In the new book *Explorer Academy: The Nebula Secret*, 12-year-old Cruz Coronado breaks secret codes in order to fight dangerous villains and solve mysteries. Test your own skills by cracking the code on this page, then check out more about the book at ExplorerAcademy.com.

**THE CODE: HIEROGLYPHS**

Ancient Egyptians used a writing system made up of symbols called hieroglyphs. These hieroglyphs represented objects, which conveyed concepts, numbers, and speech sounds. The number system was based on multiples of 10. So to write the number 3, the Egyptians would write the hieroglyph for “1” three times. Or to write the number 20, they would use the hieroglyph for “10” two times.

1 = [hieroglyph image]
10 = [hieroglyph image]
100 = [hieroglyph image]
1,000 = [hieroglyph image]
10,000 = [hieroglyph image]
100,000 = [hieroglyph image]
1,000,000 = [hieroglyph image]

The hieroglyphs looked like this.

So the number 3,412 could be written like this.

**ANCIENT EMOJIS**

Ancient Egyptians based hieroglyphs on real-life objects and drawings of their gods. Check out the origins of some of their number symbols.

- a finger
- a piece of rope
- a coil of rope used to hold an animal
- a lotus, a type of plant
- a large finger
- a tadpole becoming a frog
- the Egyptian god Heh

Using your knowledge of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, decode the following numbers. Then sort the numbers from highest to lowest. Finally, place the letters in the white boxes according to the numerical order.

- R
- U
- I
- N
- C
- R
- A
- Z
- E
- D
- S
- I
- G
- N

**CRACK THIS CODE!**

Write the numbers here!

40

Write the letters here!

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**BREAK MORE CODES!**

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