

I LOVE THE JAMES RIVER.  
WITHOUT IT, LYNCHBURG  
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN  
SETTLED AS EARLY AS 1750!

YES, THROUGHOUT HISTORY  
PEOPLE HAVE SETTLED ON  
RIVERS AND DEVELOPED  
CITIES AND TOWNS THERE.  
LET'S VISIT ANOTHER  
HISTORIC RIVER!

Mediterranean Sea  
ROSETTA  
TANIS  
CAIRO  
NILE RIVER  
Red Sea  
VALLEY OF THE KINGS

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN  
CIVILIZATION GREW BY  
THE NILE RIVER BECAUSE  
IT WAS A WATER HIGHWAY,  
TRANSPORTING PEOPLE  
AND THEIR GOODS. THE  
NILE BEGINS HERE IN THE  
HIGHLANDS OF EAST AFRICA  
AND FLOWS NORTH  
THROUGH WHAT WE NOW  
CALL THE SUDAN AND  
EGYPT. DESERT  
CONDITIONS ARE HOT AND  
DRY, SO THE NILE WAS A  
LIFELINE FOR EGYPTIANS.

LIVING THINGS  
NEED WATER TO  
SURVIVE IN THE  
DESERT, THAT'S  
FOR SURE!

SEASONAL RAIN FELL FARTHER SOUTH IN AFRICA, CAUSING THE NILE TO OVERFLOW ITS BANKS AND FLOOD LAND BESIDE THE RIVER. WHEN FLOODWATERS RECEDED, A RICH, BLACK SOIL CALLED **SILT** THAT WAS GOOD FOR FARMING COVERED THE AREA. THE SUN PROVIDED THE HEAT AND LIGHT NECESSARY FOR CROPS TO GROW IN THE SILT.


WOW, A HELPFUL  
FLOOD. AMAZING!

ANCIENT EGYPTIANS GREW GRAINS,  
VEGETABLES, AND FRUITS. **EMMER**,  
A TYPE OF WHEAT AND BARLEY, WAS  
USED IN BREAD, AN IMPORTANT  
PART OF THE EGYPTIAN DIET. THEY  
FARMED WITH SIMPLE TOOLS SUCH  
AS HOES, SICKLES, AND BASKETS.

UGH! THEY  
WERE HARD  
WORKERS!  
THIS IS  
NOT EASY!



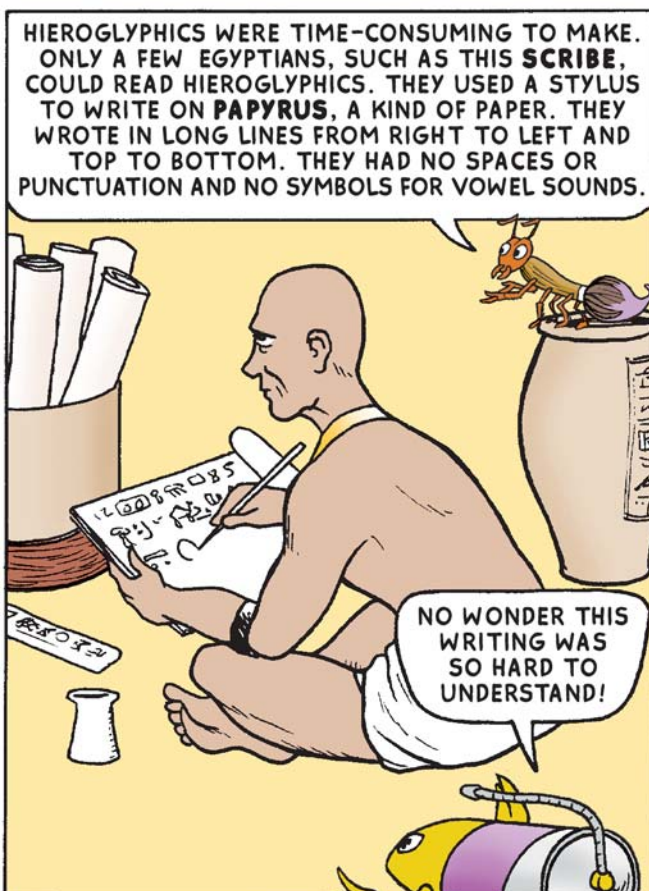
HEY, ANTE, SOMEONE SCRIBBLED ON THIS WALL. THAT'S NOT NICE!



THOSE ARE NOT SCRIBBLES, SCORPY. THAT'S THE WRITTEN LANGUAGE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS USED - **HIEROGLYPHICS** ("HI-RO-GLIF-ICKS").




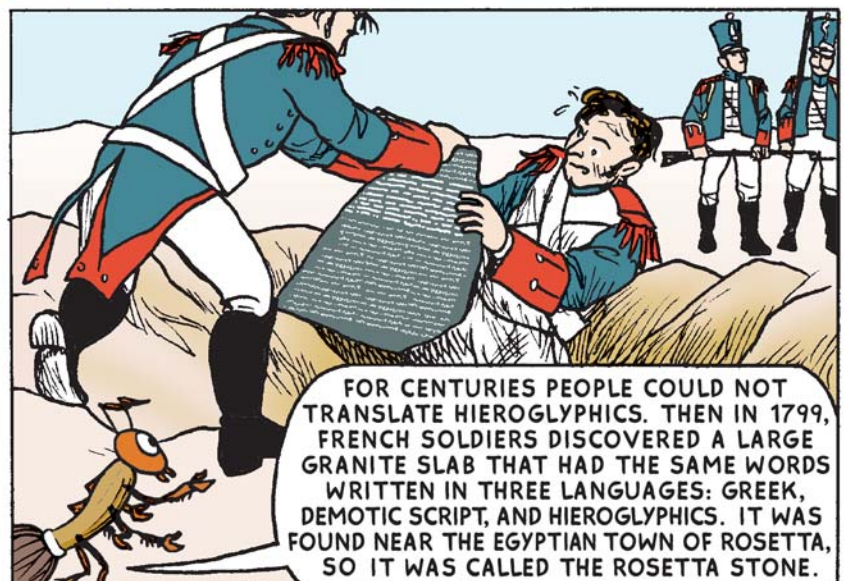
**HIEROGLYPHICS** IS A SYSTEM OF WRITING USING SYMBOLS AND PICTURES. THE NAME MEANS "SACRED CARVING" IN GREEK (THE GREEKS FOUND THE WRITING ON OLD MONUMENTS). THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MEANING OF THIS WORD IS "LANGUAGE OF THE GODS."




HIEROGLYPHICS WERE TIME-CONSUMING TO MAKE. ONLY A FEW EGYPTIANS, SUCH AS THIS **SCRIBE**, COULD READ HIEROGLYPHICS. THEY USED A STYLUS TO WRITE ON **PAPYRUS**, A KIND OF PAPER. THEY WROTE IN LONG LINES FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND TOP TO BOTTOM. THEY HAD NO SPACES OR PUNCTUATION AND NO SYMBOLS FOR VOWEL SOUNDS.



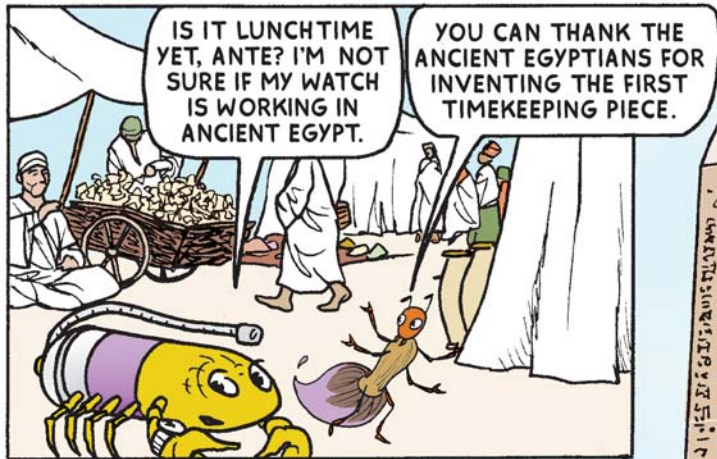
NO WONDER THIS WRITING WAS SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND!



FRENCHMAN JEAN FRANCOIS CHAMPOLLION STUDIED THE STONE AND FIGURED OUT THE MEANINGS. HE WAS THE FIRST MODERN PERSON TO READ HIEROGLYPHICS!



COOL - BUT I THINK I'LL STICK TO MY ABC'S!



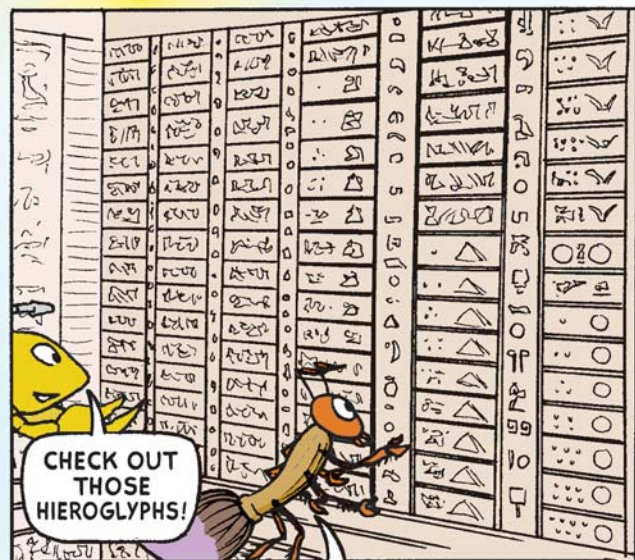
IS IT LUNCHTIME YET, ANTE? I'M NOT SURE IF MY WATCH IS WORKING IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

YOU CAN THANK THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS FOR INVENTING THE FIRST TIMEKEEPING PIECE.

THE FIRST THING THEY DEVELOPED WAS A **SHADOW CLOCK** - A VERTICAL STICK OR **OBELISK** WHICH IS SLENDER, TAPERED, AND FOUR-SIDED. THE LOCATION OF THE SHADOW COMING FROM THE OBELISK WOULD SHOW THE TIME OF DAY. THEY ALSO DEVELOPED A SHADOW CLOCK SO SMALL THAT THEY COULD CARRY IT AROUND!



WOW - THE FIRST WATCH!



CHECK OUT THOSE HIEROGLYPHS!

THIS IS A CALENDAR IN HIEROGLYPHS THE EGYPTIANS CREATED BASED ON THEIR OBSERVATIONS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE SUN AND THE STARS. THEY USED CALENDARS THE WAY WE DO: TO RECORD HISTORICAL EVENTS AND SCHEDULE FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS!

THE EGYPTIANS ALSO NEEDED A CALENDAR TO SHOW WHEN THE NILE RIVER WOULD FLOOD EACH YEAR. THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS HAD 360 DAYS IN A YEAR BUT ADDED 5 MORE FOR THE BIRTHDAYS OF SOME OF THEIR GODS. SO THEIR CALENDAR HAD THE SAME NUMBER OF DAYS AS OUR CURRENT CALENDAR.



THOSE EGYPTIANS WERE SURE AHEAD OF THEIR TIME!



ANTE, ARE THEY PERFORMING SURGERY ON THAT EGYPTIAN?

SCORPY, THAT IS A PHARAOH ("FAIR-O"), AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RULER. AND HE'S NOT ASLEEP. HE'S DEAD.


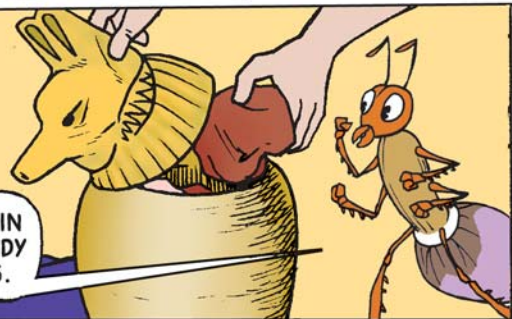


THOSE MEN ARE PRESERVING THE PHARAOH'S BODY SO THAT HE WILL BE RECOGNIZED AND WELCOMED TO THE AFTERLIFE. THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS WERE SOME OF THE FIRST PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN AN AFTERLIFE.




SO WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO HIM IF HE'S DEAD??

SELECTED ORGANS ARE PRESERVED AND PUT IN SPECIAL "CANOPIC JARS;" THEN THE WHOLE BODY IS COVERED WITH NATRON SALT FOR 40 DAYS.

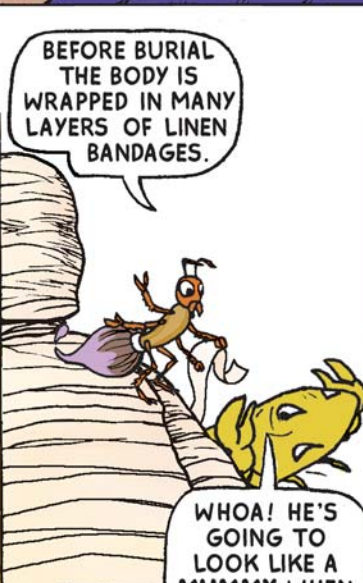


THE NATRON DRIES HIS SKIN. LATER THE EMBALMERS RUB THE SKIN WITH OIL TO MAKE IT SOFTER.

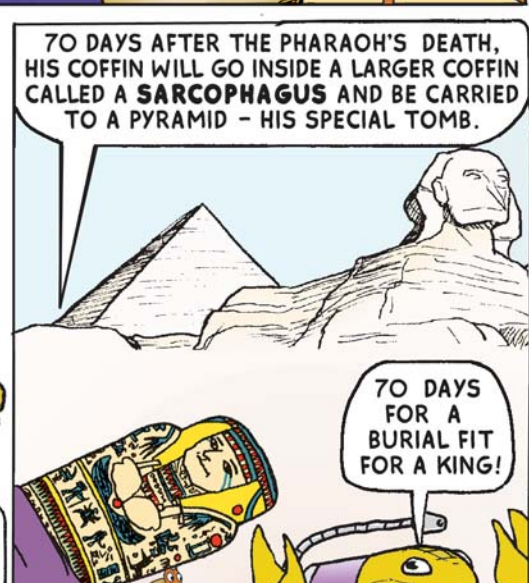
THE EMPTY SPACES IN THE CHEST CAVITY WHERE HIS ORGANS WERE ARE THEN STUFFED WITH RAGS AND SAWDUST.



BEFORE BURIAL THE BODY IS WRAPPED IN MANY LAYERS OF LINEN BANDAGES.



WHOA! HE'S GOING TO LOOK LIKE A MUMMY WHEN HE'S DONE!



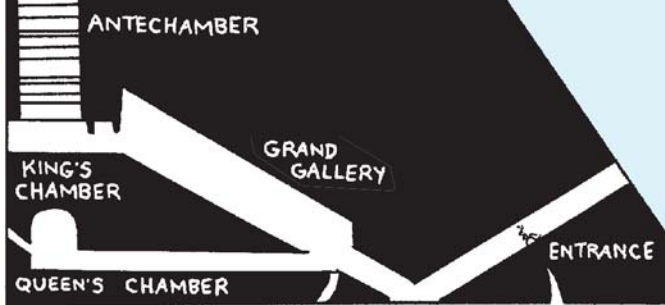
70 DAYS AFTER THE PHARAOH'S DEATH, HIS COFFIN WILL GO INSIDE A LARGER COFFIN CALLED A **SARCOPHAGUS** AND BE CARRIED TO A PYRAMID - HIS SPECIAL TOMB.

70 DAYS FOR A BURIAL FIT FOR A KING!

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK AT AMAZEMENT SQUARE. I LOVE THE ARCHITECTURE GALLERY! THIS IS GREAT FUN PUTTING THE LID ON THE TRIANGLE, ANTE.

THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY TRIANGLE, SCORPY. THIS IS A MODEL OF A PYRAMID USED AS A BURIAL TOMB FOR EGYPTIAN ROYALTY. THIS IS THE GREAT PYRAMID LOCATED NEAR GIZA. IT IS THE LARGEST PYRAMID EVER BUILT BY THE EGYPTIANS AND IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD TO STILL STAND.

THE WORK OF QUARRYING, MOVING, SETTING, AND SCULPTING THE STONE WAS DONE BY HAND. IT IS BELIEVED THAT AS MANY AS 35,000 WORKERS -- SUCH AS ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, CARPENTERS, BAKERS, AND WATER CARRIERS -- BUILT THE PYRAMID FOR THE PHARAOH.



WOW - THAT'S QUITE A TEAM!

INSIDE THE PYRAMID IS A COMPLEX SERIES OF PASSAGES LEADING TO SEVERAL ROOMS. IN THE CENTER IS THE KING'S CHAMBER, WHERE THE PHARAOH'S BODY GOES. OTHER ROOMS HOLD THINGS FOR HIM TO USE IN THE AFTERLIFE: HIS FAVORITE FOODS, CHARIOTS, BOATS, CLOTHING, BEDS, AND WEAPONS.

