

“Clay Cartouche”



Objective: Students will use Egyptian Hieroglyphics to create original name designs.

Materials

- Red or white clay
- Small wooden sticks
- Metallic paint
- Hieroglyphic alphabet reference sheets

Motivation

- Show examples of Ancient Egyptian writing. Images of tombs are especially engaging for students.
- Show different examples of cartouches. A cartouche is an oval-shaped Ancient Egyptian name design often created for an important person.
- You could even create a secret message made with hieroglyphics for students to decode before the lesson starts!

Step 1: Practice Hieroglyphics

Students will use reference sheets to practice writing their names in hieroglyphics. I give the students the option of writing their first names, last names, nicknames or initials.

Have students practice their hieroglyphics fairly small to ensure they can fit their designs on the clay slabs.

Step 2: Create Clay Cartouches

Cut students slabs of clay approximately 3"x8"x1/2". Have students gently pound the slabs with their palms to flatten them slightly.

On the back, students should write their names in English letters. On the front, students should write their names in hieroglyphics using the small wooden sticks.

After creating their names with hieroglyphics, have students design decorative borders for their pieces. As an option, you could add two holes to the tops of the pieces so they can be hung after firing.

Step 3: Paint with Metallic Paint

After firing, have students use metallic tempera paint to highlight their designs.

Tip: I found the reference sheet I use with students by googling “simple Egyptian Hieroglyphics.”