Rosetta Stone: The actual Rosetta Stone is an incomplete black basalt slab bearing an inscription that was the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics and thus to the foundation of modern Egyptology. The stone was inscribed in 196 BC with a decree praising the Egyptian king Ptolemy V. Because the inscription is in three scripts: hieroglyphic, demotic, and Greek, scholars were able to decipher the hieroglyphic and demotic versions by comparing them with the Greek. The deciphering was chiefly done by the British Egyptologist Thomas Young and the French Egyptologist Jean François Champollion.

Contemporary references: the name of a brand of foreign-language-learning series; also an on-line version of a Rosetta Stone built to help translate different terms across software packages.

actress Karen Black: Best known for roles in “Easy Rider” and “Five Easy Pieces.” Her roles mainly consisted of waitresses, hookers, and women on the edge

(the real) Dr. Francis Crick: was one of the discoverers of the structure of the DNA molecule. In 1951, he started working with James D. Watson at Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge in England. Together developed the proposal of the helical structure of DNA, which they published in 1953, and for which both were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962.

He also made significant contributions in laying the foundations of the now mature field of molecular biology. This includes work on the nature of the genetic code and the mechanisms of protein synthesis. He later left molecular biology for his other interest, consciousness. His autobiographical book What Mad Pursuit includes a description of why he left molecular biology and switched to neuroscience. Crick's book The Astonishing Hypothesis makes the argument that neuroscience now has the tools required to begin a scientific study of how brains produce conscious experiences. He is a well-known atheist who also advocated directed panspermia (that the seeds of life are prevalent throughout the Universe and life on Earth began by such seeds landing on Earth and propagating) as a hypothesis for how life started on Earth.