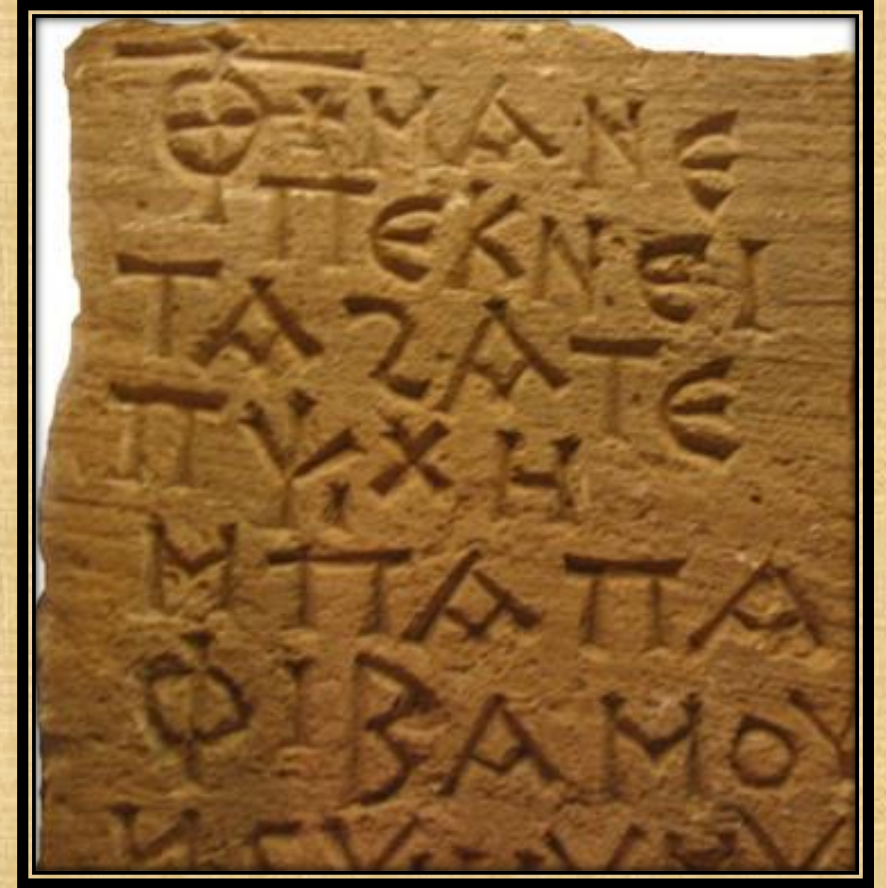
A L S E N R

Alexander = 

K T S

The Coptic Language

- Around 33 AD, the apostle MARK brought CHRISTIANITY to EGYPT
- Egyptians welcomed the new religion, as parts of it were very similar to their ancient religion.
- Egyptian Christians are called COPTS



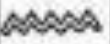
- The Copts combined the ORAL language of EGYPTIANS with the WRITTEN language of the GREEKS. This new language was called Coptic.
- Eventually, the old Egyptian Hieroglyphs were forgotten, but the SOUNDS of the Egyptian language continued, only written in Greek now




Cracking the Code

- **CHAMPOLLION** cracked the code in 1822
- Because he spoke **COPTIC**, he was able to phonetically read the hieroglyphs, then use the Coptic language to **TRANSLATE** the words.

Hieroglyphs	MdC	English
	mw	water
	dpt	boat
	nxt	strong; mighty
	HD	white; silver
	tp	head; upon
	Dw	mountain

	A	vulture		M	owl
	B	leg		N	water
	D	hand		P	stool
	F	viper		Q	hill
	G	stand		R	mouth
	H	rope		S	cloth
	I	reed		T	loaf
	J	serpent		W	chick
	K	basket		Y	reeds
	L	lion		Z	bolt

Hieroglyphs	MdC	English
	mw	water
	dpt	boat

When written,  , makes the sounds d p t, or dpt. In English, this means nothing, but in *COPTIC*, the sounds translate to boat, although *WRITTEN* in Greek, it is *SPOKEN* the same as Egyptians would have said it.

A photograph of the Rosetta Stone, an ancient Egyptian stone tablet with hieroglyphs and Greek text. The stone is light-colored and has a rough, weathered texture. The text is arranged in several columns, with the Greek text at the bottom and hieroglyphs above it. The stone is set against a dark background.

Who translated the Rosetta Stone?

Use questions 15, 16, and 19

Why is the stone important?

- Because of the TRANSLATION of the Rosetta Stone, we are now able to read the records of the Ancient Egyptians.
- Everything about Egypt had been a mystery for thousands of years.
- The translation of the Rosetta Stone has now allowed us to UNDERSTAND this ancient civilization.



A young man with short brown hair, wearing a red t-shirt, stands in a library. He is gesturing with his hands towards a large, grey, irregularly shaped stone that sits on a dark surface in front of him. The background consists of tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is warm and focused on the man and the stone. A red vertical bar is visible on the left side of the frame.

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

[Rosetta Stone video 3 min](#)

3D model

Translation of
Rosetta Stone



Why is the Stone important?

Essential Question:

What is the
importance of the
Rosetta Stone?

The End

Created by James Reese

2019