DIY Egyptian Cartouche

Ancient Egyptians wrote names inside of an oval-shaped outline we call a cartouche (pronounced car – toosh). Use the chart below (or our online name generator) to convert the sounds in your name into the Egyptian hieroglyph that makes the same sound. Then, follow the steps below to make a clay cartouche you can wear.

MATERIALS:
- Air-dry clay (use this recipe to make-your-own)
- Yarn or string
- Pen, pencil, or toothpick to “carve” into the clay.

STEP 1: Roll your clay between your hands until it looks like snake. The size of your necklace will depend on the size of your piece. We used a quarter-sized amount of clay.

STEP 2: Use your finger to gently flatten the clay. Flip over to the smooth side to carve.

STEP 3: Using a pen or toothpick, make a hole in the top of the clay. You’ll want to be mindful of the size of your string or ribbon and make the hole large enough to fit the material you are using.

STEP 4: Using our hieroglyph generator (or the chart on the next page), carve your name or word into the clay using a toothpick or pencil. Allow to dry overnight (or follow the directions of the clay you are using).

STEP 5: Thread your yarn or string through the hole and make a knot. A word of caution here: your cartouche may be fragile and can break if you are not careful. If it does, just use a bit of superglue (like we did), and now you have something that looks like it belongs in the museum! 😊
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DIRECTIONS: Use the chart below (or our online name generator) to convert the sounds in your name into the Egyptian hieroglyph that makes the same sound. NOTE: You don’t need to include silent letters in your name.