

Hiero-biscuits



Time
travellers



30 mins



Jump
straight in



A vulture



L lion



W chick



B leg



M owl



X cloth



C cup



N water



Y feathers



D hand



O chick



Z bolt



E feather



P stool



CH tether



F viper



Q hill



KH sieve



G pot



R mouth



SH basin



H wick



S cloth



MAN



I feather



T loaf



WOMAN



J cobra



U chick



ANKH



K cup



V viper

Aim of activity

Think you could send a message entirely in emojis? Explore how ancient Egyptians did this thousands of years ago – using hieroglyphics!

What you'll get out of it

- Investigate the use of hieroglyphics.
- Get creative.

What you'll need

- Plates, 1 per girl
- Biscuits to decorate, minimum 1 per girl
- A writing icing pen, 1 per girl
- Paper
- Extra examples of hieroglyphics (optional)
- Fondant icing or water icing (optional)
- Bowls (optional)
- Spoons (optional)
- A mobile phone or tablet (optional)



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Before you start

You can ice your biscuits with water icing or fondant icing before drawing hieroglyphics on. If you choose to, you'll need the optional extras in the resource list. Make sure everyone washes their hands before you start and check if anyone has any allergies.

What to do

1 Together, chat about what your favourite emoji is. Maybe it's the salsa dancing lady or the heart eyes? Do you think you could tell someone something just using emojis?

Try it this way

Why not try creating some emoji messages using a mobile phone? Can you guess what everyone's trying to say?

Hieroglyphics are what the ancient Egyptians used to write. To us it seems a complicated way of communicating as it involves thousands of symbols that represent sounds, letters and words. People believed hieroglyphics were sacred text and used them to write on the walls of temples.

2 Everyone grab a plate, a biscuit and a writing icing pen. Look at the hieroglyphics on the front of this card. Pick your favourite but don't tell anyone.

3 Now you're going to decorate your biscuit with your chosen hieroglyphic. Don't let anyone see! It may be a bit tricky as they're so detailed. Once you've finished, cover your biscuit with a piece of paper folded like a tent.

4 Can you imagine how long it must have taken people to write or read ancient Egyptian messages? Let's give it a go! Without revealing your hieroglyph, place all your plates in a line. Pick someone to go first and choose a biscuit to uncover. Match the hieroglyphic to the picture on the front of this card. Then, use the hieroglyphic to start a telling a story. You can use the letter it stands for or the word to inspire you. Get creative!

5 A few seconds in, someone else reveal a new biscuit and add that hieroglyphic into the story. Do this a few more times.

6 Next, cover the biscuits again and arrange them in a new order. Pick someone to start a new story using the hieroglyphics and repeat step 4 and 5.

7 Do you think hieroglyphics are a good way of communicating in our modern world? In the future, do you think people will still use our modern-day methods of communication, like texting? How might we communicate in the future instead? It may seem crazy to us now, but your ideas could become reality...

Take it further

Write a message to someone in your unit, entirely in hieroglyphics.