



Objective: To recognize the use of pictures as symbols to communicate ideas through art; to define and recognize hieroglyph writing and cartouches; to make comparisons between ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and the use of pictograms present in societies today.

A) Introduction:

Today we are going to talk about the use of pictures as symbols to communicate ideas through art. Can you think of ways we communicate other than by the spoken word? [body language, gestures, dance, symbols like emoticons/smiley faces on the computer, road signs, map legends, signs at airports, train stations and parks, sign language]. People in many cultures and regions of the world throughout history have used pictograms to communicate ideas and thoughts. Have you ever seen or used any other pictograms recently? [Road signs, emoticons in email/online, the peace sign, map legends, signs at airport, train station, etc.]. The ancient Egyptians created what many believe to be the first written language using a type of pictograms called hieroglyphs, the earliest of which were created over 6000 years ago.

B) Vocabulary: (if the vocabulary words have been provided on poster boards, refer to them here. Otherwise, write the words on the board to refer to as you talk about them)

- **Pictogram:** A picture or symbol that represents a word or phrase.
- **Hieroglyph:** a pictorial symbol in ancient Egyptian writing used to represent a word, syllable, or sound.
- **Letter Signs:** stand for single sounds, like the letters of the alphabet (without vowels).
- **Group Signs:** stand for sounds that would be made up of several different alphabet letters in English (like “ch”).
- **Sense/Determinative Signs:** give a clue to the meaning of the word.
- **Cartouche:** an oval or oblong figure with a horizontal line at one end in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs that encloses symbols representing the names of rulers/royals.
- **Emoticons:** An emoticon is a textual portrayal of a writer's mood or facial expression.



C) Artwork

Title: Mummy Case of Paankhenamun, Egypt, Third Intermediate Period, Dynasty 22

Details: Mummy Case

- Many hieroglyphs are found in the tombs (on mummy cases, coffins, walls, jars, etc.) of ancient Egyptians detailing names, prayers, offerings, food and items the deceased wanted to take into their afterlife.
- This is a picture of a mummy case containing the preserved body of a man named Paankhenamun (pronounced Pah-ahnk-ehn-ah-moon).
- What do you think the hieroglyphs say? [The hieroglyphs on the case say that he was “the doorkeeper of the temple of Amun,” that his father had held that position before him, and make a plea for offerings in the afterlife.]
- Do you see the shen hieroglyph in the middle top and bottom halves that represents the sun? [See D and S on labeled mummy case guide on page 8.] Here, this hieroglyph means eternity by symbolizing the eternal cycle of the sun.

Title: Wall Fragment from the Tomb of Amenemhet and His Wife Hemet, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 12 (1991-1784 BCE)

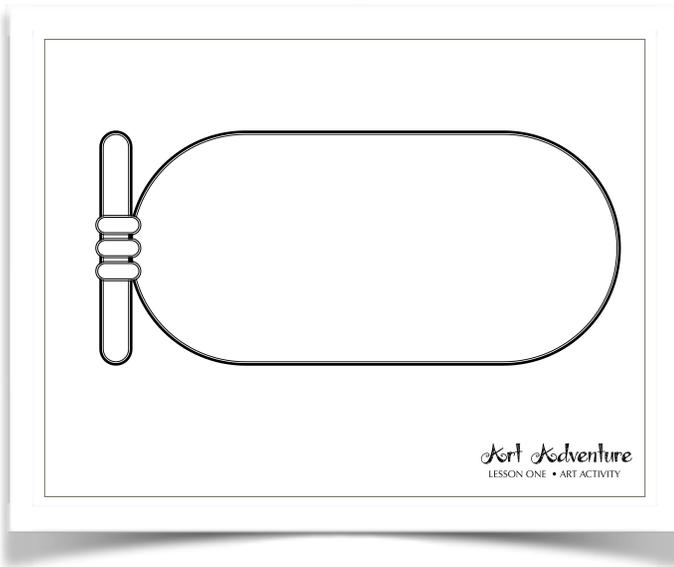
Details: Wall of a Tomb

- This is a photograph of a wall fragment found in the Tomb of Amenemhet (pronounced Ah-men-em-het) and His Wife Hemet (pronounced Hem-et).
- This carving is about immortalizing him and his family for eternity through the preservation of their images, names and food offerings.
- On the top left, you can see the letter sign for “Ah” (the vulture) and the determinative sign for life. In the middle between the two figures, you can see the letter W/water sign. In addition to the hieroglyphic characters, there are also many images and pictograms that surround them.

Title: U.S. Pictograms, 1974, 1979

Details: U.S Department of Transportation (DOT)

- Do you recognize any of these pictograms-for what do they stand or symbolize?
- Ask for volunteers and have a few student point out a pictogram and say its meaning and where they have seen it.
- These were created by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) in 1974 and 1979 at the request of DOT. Why do you think DOT chose to use pictograms to communicate important ideas?
- People within our country and throughout the world travel, speaking many different languages and coming from many different cultures. The pictograms provide a way to communicate one idea to everyone no matter what their native language might be—just as Art can be used to communicate with and interpreted by people from all cultures and walks of life



Reinforcement Activity

Materials provided:
white paper with cartouche

Children provide: colored pencils, pens and/or markers

Give each student a drawing of with a cartouche.

Each student should think of and draw a hieroglyphic letter symbol (pictogram) to represent each letter in their name. The hieroglyphics should reflect the student's interests - for example, a favorite animal (cat for the "k" sound), a favorite sport or (a soccer ball for "s")

Example: Name: Susie

S - smiley face

U - umbrella (she loves rain)

S - sun (she's a happy, sunny girl)

I - crest/coat of arms for Ireland (she has Irish ancestors)

E - egg (one of her favorite foods)

**Additional Background Material:**

This material is provided to give you, the discussion leader, to help you answer questions or generate additional discussion with the children if time permits. You are not expected or required to cover this information in the classroom.

Hieroglyph comes from Greek words hierós meaning 'sacred' and glýphō meaning 'to engrave'. There are over 2,000 symbols or characters in ancient Egyptian writing, each picturing some type of object common to ancient Egyptians at that time. Hieroglyphs are written from right to left, from left to right, or from top to bottom, the usual direction being from left to right. The reader must consider the direction in which the asymmetrical hieroglyphs are turned in order to determine the proper reading order. For example, when human and animal hieroglyphs face to the left (i.e., they look left), they must be read from left to right, and vice versa, the idea being that the hieroglyphs face the beginning of the line. When in a cartouche, the hieroglyphs are read toward the tied end where the horizontal line rests.

Mummy Case of Paankhenamun, Egypt, Third Intermediate Period, dynasty 22 (c. 945-715 BCE)

This mummy case, on display at the Art Institute of Chicago, still houses the preserved body of Paankhenamun. X-rays taken of the mummy show that he was a middle-aged man about 5'5" tall. Great care was taken in painting and designing the artwork on the mummy case as Egyptians believed the scenes depicted would later take place in the mummy's afterlife.

Wall Fragment from the Tomb of Amenemhet and His Wife Hemet, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 12 (1991-1784 BCE)

For more information on this piece, view the Art Institute's video clip "What Does This Show?" at www.artic.edu/cleo/Teachfolder/Amenhtml/FINAL/MovAmen1.html. This relief fragment from a tomb chapel portrays the official Amenemhet and his wife Hemet standing before funerary offerings. He wears a pleated white kilt with an inverted pleat that is depicted as a triangular projection. The low table before him is heaped with reed-shaped loaves of bread, a haunch of beef, and vegetables. Amenemhet's wife, Hemet, stands behind her husband, her hand affectionately on his shoulder. She holds a flower to her nose, an allusion to rebirth in the afterlife. This scene originally was located above the tomb's "false door," a representation of a portal that allowed the spirit of the deceased access from the underground burial chamber into the decorated tomb chapel.

This design was carved in limestone with copper (and later bronze) chisels and painted with pigments made from ground minerals nearly 4000 years ago. Ancient Egyptian craftsmen were highly specialized—no single individual created a statue or wall relief and hence these masterpieces are unsigned. Rather, there were different teams of artisans specializing in certain areas (carvers who cut the design, fine details artisans, less-skilled artisans to carve the background, painters). Very few Egyptian artworks are signed by a single artist because of this collective approach to creating art.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pictograms, 1974, 1979

In 1974, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) realized that signs and pictograms used by the United States Interstate Highway System were inconsistent and varied from place to place. DOT commissioned the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) to produce a comprehensive, universal set of

Art Adventure

5th Grade - Lesson 1

PICTOGRAMS

pictograms. There are a total of 50 pictograms, each are visible from a distance and are internationally recognized.