The Rosetta Stone

11 Whilst digging to expand their fort in 1799, a group of
20 French soldiers made one of the most important historical
30 discoveries of all time – the Rosetta Stone. Named after the
40 town it was discovered in, the Rosetta Stone was created
52 over two thousand years ago and on it was the clue to
57 finally decoding ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

66 Hieroglyphics was a complicated way of writing in ancient
74 Egyptian times which used thousands of symbols. Some
83 of the symbols represented sounds, like our letters, whilst
92 others stood for whole words. Written on the Rosetta
104 Stone was one passage of text but it was in three different
111 languages: hieroglyphics, demotic (old Egyptian) and Greek.
121 It finally unlocked the secret of how to read hieroglyphics
131 because scholars knew what was being said in a language
135 we still speak today.

Quick Questions

1. Which word from the text means to 'make bigger'?

_____

2. Why is it called the Rosetta Stone?

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3. How do you think scholars felt when the Rosetta Stone was discovered? Give a reason for your answer.

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4. How do hieroglyphics compare to the alphabet we use today?

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Answers

1. Which word from the text means to 'make bigger'?
   expand

2. Why is it called the Rosetta Stone?
   Accept answers which state that it was named after the town it was discovered in.

3. How do you think scholars felt when the Rosetta Stone was discovered? Give a reason for your answer.
   Accept any appropriate answer (e.g. relieved, delighted, grateful) provided that it is supported by a relevant reason.

4. How do hieroglyphics compare to the alphabet we use today?
   Accept answers which discuss any relevant similarities or differences, e.g. 'our letters are also like pictures which mean a sound' or 'we do not use picture of people or things but they did.'