Attic Inscriptions: Education

6. Literacy and Wordsearch Activity

Greece

You are here

Ancient Athens and Its Writing

 For this activity we travel back to ancient Athens 2400 years ago





Modern painting showing Pericles addressing the people. In the background you can see the Acropolis with the Propylaia and the Parthenon.

The Greeks have an alphabet with 24 letters.

Some are the same as ours and others are different.

The Greek alphabet

n	nu	Νv	а	alpha	Αα
x	xi	Ξξ	b	beta	Вβ
short o	omicron	0 0	g	gamma	Γγ
р	pi	Пπ	d	delta	Δδ
r	rho	Рρ	short e	epsilon	Εε
s	sigma	$\Sigma \sigma \varsigma$ (at end of word)	z	zeta	Ζζ
t	tau	Ττ	long e	eta	Нη
u	upsilon	Yυ	th	theta	Θθ
ph/f	phi	Фф	i	iota	Τι
ch	chi	Хχ	k	kappa	Кκ
ps	psi	Ψψ	1	lambda	Λλ
long o	omega	Ωω	m	mu	Мμ

This is an inscription from ancient Athens.

It is written in Greek.

In this inscription the ancient Athenians describe their friendship with a King from the East

The inscription is now in a museum in Oxford



This is a drawing of the same inscription.

Can you find any Greek letters that are similar to the English ones?

Which letters look less familiar?

```
THEREMEAN
 ANNIETAPOPEYOHEONTA
  I EREBAEI NEADY EODHMOEE
   TOEIDANIANBAZINEREOT
TAMMANANOMOGXNOTIONNOTE
 MEPITONAHMONTONAOHNAIANOY
    10TIATYXH & EI PAPAAOHN
   ANDEHTALEINALDEKAITPO
     SULTENHOPLOLLOWHY
     E I ARNOEBAE IN A EAKA I A
     LO NO ELO DE LA LO DE NATOD
  PAYATROFPAMMATEYETHEBOINHE
IHEAEONDEKAIEYMBONAHB
OETONBAZINEATONEILANNINNOT
 OAHMOKOAOHNAINNEILAH
PEMPHIOSIANNINNBASIAEYE
ENOETHEPONEREKALOB
IDUNIUNEIPHIOLYMLEWLHI
   TONOAHMOZOAOHNAMANKAA
         I JENI AT ONHKONTALAPA
     ANIANBAZIAEREETOPP
            PENTAMENANNAKA
      I E O D O T O E O P O E O N D A N E I
           EXEXXIANNIKAITO
          ELIVHWUZINKYLE
    ONPPATTEZOAIMHAE
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Some letters are the same as English.

Others are different:

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\triangle = D (delta)
```

 $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{E} (eta)$

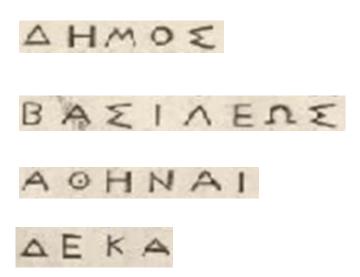
z = S(sigma)

= O(omega)

```
THE PEMENT
 ANNIETAPOPEYOHEONTA
  I EREBAEI NEADYEODHMOEE
    IAPOKPINA SOAITAIHKON
   TOEIDUNIUNBAZIVEUEOL
 TAPHNANANOPONOPIONNOTE
OEMEPITONAHMONTONAOHNAIAN
    IOTIATYXH & BILLADAAOHN
NANANAEHTAIEINAIAEKAITPOE
     DAMMOYTOYAOHNAIANET
     E I DAN O E B A E I NEAKA I A
    K TO NO E TO DE THOI EMATOD
  PAYATROFPAMMATEYETHEBOIN
 I HEAZORDEKA I EYMBONAHB
OETONBAZINEATONEILANNINNOT
  OAHMOEOAOHNAINNEILAH
PEMPHIOSIANNIANBASIAEYE
    THEPOAEREKALOB
             OTAMPEMPHI
   TONOAHMOEOAOHNAIANKAA
         I JENIATONHKONTAPA
        ANBAZIAEAZEZTOPP
            PENTAMENAMANAKA
  PKHOIEODOTOEOPOEONAANEI
        IEPIAHMAZINKATE
          TEZOAIMHAE
MHDENAKATA ETHEALMHDE
MHAEMIANEPIPP
```

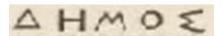
Writing Activity

Have a go at writing down the following words in Greek:



Wordsearch Activity

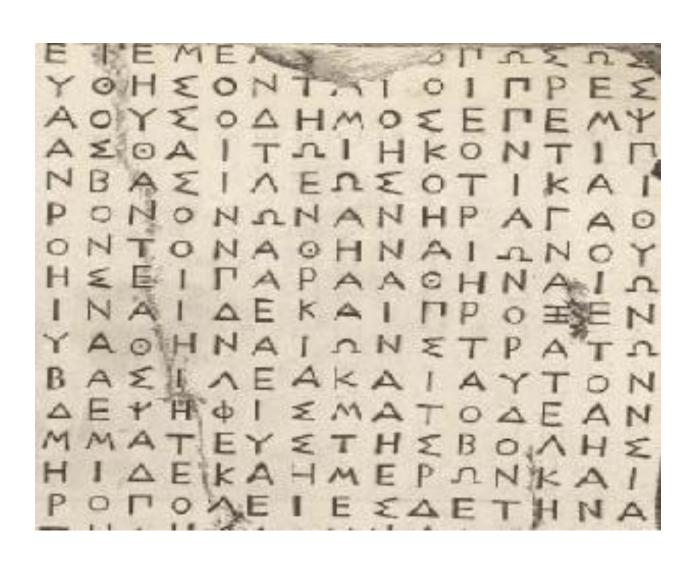
Spot the following words in Greek:



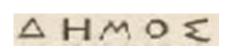
BAZINERE

AOHNAI

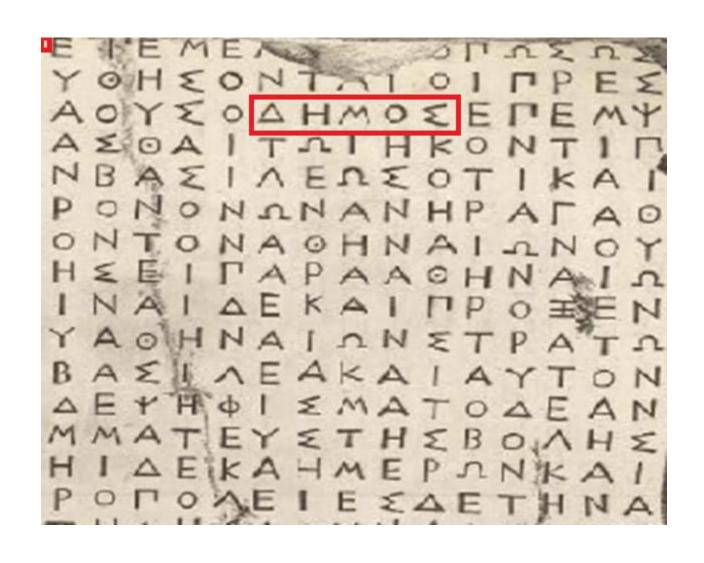
AEKA



Answers follow...

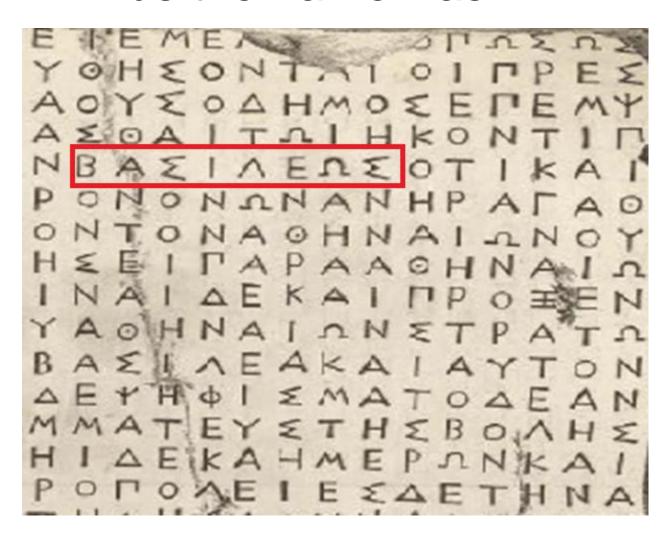


DEMOS = The People. Gives us the word DEMOCRACY



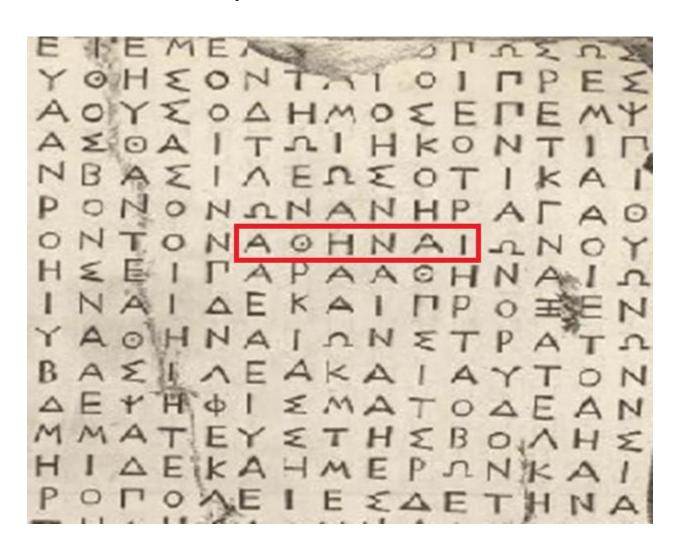


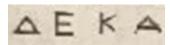
BASILEOS = The King. This gives us the name Basil



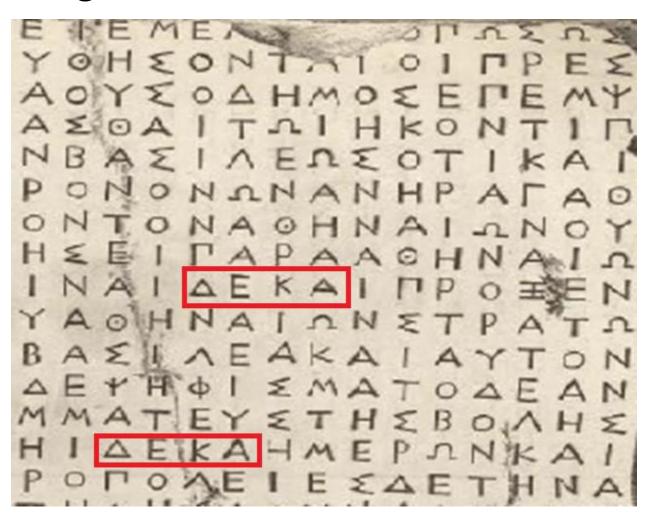


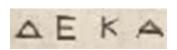
Athenai = Athens (modern capital of Greece!)



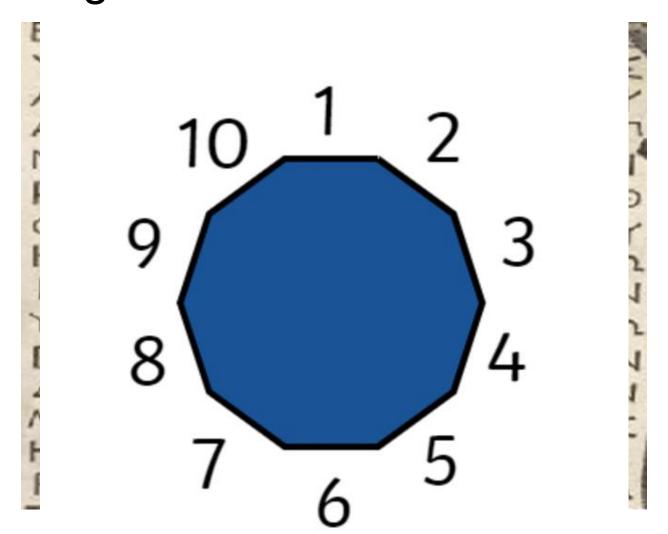


DEKA = Ten. Do you know what a decagon is?





DEKA = Ten. Do you know what a decagon is?



Writing in ancient Greek

 You might like to try our name-tag (pinakion) activity! See Resource 7.

Images

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