

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 Propylaea and the Parthenon.

The Greeks have an alphabet with 24 letters.

Some are the same as ours and others are different.

The Greek alphabet

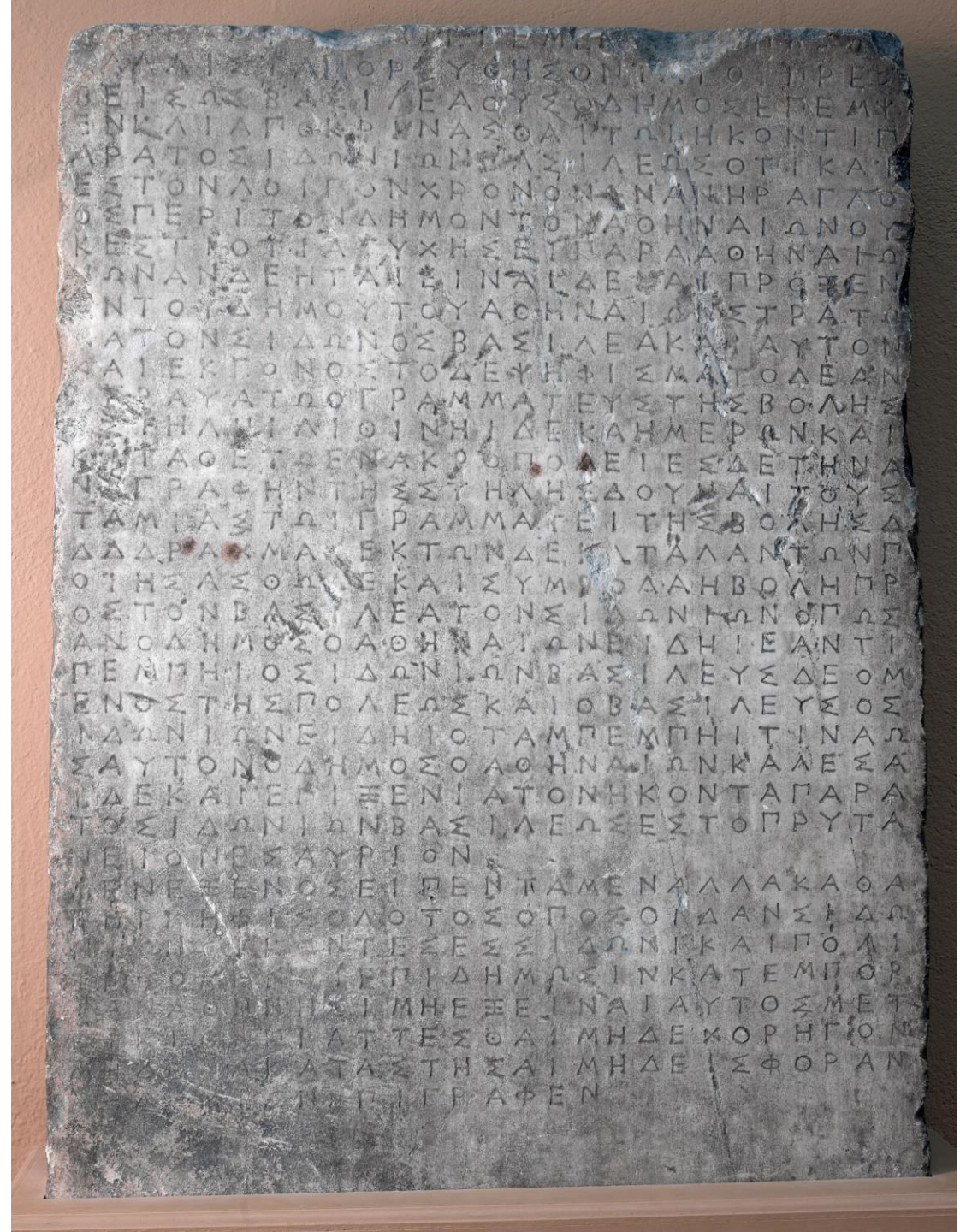
A α	alpha	a	N ν	nu	n
B β	beta	b	Ξ ξ	xi	x
Γ γ	gamma	g	Ο ο	omicron	short o
Δ δ	delta	d	Π π	pi	p
E ε	epsilon	short e	Ρ ρ	rho	r
Z ζ	zeta	z	Σ σ ς	sigma	s
			(at end of word)		
H η	eta	long e	Τ τ	tau	t
Θ θ	theta	th	Υ υ	upsilon	u
I ι	iota	i	Φ φ	phi	ph/f
K κ	kappa	k	Χ χ	chi	ch
Λ λ	lambda	l	Ψ ψ	psi	ps
M μ	mu	m	Ω ω	omega	long o

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

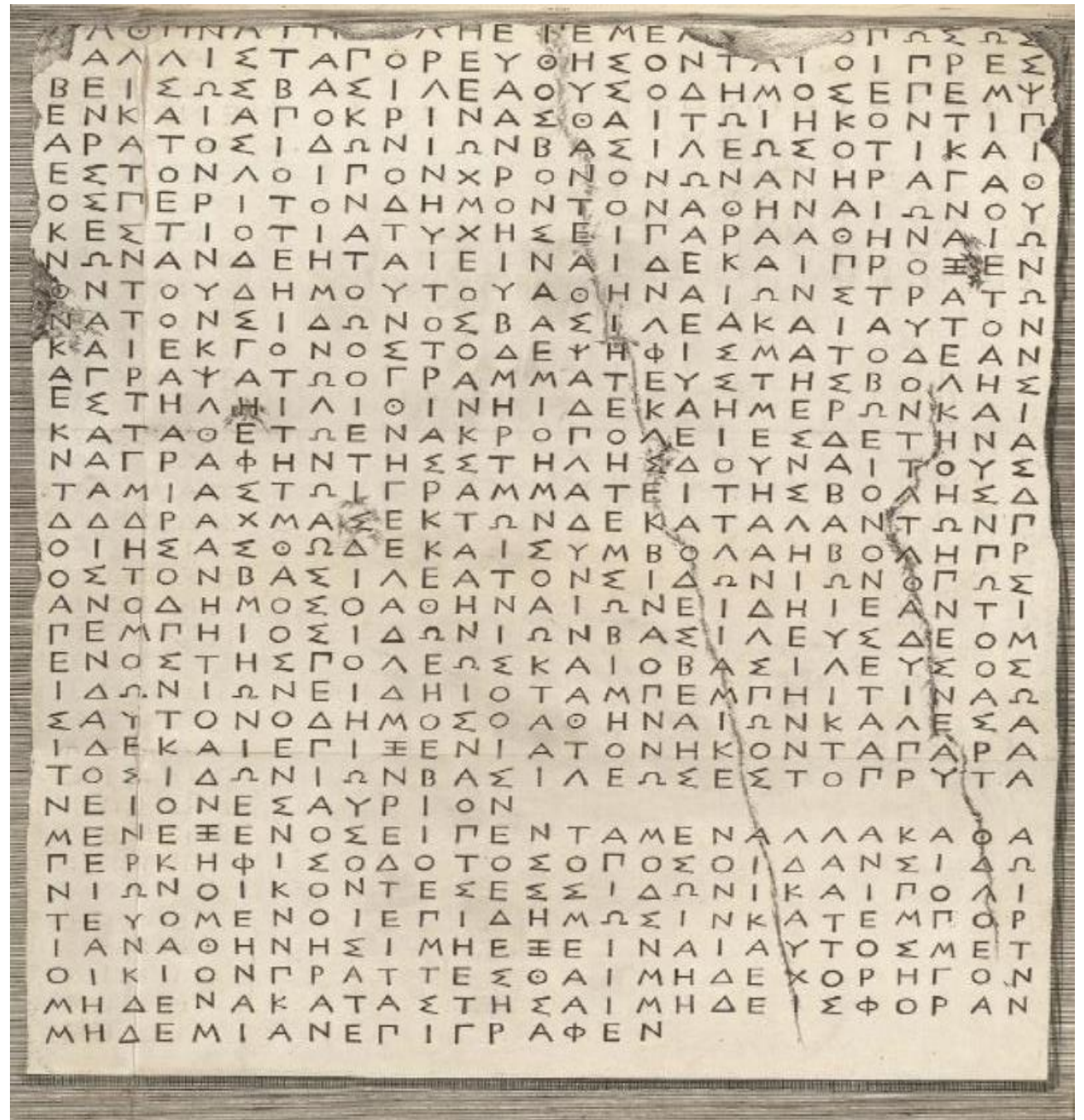
[The inscription is now in a museum in Oxford](#)



This is a drawing of the same inscription.






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

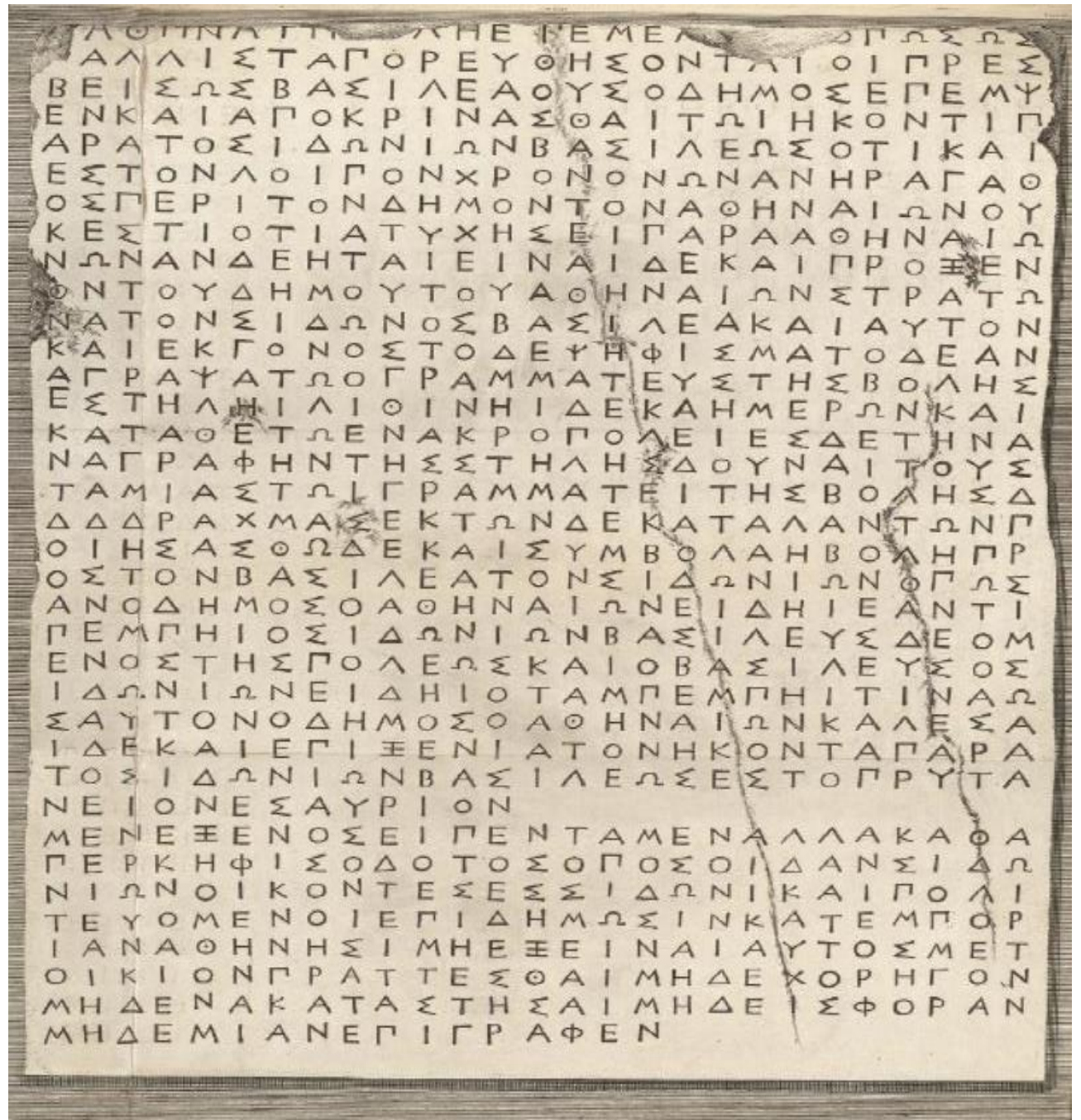
Which letters look less familiar?



Some letters are the same as English.

Others are different:

-  = D (*delta*)
-  = E (*eta*)
-  = TH (*theta*)
-  = S (*sigma*)
-  = O (*omega*)



Writing Activity

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

ΔΗΜΟΣ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ΑΘΗΝΑΙ

ΔΕΚΑ

Wordsearch Activity

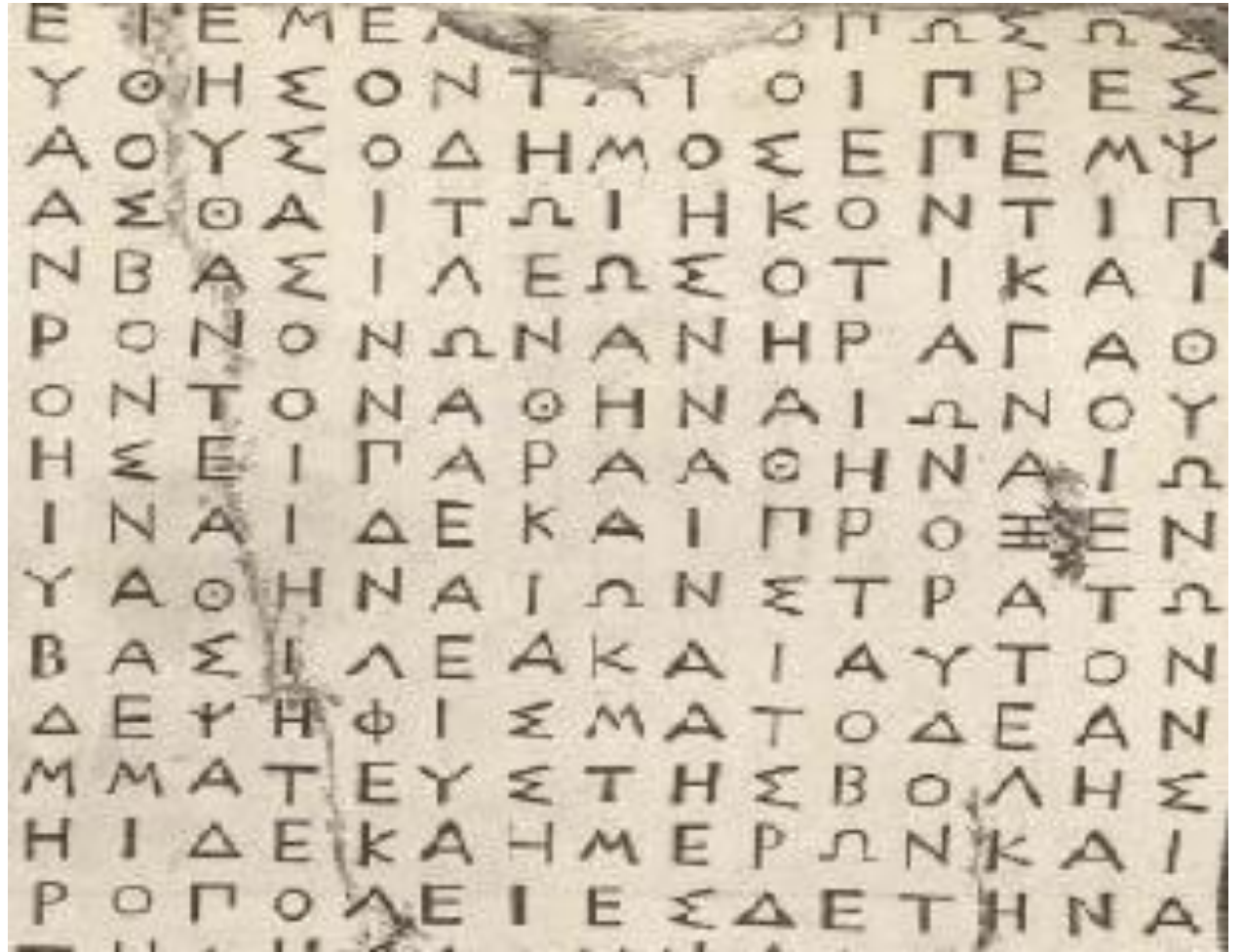
Spot the following words in Greek:

ΔΗΜΟΣ

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

ΑΘΗΝΑΙ

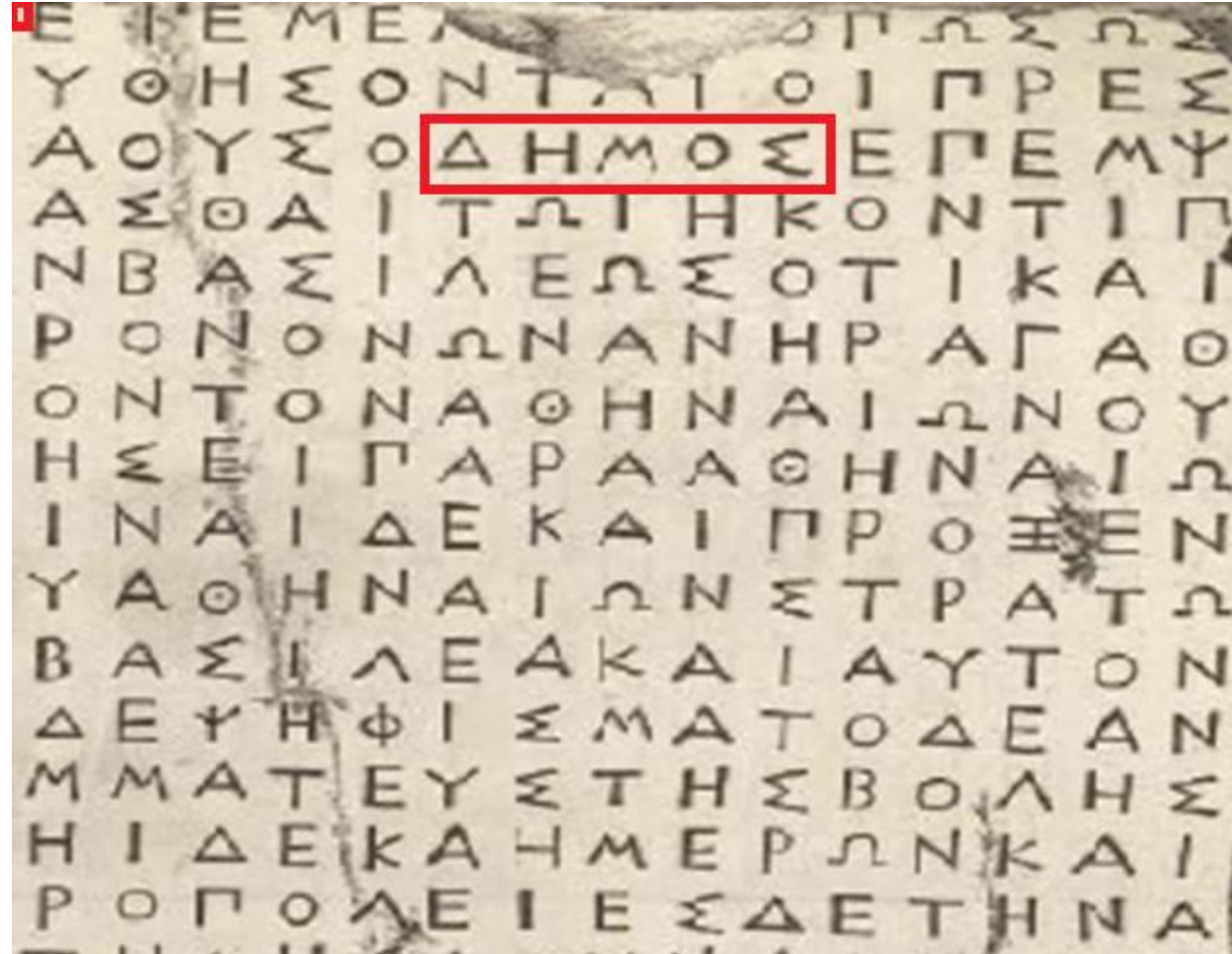
ΔΕΚΑ



Answers follow...

ΔΗΜΟΣ

DEMOS = The People. Gives us the word DEMOCRACY



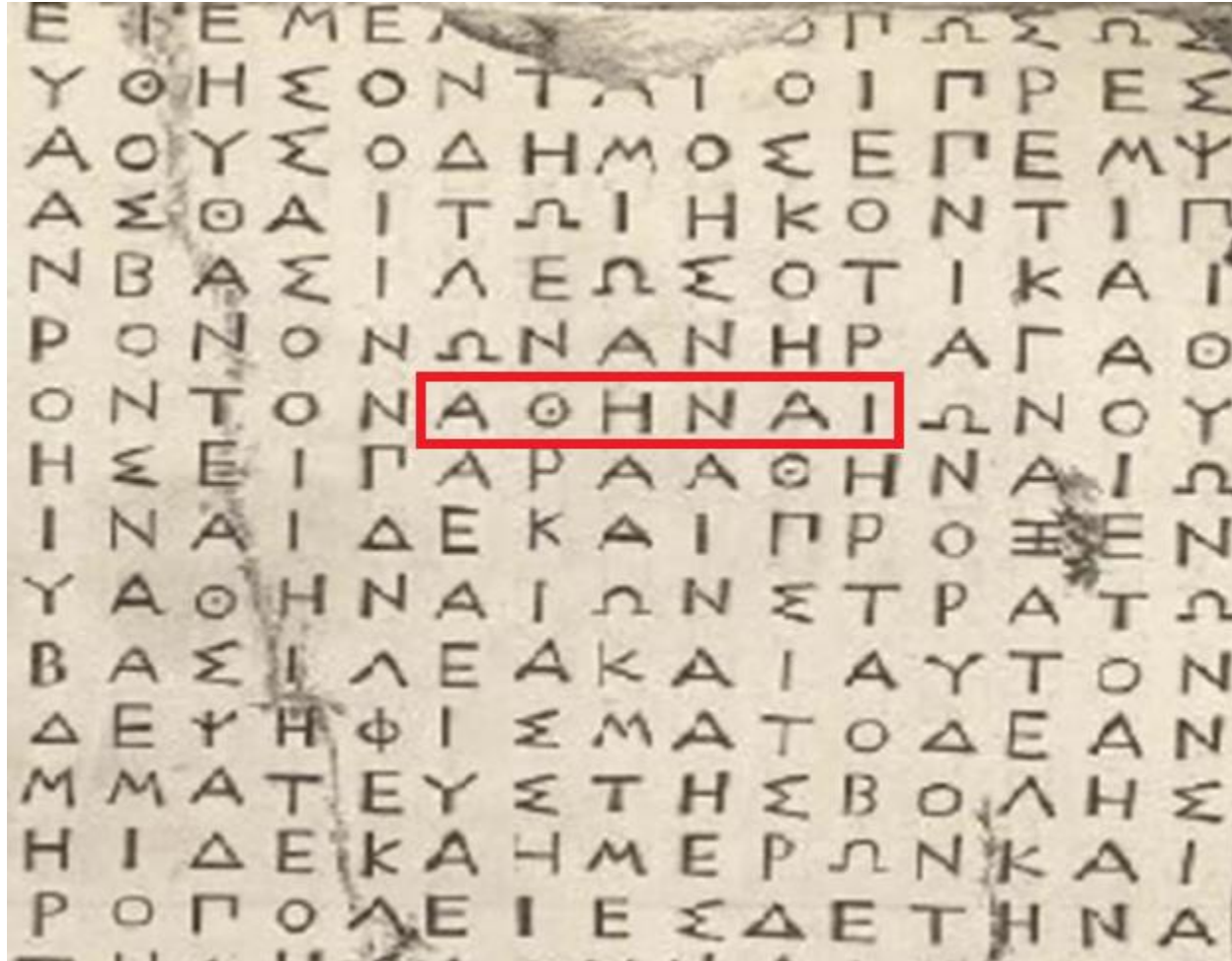
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ

BASILEOS = The King. This gives us the name Basil

ΕΙ ΜΕΛ... ΟΙ ΠΡΕΣ...
ΥΘΗΣΟΝΤΑΙ ΟΙ ΠΡΕΣ...
ΑΟΥΣΟΔΗΜΟΣ ΕΠΕΜΥ...
ΑΣΘΑΙΤΩΙ ΗΚΟΝΤΙ Π...
Ν ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΟΤΙΚΑΙ...
ΡΟΝΟΝΩΝΑΝΗΡΑΓΑΘ...
ΟΝΤΟΝΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝΟΥ...
ΗΜΕΙΓΑΡΑΘΗΝΑΙΩ...
ΙΝΑΙΔΕΚΑΙΠΡΟΞΕΝ...
ΥΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝΣΤΡΑΤΩ...
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΑΚΑΙΑΥΤΟΝ...
ΔΕΥΗΦΙΣΜΑΤΟΔΕΑΝ...
ΜΜΑΤΕΥΣΤΗΣΒΟΛΗΣ...
ΗΙΔΕΚΑΗΜΕΡΩΝΚΑΙ...
ΡΟΠΟΛΕΙΕΣΔΕΤΗΝΑ

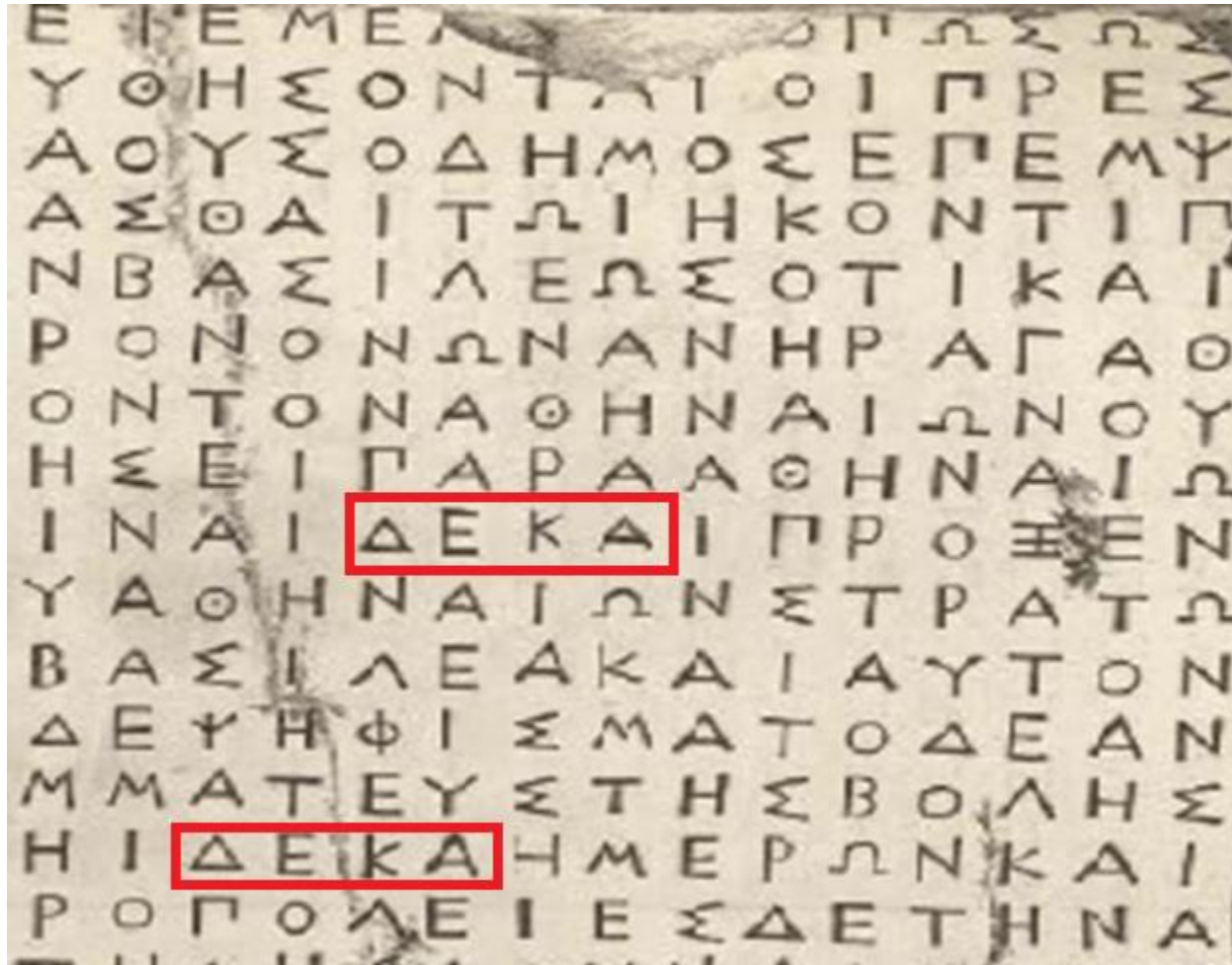
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ

Athenai = Athens (modern capital of Greece!)



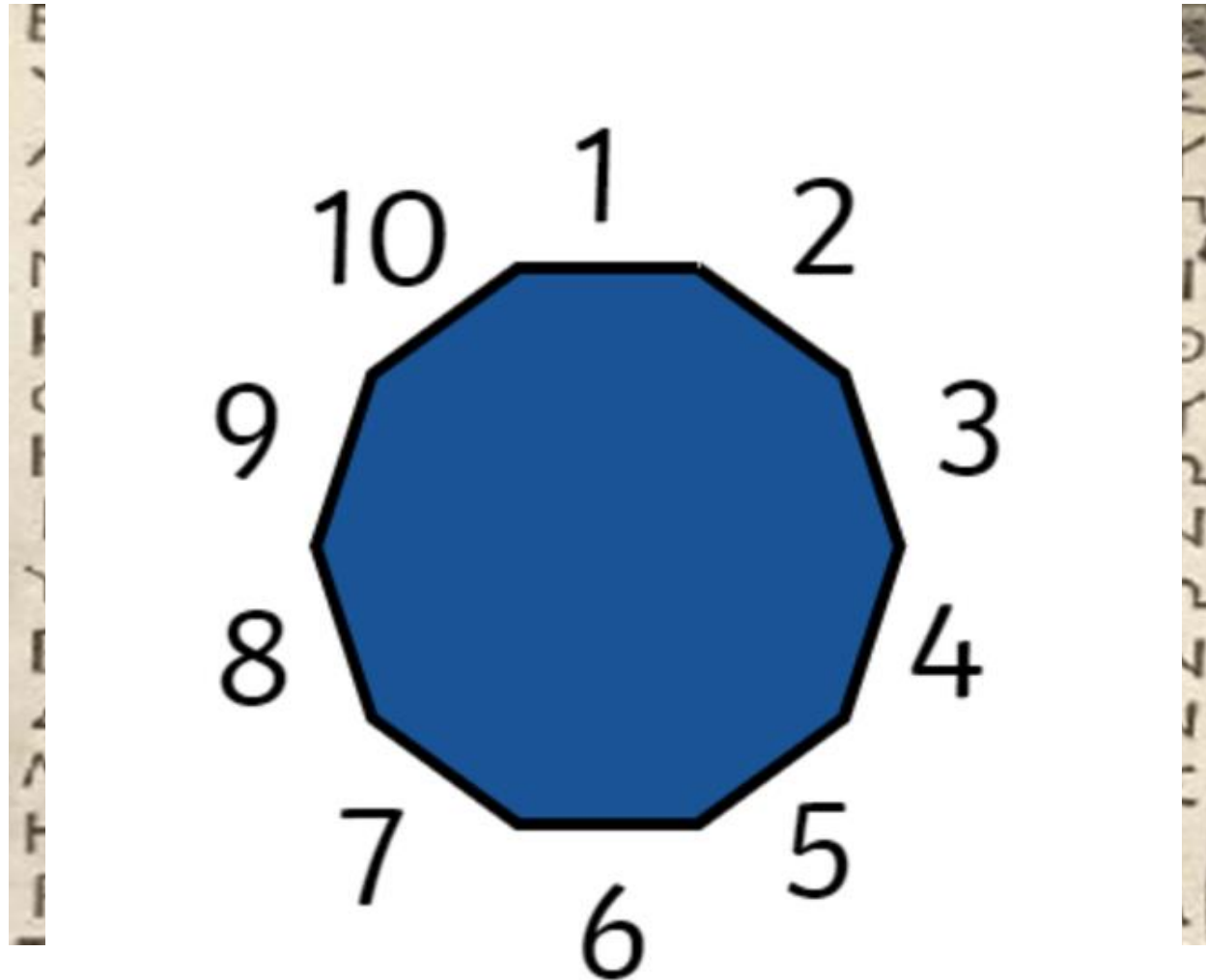
Δ Ε Κ Α

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



Δ Ε Κ Α

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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