Design an Ancient Egyptian Cartouche

DESIGN A CARTOUCHE OF YOUR OWN NAME

A cartouche is an oval frame which surrounds the hieroglyphs that make up the name of an Egyptian God or royal person.

It represents a looped rope which has the magical power to protect the name that is written inside it.

It can be arranged either horizontally or vertically depending on the best layout for its design.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT A CARTOUCHE

Illustration 1 - shows the three elements used to construct the cartouche: the oval frame; the stand; and the rope which binds the other two together.

Illustration 2 - shows the three parts combined to form a basic cartouche frame.

Illustration 3 - shows the frame of the cartouche decorated with small hieroglyphs.
Hieroglyphs are word pictures which represent the sounds of the Ancient Egyptian language. In this cartouche the hieroglyphs that spell out the sounds of the name 'Michael' are enclosed. Note that although there are seven letters in the name 'Michael', there are only four basic sounds 'M - I - K - L'.

Therefore you only need to use the hieroglyphs that represent those sounds.

Hieroglyphs should be arranged to create interesting designs instead of the straight lines that we use to arrange our letters and sentences.

Cartouches are usually positioned vertically but they can also be positioned horizontally to make them fit more comfortably into a design. The arrangement of the hieroglyphs inside is then reorganized to accommodate the horizontal layout.

Once the cartouche and hieroglyphs are drawn, you are ready to apply color. Try to achieve a sharp clean look that Ancient Egyptian paintings would have had when they were first painted.

Your Assignment is to make a decorative cartouche representing your name. You can use a template or draw your own.

Choose one of the alphabets below.

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