



Ostrakon pot shard with coptic

This is a shard of pottery, sometimes called an ostrakon, and this is essentially the ancient Egyptian equivalent of a post-it note. This is what you would write or sketch something on and throw away quite quickly after you'd use it. But the use of ostraca are very helpful for archaeologists, because they give us an insight into what the ancient Egyptians were doing: so business transactions, household accounts, even poetry is written on ostraca. Flakes of limestone or shards of pottery like this.

This comes from the first few centuries AD and is written in Coptic. Coptic is the ancient Egyptian language written in Greek letters, and it helps us understand how ancient Egyptian might have sounded when it was spoken aloud.