

# Write Like an Egyptian

**Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is for students to determine how Egyptian Hieroglyphics (glyphs) are used to write words and numbers and to compare them to Mayan Glyphs.

**Objectives:**

Students will identify Egyptian Hieroglyphics and write their names using Egyptian Hieroglyphs.

Students will use Egyptian Hieroglyphs to write numbers.

Students compare Egyptian Hieroglyphs (Glyphs) to Mayan Glyphs

**Materials:**

- Computers to access [www.greatscott.com/hiero](http://www.greatscott.com/hiero) or copies from the website for students.
- Writing paper

**Teacher Preparation:**

1. Make arrangements for students to access the web or make copies of the Egyptian alphabet and the numbering system from the website.

**Class Procedures:**

(Before the museum visit)

1. Examine the charts from the website to see how words and numbers are written in hieroglyphics.
2. Have students use the charts from the website to write their first names and some simple numbers such as 5, 20, 200, 156. etc.
3. Discuss the pictures and symbols and how they are used.
4. Let students know that they will learn about Mayan Glyphs during the field trip and that they will compare the Mayan Glyphs to the Egyptian Glyphs when they return to class.

(After the museum visit)

5. Allow students to choose a graphic organizer for comparing (Venn Diagram or T-chart). Compare Egyptian and Mayan Glyphs.
6. Have students write a comparison of Egyptian and Mayan Glyphs from the information on the diagram or chart, using what they know about writing paragraphs.
7. Have students share their comparisons.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How are the glyphs similar? How are they different?
2. Are any of the glyphs the same?
3. Can a single Egyptian glyph have multiple meanings? Can a single Mayan glyph have multiple meanings?
4. How do the number systems compare?