

# Design your own Cartouche

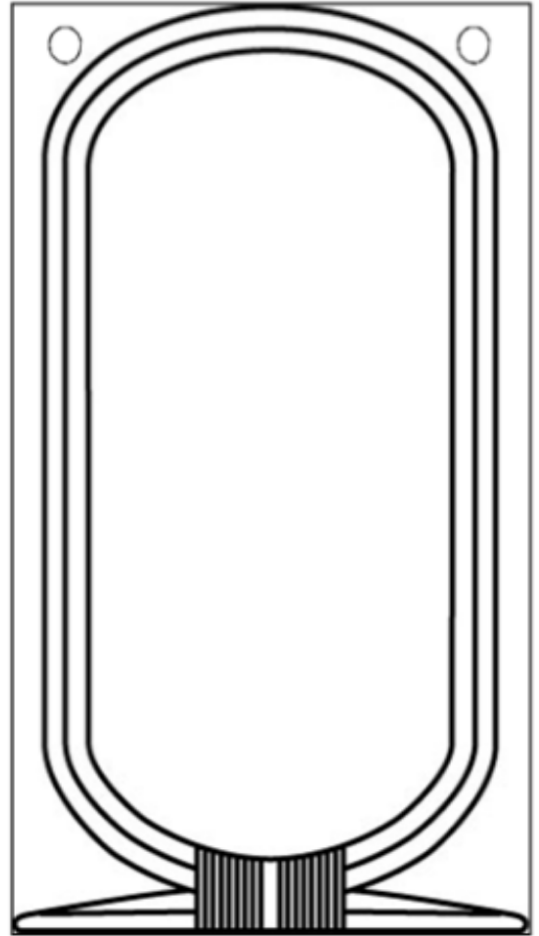
## What is a Cartouche?

A **cartouche** is a special shape that is found around the name of a **pharaoh** or member of the royal family, so if you saw someone's name inside this shape you would know they were very important. It is an **oval with a straight line at one end**. Usually, the oval is upright with the line at the bottom, but sometimes you will see them sideways.

The oval shape was meant to protect the person from evil spirits as it circles around their name. It was also very important to the Ancient Egyptians to have their name written down as this meant they would pass into the afterlife when they died and exist forever. So a **cartouche** is a symbol of **protection** and **good luck**.

**Can you spot the cartouches on the examples that we have got here from the collections at the Oriental Museum?**

Read the instructions on **how to write your name in hieroglyphs** and then draw them into our blank **cartouche** shape to show you are a **pharaoh**.



## FUN FACTS!

The **cartouche** came into use over 4500 years ago, during the rule of the excellently named pharaoh, **Sneferu**.

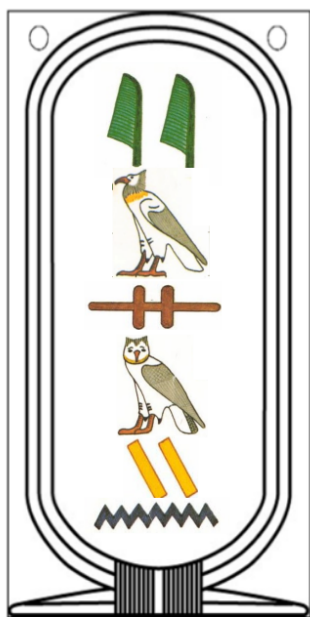
The **cartouche** was known in Ancient Egypt as a shenu, from the Egyptian verb, sheni, meaning 'to encircle'



# How to Write your Name in Hieroglyphs

Writing your name in **hieroglyphs** can be done in 1 of 2 ways:

**FUN FACT!**  
There were **over 1000** Ancient Egyptian **hieroglyphs**. Each one represented whole words, parts of words or just sounds. They could go left to right, right to left or up and down. This makes them very difficult to read and write. Ancient Egyptian **scribes** trained for 7 years to learn how!



YASMIN

1. Use our **hieroglyph** alphabet to find the symbol for each letter of your name and draw them into the **cartouche**.



YSMN [female]

2. Take out all the vowels from your name and just write the symbols for the remaining letters in the **cartouche**.



female



male

After your name, you can draw the symbol showing whether you are male or female if you like.

A	B	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hieroglyph\\_picture\\_write\\_alphabet.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hieroglyph_picture_write_alphabet.jpg)

