






Subject: Hieroglyphs as emoji?  
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 Working Draft: <https://goo.gl/rnh7S4>

The Emoji SC would like to have a question of policy settled by the UTC. It would be possible to satisfy some—perhaps a substantial number—of the requests for certain kinds of emoji by making use of characters that are already encoded in Unicode—such as those in the hieroglyphs block. For example, animals and plants there include:

donkey, jackal, panther, hippopotamus, elephant, giraffe, oryx, gazelle, ibex, goat, baboon, hare, hartebeest, Egyptian vulture, buzzard, falcon, vulture, guinea-fowl, hoopoe, lawping, northern bald ibis, sacred ibis, flamingo, glossy ibis, saddle-billed stork, heron, cattle egret, ostrich, cormorant, swallow, sparrow, white-fronted goose, pintail, widgeon, quail chick, duckling, plovers, pintail, crested bird, spoonbill, gecko, turtle, crocodile, frog, tadpole, horned viper, cobra, tilapia, barbel, mullet, elephant-snout fish, *Petrocephalus bane*, puffer, catfish, dung beetle, bee, fly, locust, centipede, shell, palm, lotus, papyrus, reed, rush, sedge, lily, flowering sedge, and emmer

- For a full list, see <https://goo.gl/kknqQ4>. These use data from <http://mjn.host.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/egyptian/unicode/tablemain.html>
  - In any event, we might consider adding those names as annotations
- Before viewing, make sure that you have an appropriate font, such as *Aegyptus* from <http://users.teilar.gr/~g1951d/>.

Like many other characters predating the formal introduction of emoji into Unicode, these would have a default text presentation, and would appear as they do now unless signaled by a VS or other mechanism. Unlike the CJK ideographs, these character do (generally) have a shape that more or less depicts the entity in question. For example:

U+130EE		panther
U+130EF		hippopotamus
U+130F0		elephant
U+130F1		giraffe
U+130F2		oryx

### Pros & Cons

1. The advantages of doing this include providing a substantial number of emoji without waiting for the addition of new characters. While probably not the most frequently used characters, it would help particular user communities, such as the WWF. The ESC would still need to review each request, of course, since many would not be suitable as emoji.
2. The disadvantages include that an Egyptologist SMS'ing a hippopotamus character, for example, could get an unexpectedly colorful representation!