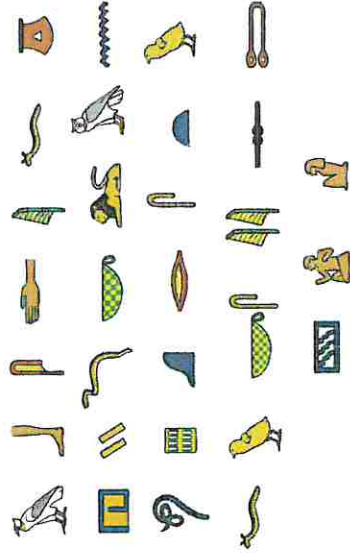


The Rosetta Stone

11 Whilst digging to expand their fort in 1799, a group of
 20 French soldiers made one of the most important historical
 30 discoveries of all time – the Rosetta Stone. Named after the
 40 town it was discovered in, the Rosetta Stone was created
 52 over two thousand years ago and on it was the clue to
 57 finally decoding ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

66 Hieroglyphics was a complicated way of writing in ancient
 74 Egyptian times which used thousands of symbols. Some
 83 of the symbols represented sounds, like our letters, whilst
 92 others stood for whole words. Written on the Rosetta
 104 Stone was one passage of text but it was in three different
 111 languages: hieroglyphics, demotic (old Egyptian) and Greek.
 121 It finally unlocked the secret of how to read hieroglyphics
 131 because scholars knew what was being said in a language
 135 we still speak today.



Quick Questions

1. Which word from the text means to 'make bigger'?



2. Why is it called the Rosetta Stone?



3. How do you think scholars felt when the Rosetta Stone was discovered? Give a reason for your answer.



4. How do hieroglyphics compare to the alphabet we use today?

