

IN BRIEF

Ra's Secret Name is a myth from Ancient Egypt about how the goddess Isis tricks the most powerful god, Ra, into telling her his secret name and giving up his powers.



LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- **Ra's Secret Name** is a good story to tell when you're learning about Ancient Egypt and its gods. Ra was the one of the most powerful gods of all. Find out more about him on our **Ra Fact Sheet** and find out about other Egyptian gods in our **Top 10 Egyptian Gods Sheet**.
- Read our story, then ask these comprehension questions:
 1. What was Ra's great secret?
 2. Why didn't he reveal it to anyone?
 3. Who wanted to know his secret?
 4. Where did his chariot start and end its journey every day?
 5. How did the snake that attacked Ra come to life?
- See our **Ra's Secret Name Word Wise Sheet** to find the meanings for any new or tricky words, and have a go at our easy literacy exercises.
- If you had a secret name, what would it be? Can you write your secret name the Egyptian way – in hieroglyphs? See our **Egyptian Hieroglyphic Alphabet** and try our **Hieroglyphic Code Breaker!**



HISTORY LESSON IDEAS

- If you're learning about Ancient Egypt, there are some great online activities at The Children's University of Manchester website: <http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/interactives/history/egypt/>



SCIENCE AND MATH LESSON IDEAS

- The Egyptians had their own special number system. Find out what it was and try some easy Egyptian numbers on our **Egyptian Maths Sheet**. Give your class some easy Egyptian sums too.
- In the story, Ra's sun chariot passes across the sky during the day. Why not make a class sundial so that you can mark the passing of time and the journey of the sun? Find out how to make one from the Met Office: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/weather-for-kids/experiments/sundial>



GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEAS

- Can you find Egypt on a map? See if you can find and mark these important Egyptian landmarks:
 1. Pyramids of Giza
 2. Cairo
 3. Nile
 4. Valley of the Kings
 5. Valley of the Queens
 6. HeliopolisCan you learn a fact about each one? What's special about Heliopolis?



ART LESSON IDEAS

- Act out Ra's Secret Name using our printable **Ra Mask**.
- Print out our **Ra Colouring Sheet** and give him an amazing chariot!
- Write like an Egyptian! Pretend ordinary twigs or bamboo sticks (which you can get very cheaply from garden centres) are reeds and dip them into paint. Get everyone to write an Egyptian story or draw a picture. Try writing on leaves, just like the Egyptians did
- Invent your own Egyptian god! What is he or she the god of? Can you give him or her a cool animal head? Draw your god in our **Storytime Picture Frame**.

RA FACT SHEET



- Ra was not only the Sun God, he was the king of all gods, which is why many of the pharaohs of Egypt worshipped him and called themselves a son of Ra.
- In pictures, he is shown with a falcon head. On top of it is a disc of shining sun with a cobra wrapped around it. The cobra was sacred and called Uraeus.
- Some stories say that Ra rose out of a mound of earth or from a lake and spat out his two children – Shu (the god of air) and Tefnut (the goddess of moisture).
- The Egyptians worshipped at solar temples built in honour of Ra. They were open at the top to let the sunlight flood in. One of the first solar temples was built at Heliopolis, which means ‘city of the sun’, right on the spot where people thought Ra was first appeared.
- The boat that Ra sailed across the skies to bring light was called the ‘Barque of a Million Years’. When it reached the western horizon at night, many believed that Ra was eaten by the sky goddess Nut, before sailing into the underworld.
- When he went into the underworld, Ra had to travel through 12 doors, one for each hour of the night. Every night, he also had to fight an enemy – an evil serpent called Apep!
- Because Egyptians believed that Ra created humans from his own sweat and tears, they called themselves the ‘Cattle of Ra’!

Top 10 Egyptian Gods!

	Name	God or goddess of...	What is it?	Headdress
1	Ra	Creation and the sun	He drove a solar chariot across the sky	A falcon, topped with a sun disc with a cobra wrapped around it
2	Isis	Healing and protector of the dead	She was the sister and wife of Osiris	A throne
3	Bastet	Cat	Ancient Egyptians thought cats were sacred	A cat
4	Anubis	The dead and mummification	He guided souls to the afterlife	A jackal or wolf
5	Osiris	Underworld and resurrection	He was killed by his jealous brother, Seth	A white cone-shaped crown with ostrich feathers
6	Thoth	Moon and wisdom	He invented hieroglyphic writing	An ibis bird
7	Geb	Earth	Ancient Egyptians thought that earthquakes were Geb laughing	A goose
8	Horus	The sky	He was the son of Isis and Osiris	A hawk
9	Hathor	Motherhood, music and love	Ra turned Hathor into a lioness war goddess called Sekhmet	A sun disc between cow horns
10	Amun	King of the Gods	Amun was later combined with Ra to become Amun-Ra – the most powerful god of all	A ram's head or two tall plumes



WORD WATCH

You'll find these words in Ra's *Secret Name* in Storytime Issue 22. Here's what they mean.

- ▷ **Basked** – *lay in the sun*
- ▷ **Admiring** – *liking and respecting*
- ▷ **Jutting** – *sticking out*
- ▷ **Luscious** – *nice and juicy*
- ▷ **Foul** – *horrible*
- ▷ **Drape** – *lay or hang over something*
- ▷ **Deal** – *an agreement between people*
- ▷ **Impatient** – *can't wait for something*
- ▷ **Grant** – *agree to give*

SUPER SIMILES

In the story, it says “the venom burnt like fire.” This is a simile. Can you complete these simile sentences?

He eats like _____

The wind howled like _____

His eyes looked like _____

As slippery as a _____

As cold as _____

**WRITE
IT!**

Can you make up your own simile sentence to describe something in Ra's story? (Ideas: the sun, the chariot, Ra, Isis or the snake.)

Which one of the words above describes....

The snake?

The goddess Isis?

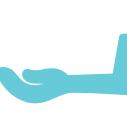
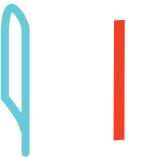
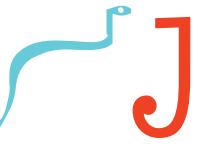
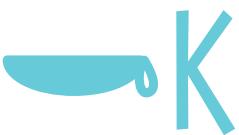
The god Ra?

Ra's name?

MYTHS AND LEGENDS: RA'S SECRET NAME

Egyptian Hieroglyphic Alphabet

Egyptians had an alphabet made of pictures, called hieroglyphs. There were over 700 of them! Look at the alphabet below, then write your own name in hieroglyphs at the bottom.

 A	 B	 C	 D	 E
Vulture	Foot	Basket	Hand	Reed
 F	 G	 H	 I	 J
Horned Viper	Jar Stand	Reed Shelter	Reed	Cobra
 K	 L	 M	 N	 O
Basket	Lion	Owl	Water	Lasso
 P	 Q	 R	 S	 T
Square Tool	Hill	Mouth	Folded Linen	Bun
 U	 V	 W	 X	 Y
Quail Chick	Horned Viper	Quail Chick	Basket and Folded Linen	Two Reeds
 Z	 CH	 KH	 SH	
Door Bolt	Hobble	String Ball	Rectangle	

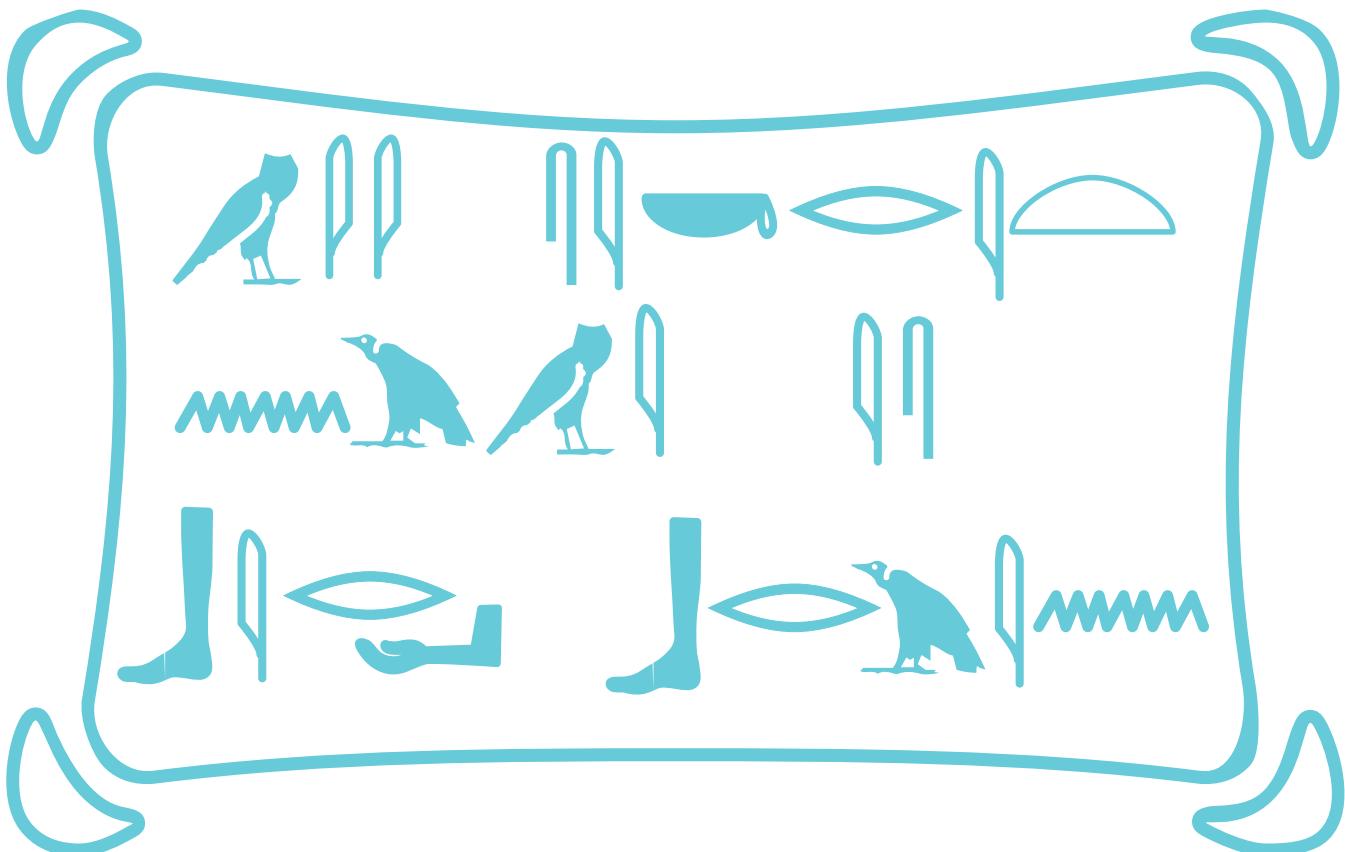
NAME _____

HIEROGLYPHIC CODE BREAKER SHEET

Ra has written a secret message to Isis, can you work out what it says using our Egyptian Hieroglyphics Sheet to help you?

NAME _____

CLASS _____



Answer: _____

EGYPTIAN MATHS SHEET

The Ancient Egyptians wrote their numbers in a different way to how we do it today. They only had 7 symbols for their numbers. They were:



1



10



100



10000



100000

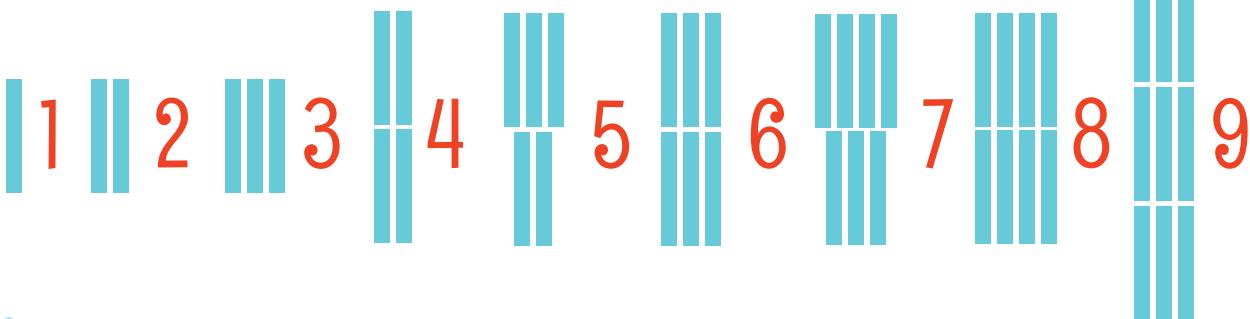


1000



10000000

They wrote the numbers 1 to 9 like this:



Can you write the following numbers in the Egyptian style?

6

14

27

135

Print out and cut out this mask so you can act out Ra's Secret Name story from Storytime magazine, Issue 22.



COLOURING SHEET

NAME _____
CLASS _____

FACT

Did you know that many of the powerful pharaohs of Ancient Egypt called themselves “son of Ra” to make themselves feel more important?

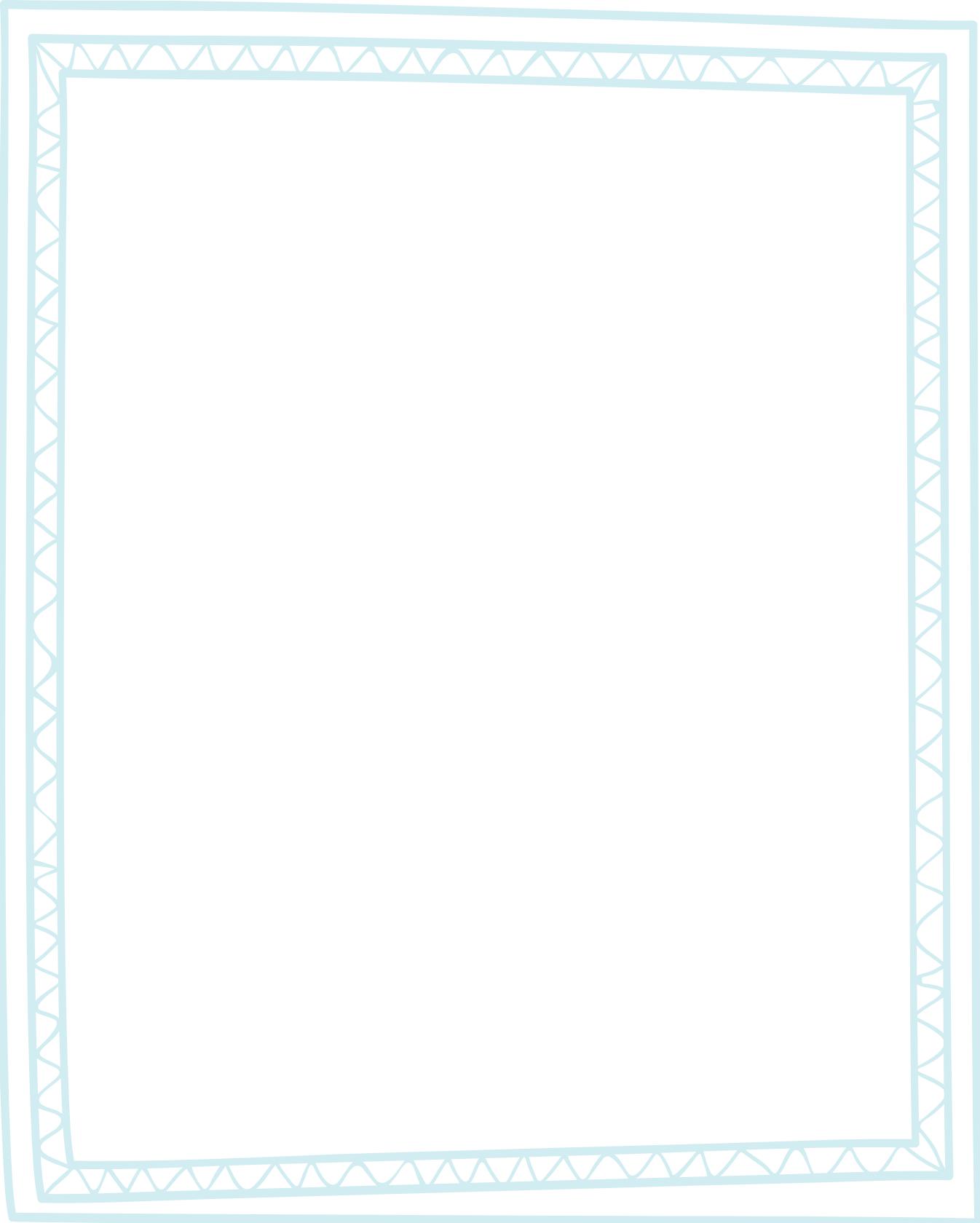


RA'S SECRET NAME PICTURE FRAME

Storytime™
TEACHING RESOURCES

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