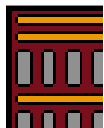


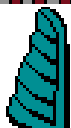
## Student Handout 3 - Looking Closer at Hieroglyphics:

### Egyptian Hieroglyphs

The Egyptian hieroglyphic writing system consists of several hundred picture signs. The signs can be divided into two classes, phonograms and ideograms.



Phonograms are signs used to write the sounds of the Egyptian language. The particular sound value of a sign was usually obtained from the Egyptian name for the object represented. Since the Egyptians did not normally write the vowels, only the consonantal "skeleton" of the word is given.



Ideograms, or idea-signs, in which each picture stands for the object represented or for some idea closely connected with the object. A particular word could be written using only sound-signs, or only an idea-sign, but most words were written using a combination of both. It was a particularly common practice to use one or more idea-signs at the end of a word to give the general meaning of the word. (source: <http://www2.torstar.com/rom/egypt>)

### Stop and Jot

Think about how you communicate with others, including teachers and friends.

1. Is the English alphabet phonographic or ideographic? Why do you think this?
2. What about emojis or emoticons? Why do you think this?
3. If you had to choose a writing system, would you rather use cuneiform or hieroglyphics? Why?