

Art Masterpiece: 6th Grade, Lesson 1 (September)

Egyptian Cartouche

Pronounced: Car-toosh

Art Terms: Hieroglyphics, Cartouche, Shenu, Symbols

Activity: Name Cartouche

Medium: Scratch Board



About the Art History

- The Ancient Egyptians wrote using a system of pictures called hieroglyphics. The pictures represented everyday objects.
- In Egyptian hieroglyphs, a **cartouche** is an oval with a horizontal line at one end.
- When the names of kings and queens were written using hieroglyphics they were always placed within an oval border or cartouche.
- The oval surrounding their name was meant to protect him from evil spirits in life and after death. The cartouche has become a symbol representing protection from evil and give good luck.
- Religion was a major influence on ancient Egyptian art. During the early part of the old kingdom the Mastaba people gave rise to the Pyramids, which became the characteristic structure for royal burials. Some of the earliest Egyptian paintings are from these tombs. A few of these royal graves were sunk deep into the sides of mountains. A grave was regarded as a deceased person's home for all eternity. Ancient Egyptian painters depicted the gods, pharaohs, or other important figures as larger than the other people in the painting to signify their higher importance.

Art Terms

Hieroglyphics

- The ancient Egyptians wrote using a system of pictures called **hieroglyphics** (hahy-ruh-glif-ik). The pictures in early hieroglyphics represented everyday objects. Later, they came to represent spoken sounds of up to five letters, with words being made up from groups of pictures.

Cartouche

- When the names of kings and queens were written using hieroglyphics, they were always placed within an oval with a horizontal line at one end, known as a **cartouche** (car-toosh), indicating that the enclosed text is a royal name.

Shenu

- The cartouche, known in ancient Egypt as the **shenu**, is derived from the Egyptian verb, Sheni, which means to encircle.

Symbol

- A **symbol** is something that stands for something else, especially a letter, figure or sign that represents a real object or idea.

Activity

Name Cartouche – Scratch Board

Supplies

Gold and black scratch boards – 4 ¼" x 11"

Scrap paper – 4 ¼" x 11"

Scratch knives for etching

Hieroglyphic alphabet sheets

Pencils

Rulers

*Additional support material – photo printouts (There is no art print available for this lesson so you can use the 8 1/2" x 11" printouts in the supply bin.)

Directions

1. Hand out the hieroglyphic alphabet sheets to students (one for every two students) for them to review.
2. Explain that Egyptians often stacked their symbols or pictures instead of writing left to right so they will need to work vertically, working from top to bottom.
3. They will need to place their symbols inside a **cartouche** (an oval with a horizontal line at one end). (see photo 1)
4. Once they have identified the symbols to spell out their name they can quickly draw the symbols on scrap paper to see how small or large they need to be to fit on the scratch board. Remind the students to draw a **cartouche** first then place their symbols inside. Have the students leave enough space around each symbol so they are legible.
5. Pass out the scratch boards, scratch knives and rulers. (It might be helpful if the students use rulers to make the straight lines for the sides and the horizontal base of the cartouche.)
6. Have students write their name and room # on the back of the scratch board.
7. Explain that they will etch (scratch off) the black revealing the gold color underneath.
8. Have them scratch the outline of the symbols and if there is time (and if they want to) they can scratch off the black inside the symbols (see photo 2)

9. Remind them not to place their symbols too close together so there is enough black between them allowing each symbol to stand out. (see photo 3)

Cartouche Sample

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



***Additional Support Material**

8 ½" x 11" printouts of these images will be available in the supply bin.


























You can project the images on the pull down screen one of two ways: use the overhead projector and printouts in the supply bin or the teacher can bring up the images located on the school computer.

***Egyptian Cartouche Examples**



Hieroglyphic Alphabet

Copies will be in the supply bin for the students to use.

A  EAGLE (1)	A  ARM (2)	B  FOOT (3)	C/K  BASKET (4)	D  HAND (5)
E/I/Y  TWO STROKES (6)	F/V  VIPER (7)	G  JAR (8)	H  HOUSE (9)	H  FLAX (10)
I/Y/E  REED (11)	J  COBRA (12)	L  LION (13)	M  OWL (14)	M  BAR (15)
N  WATER (16)	N  CROWN (17)	O/U/W  LASSO (18)	P  DOOR (19)	Q  SLOPE (20)
R  MOUTH (21)	S/Z  CLOTH (22)	SH/CH  POOL (23)	T  LOAF (24)	TH  ROPE (25)
U/W/O  CHICK (26)	X  BASKET/CLOTH (27)	Y/E/I  DOUBLE REED (28)	Z/S  BOLT (29)	