

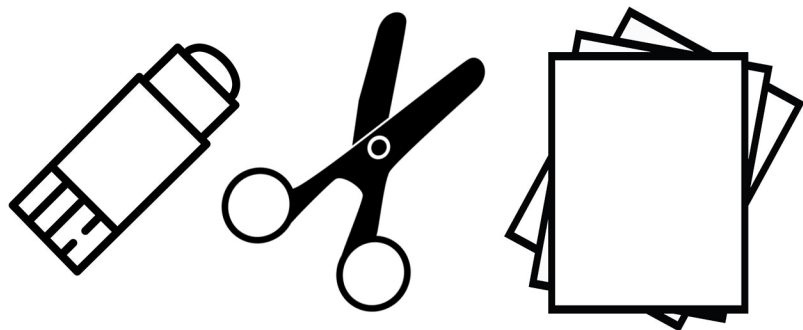
# Making hieroglyphics



Between mummies, buried gold, and pictographic codes, no wonder kids love studying the ancient Egyptians. Hieroglyphics were a writing system in which words were simple drawings of the thing being described. These pictures could also have related meanings; for instance, the picture for “mouth” could mean “speak,” the picture for “arm” could mean “give.” And some pictures stood for sounds, like the letters of our alphabet do. This activity teaches kids about ancient Egyptian pictograms and how writing has evolved.

## What you’ll need

- \* Drawing paper
- \* Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- \* Scissors
- \* Glue



## How to do it

- \* As a warm-up, try to communicate the following words through poses or simple actions: “cat,” “walking,” “dog,” and “tree.”
- \* Now, using markers, pencils, or crayons, make two separate pictures, one from each of the following sentences: “Under a hot sun, a cat went into a house.” and “The light of the moon showed the dog the tree.” Can you point out which part of the picture means the sun, a cat, or a house? Or a moon, dog, or tree?
- \* Next, cut out these parts of the pictures (best done with the help of an adult). On a fresh sheet of paper, glue the parts that make up this sentence: “The cat went to the tree in the moonlight.”
- \* Show your pictogram to someone and see if they can guess what your hieroglyphics mean!