**Inquiry Centre**

**Hilary Hanaka**

**Grade Level**: Grade 10

**Topic & Theme**: Ancient Medieval History - Grade 10: Unit II - The Beginnings of Civilization: The First Steps

**General/ Specific Curriculum Outcomes**: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of writing in the development of civilization.

**Lesson Objective:**

* Students will understand the importance of writing in the development of civilization.
* Students will understand that writing may be shown in a number of ways.

**Materials:**

* Paper
* Pencils/ pens
* Hieroglyphic alphabet sheet
* Print outs:
  + Hieroglyphic song decoding sheet
  + Emoji song decoding sheet

**Procedure: (10 minutes in total)**

* To begin the lesson, ask the group of learners when they think of writing what comes to mind? Allow the students to share their answers, ask a follow up question of: have you ever thought about how crazy it is that you can actually read and comprehend the squiggles you make when writing a note? Or how images can be used to tell a story? Would you consider symbols a form of writing? Yes or no, why or why not?
* After this give a brief introduction, explain to the group that today we are going to talk about the role of writing in the development of civilization.
* Give the group of students a brief history of writing, and how it has evolved.
* For the activity: individually, or with a partner the students will try to decode the emoji script to discover which song is hidden in the emojis. The students will then have the opportunity to decode the hieroglyphic script to discover which song is hidden within the script.
* To end the lesson, discuss how interesting it is that writing can be shown through numbers, symbols, words and pictures to portray information and discover history.

**Extension Activities:**

* Provide students an opportunity to write their names using hieroglyphics (focuses on the same curriculum but provides opportunities for students to reinforce content and recognize the importance of communication between individuals and civilizations).
* Have students partner up and have them brainstorm about other cultures that utilize symbols as a means of communication (and to share the rich history of different civilizations). Can share results with class through a discussion or short presentation.

**Appendix:**

New Brunswick Ancient Medieval History Curriculum: Grade 10 (1997). *Department of Education*

Hieroglyphics generator: <https://lingojam.com/HieroglyphicsTranslator>

Hieroglyphics alphabet: <https://egyptianeye.net/egyptian-hieroglyphs/>