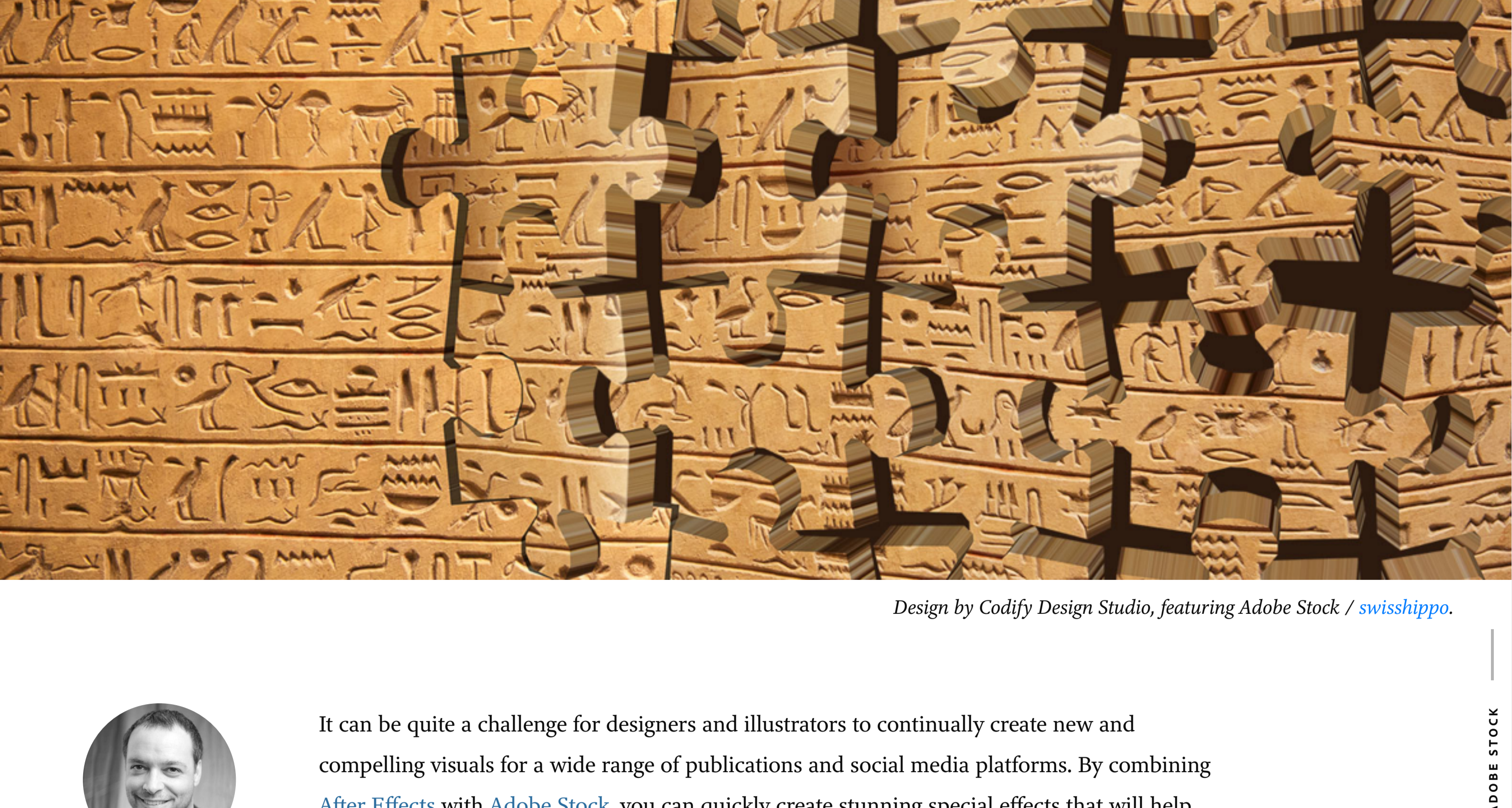


Create a Unique Editorial Graphic with After Effects and Adobe Stock



Design by Codify Design Studio, featuring Adobe Stock / swishippo.



by [Chris Converse](#)

POSTED ON 01-14-2019

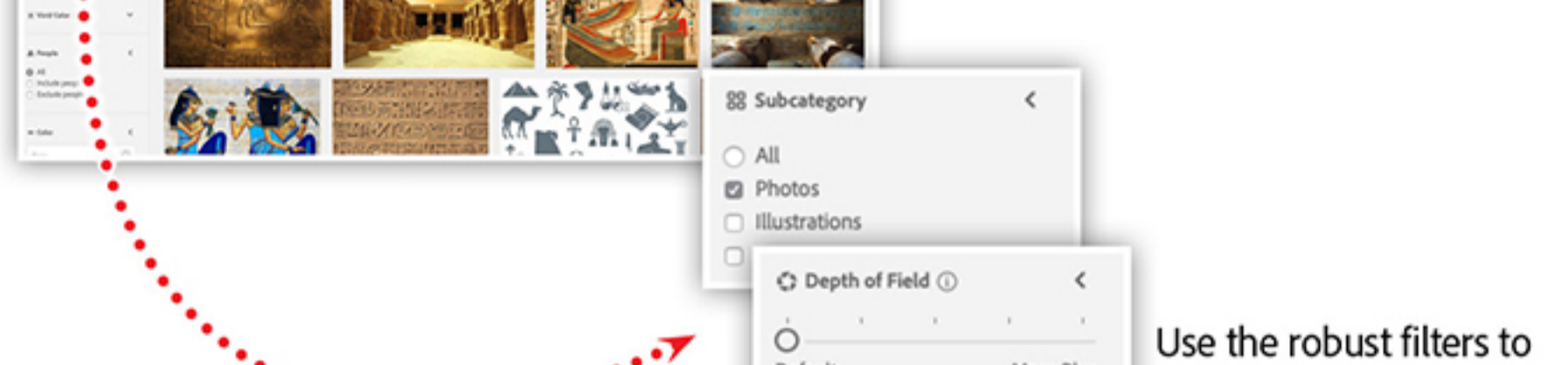
Adobe Products in this article



It can be quite a challenge for designers and illustrators to continually create new and compelling visuals for a wide range of publications and social media platforms. By combining [After Effects](#) with [Adobe Stock](#), you can quickly create stunning special effects that will help you visually tell a story.

Finding the right image on Adobe Stock

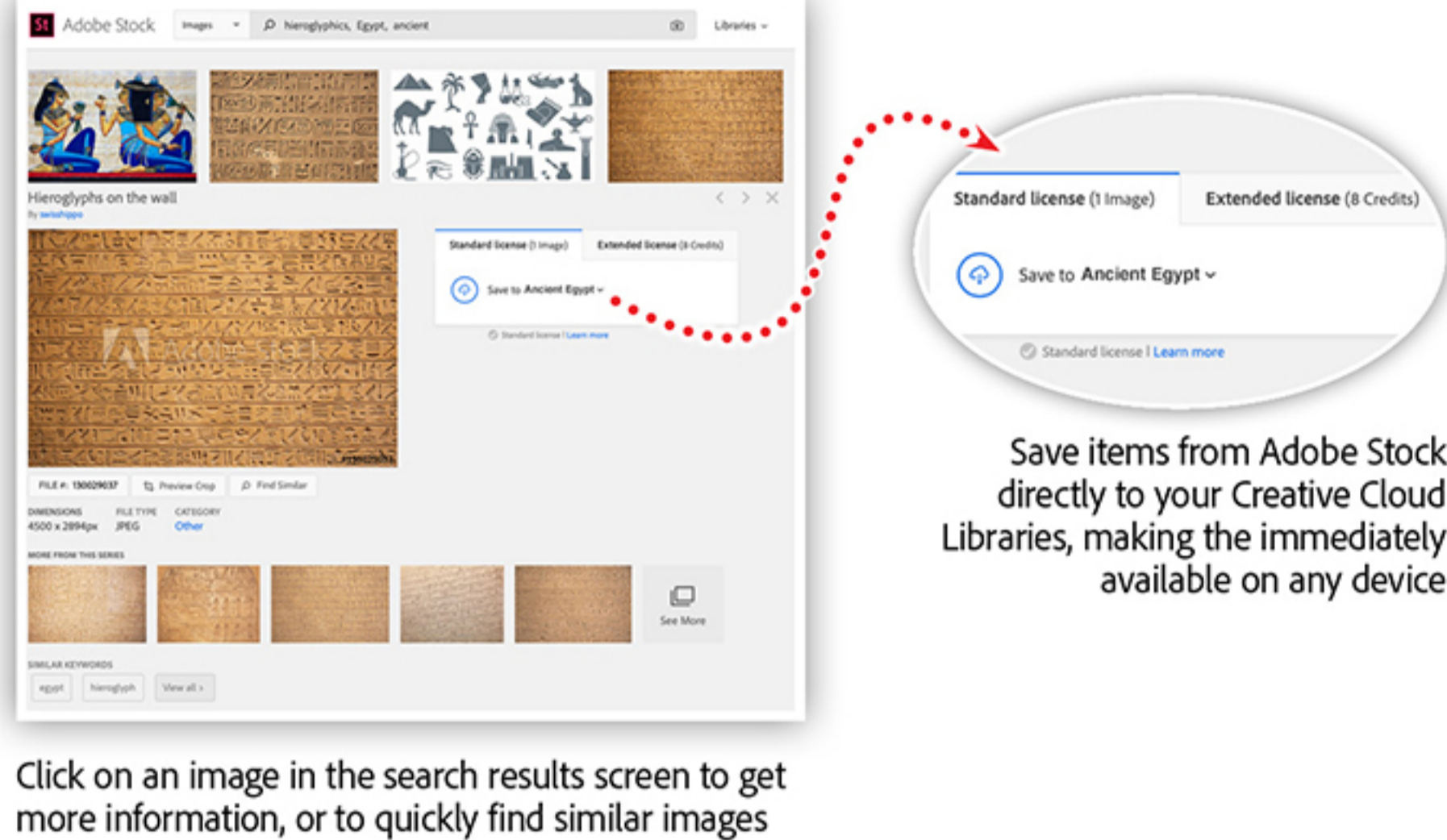
For this project, we need to create a graphic for an online story about deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. The subheadline of the article will be **Piecing together the past**.



Enter multiple keywords, separated by commas, to begin searching for related images

Use the robust filters to refine your search

We'll begin our [search on Adobe Stock](#) by entering a few keywords including "hieroglyphics," "Egypt," and "ancient." In the filters area, I'll also refine the search to include only photos and I'll set the depth of field to the lowest setting to ensure the whole image is in focus.



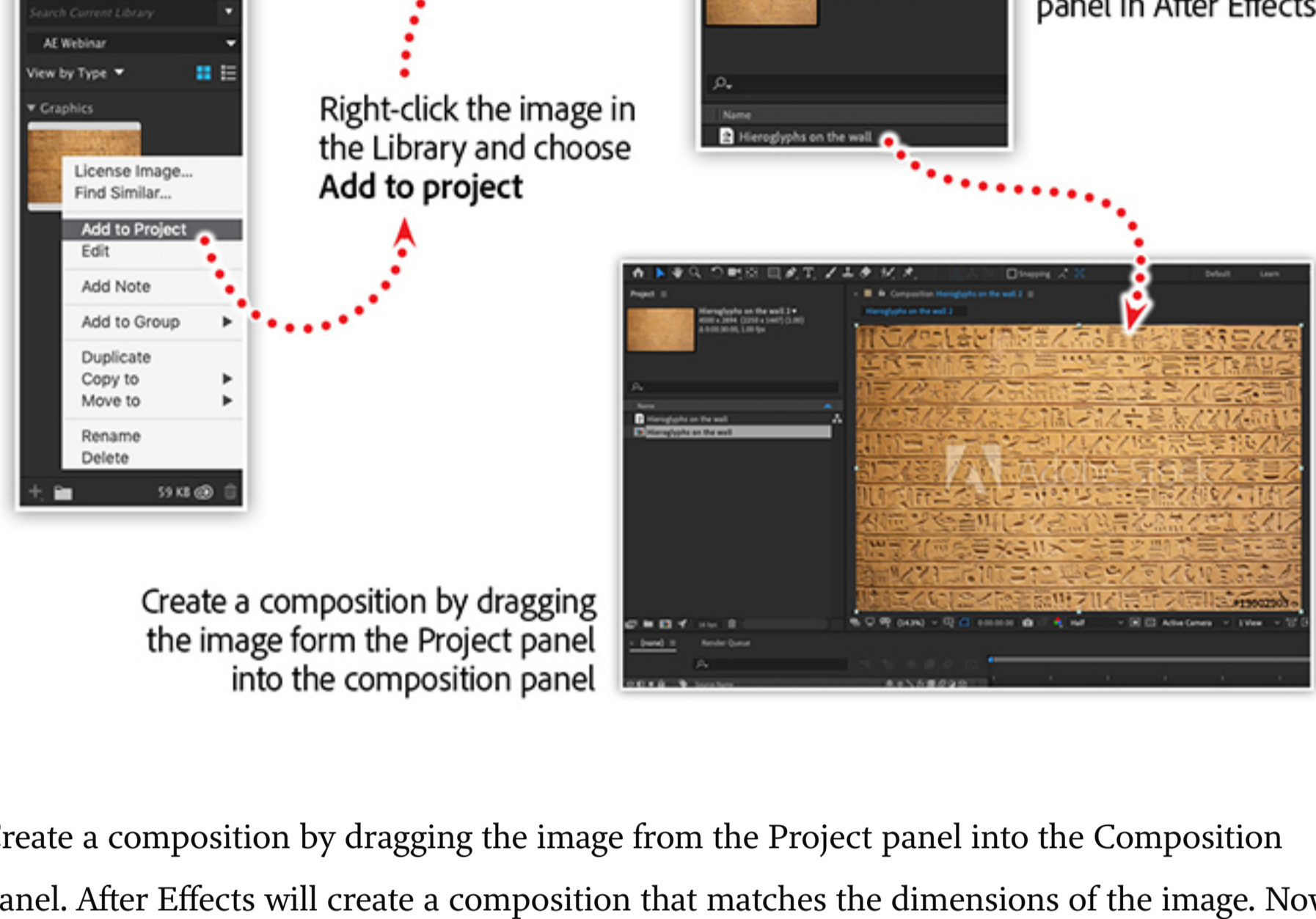
Save items from Adobe Stock directly to your Creative Cloud Libraries, making the immediately available on any device

Click on an image in the search results screen to get more information, or to quickly find similar images

Once I find the right image, I'll save a preview image (with a watermark) to my Creative Cloud Library named **Ancient Egypt**. You can download as many preview images as you like, then immediately license a full-resolution image at any time — [more on that later](#).

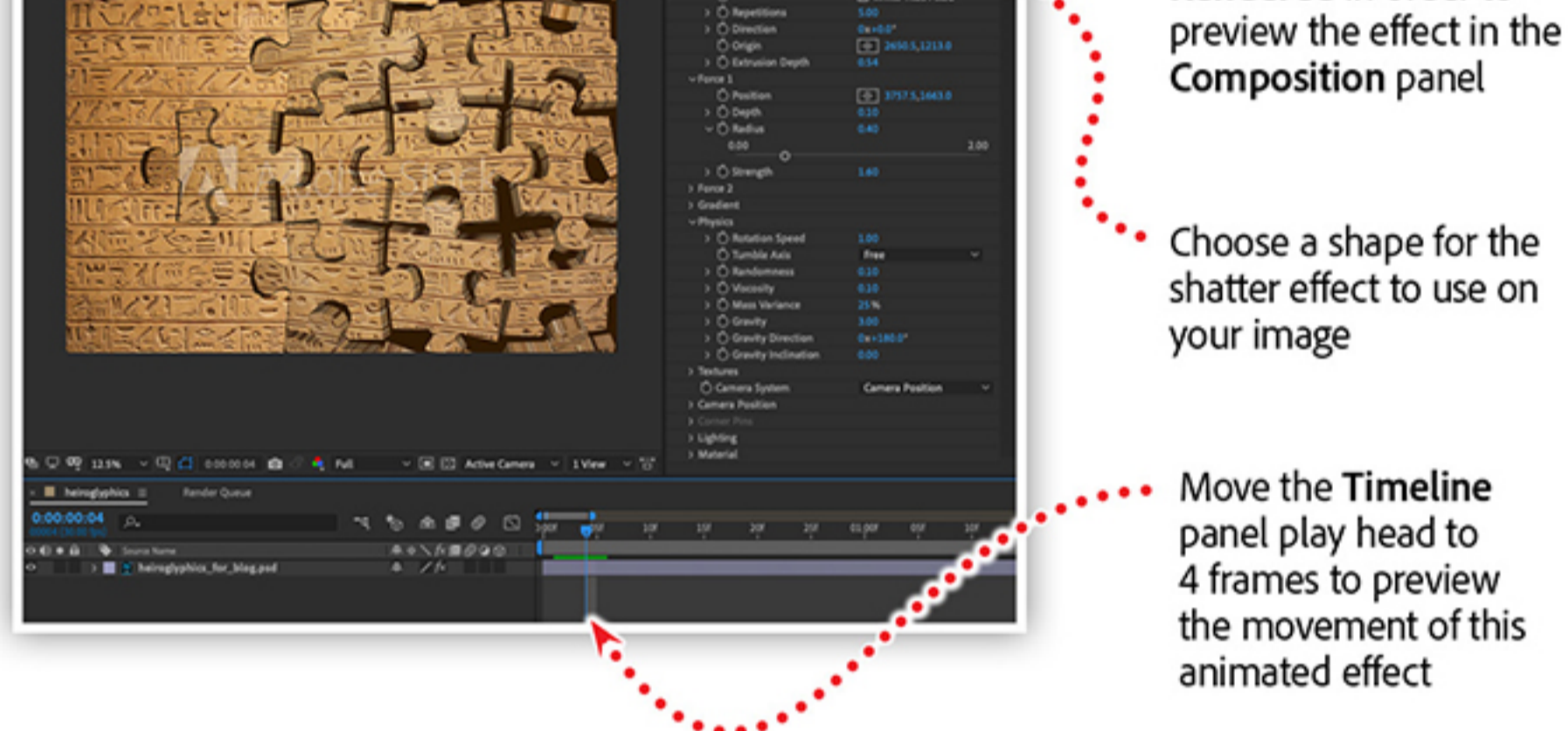
Applying special effects in After Effects

Create a new project in After Effects and make sure the Creative Cloud Libraries panel is open. Locate the image saved to the library (from the Adobe Stock website), right-click on it, and choose **Add the Project**. This will add a link to the asset in the Project panel.



Create a composition by dragging the image from the Project panel into the Composition panel. After Effects will create a composition that matches the dimensions of the image. Now we're ready to add some special effects to the image.

Open the **Effects & Presets** panel in After Effects and search for the **Shatter** effect. This effect will break the image apart into 3D pieces — which will play nicely with the subheading of the article.



Shatter effect applied to the image from the **Effects & Presets** panel

Render view set to **Rendered** in order to preview the effect in the **Composition** panel

Choose a shape for the shatter effect to use on your image

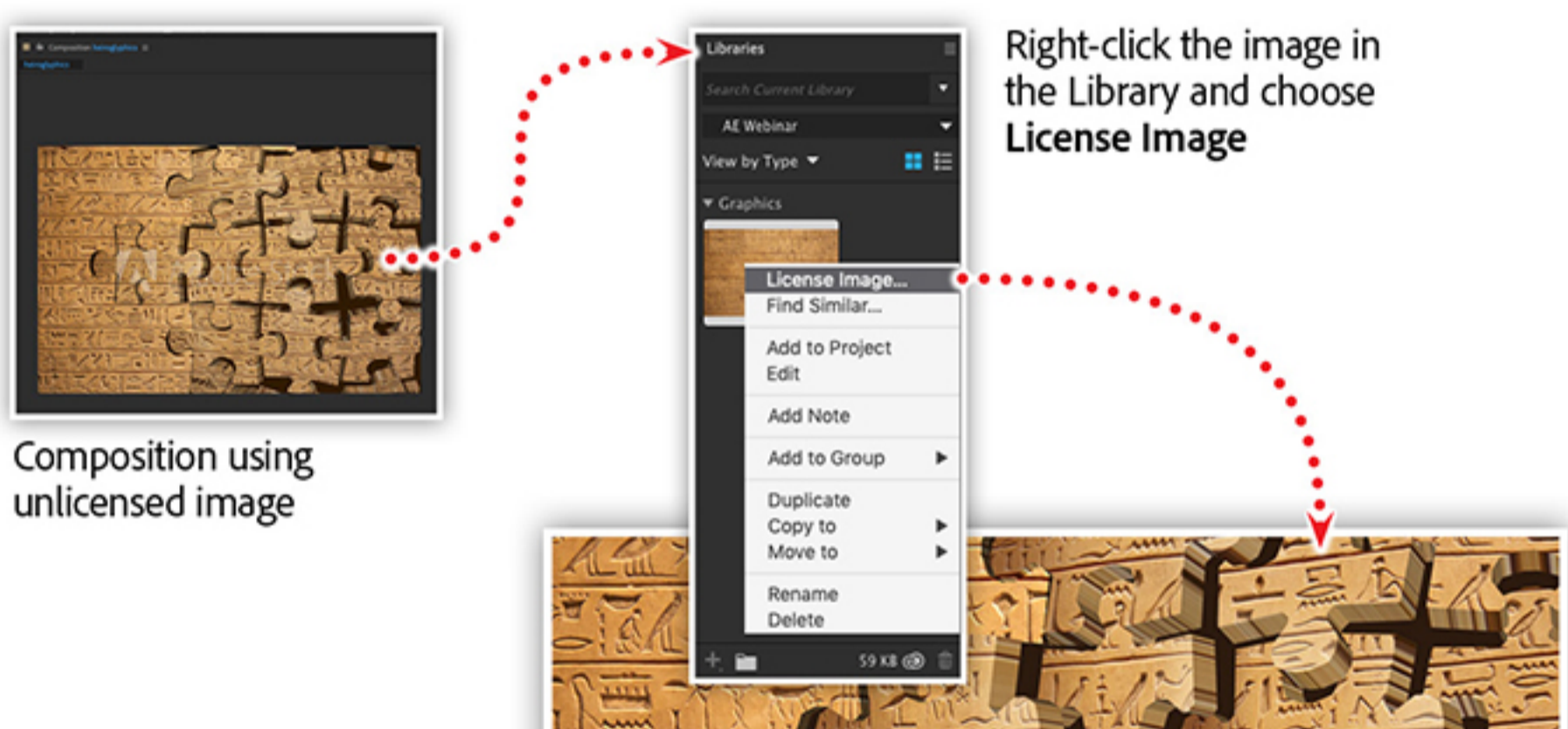
Move the **Timeline** panel play head to 4 frames to preview the movement of this animated effect

The Shatter effect, like some other effects, is animated by default. To see the effect animation, we'll need to move the timeline playhead forward a few seconds. This effect also defaults to a [wireframe](#) view, so we'll switch this in the **Effect Controls** panel to **Rendered**. Now we'll see the rendered effect in the **Composition** panel.

In order to match the storyline of the article, we'll change the shape to puzzle, and adjust other properties to change the size, rotation, and lighting of the overall effect. Don't be afraid to experiment, all of the effects in After Effects are nondestructive.

Quick and easy licensing

Once you are happy with your custom image, licensing is a snap! Locate the image in the Libraries panel, right-click on it, and choose **License Image**.



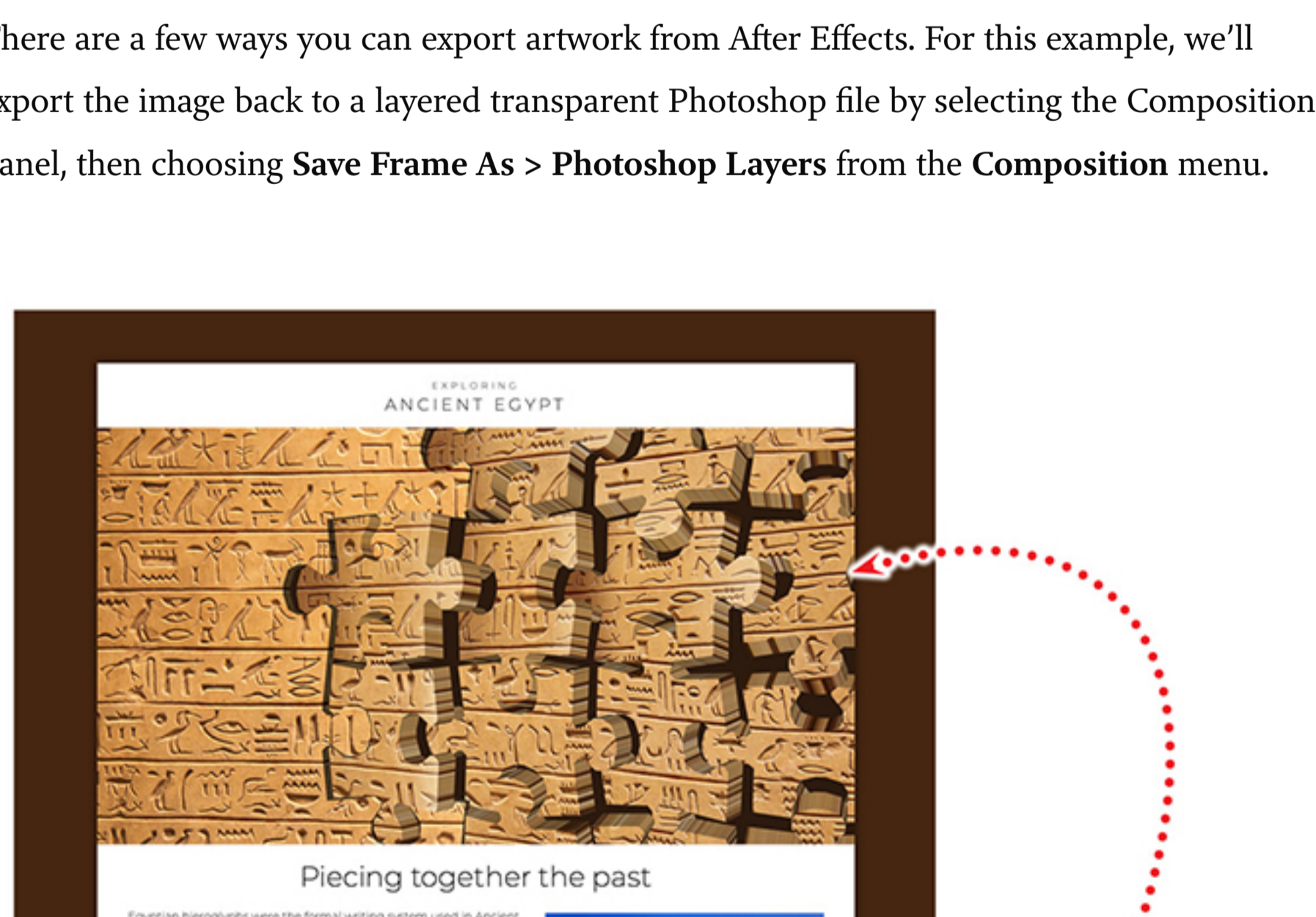
Composition using unlicensed image

Full-resolution Licensed image is replaced in the composition, complete with all adjustments and effects applied

Your image is automatically licensed, and After Effects will replace the image in your composition. And the best part is that all adjustments and effects are applied to the newly licensed image.

Export your editorial graphic

There are a few ways you can export artwork from After Effects. For this example, we'll export the image back to a layered transparent Photoshop file by selecting the Composition panel, then choosing **Save Frame As > Photoshop Layers** from the **Composition** menu.



Web page featuring a custom editorial image created with an Adobe Stock photo and After Effects

Then, back in Photoshop, you can apply any additional color corrections, then export multiple-sized graphics for use in the final web article. [Check out Photoshop + After Effects = Awesomeness](#) for more options on exporting artwork from After Effects.

Watch a FREE webinar that shows this entire workflow

Have you downloaded **ALL** of the design tools from the Creative Cloud? Supercharge any design project with stunning visual effects with After Effects. Join us as we teach you to leverage the power of After Effects to create unique artwork for print, web, illustration, and photography projects.

In the [After Effects for Print, Web, Photography, and more](#) webinar you'll learn to:

- Create your own custom artwork.
- Design jaw-dropping special effects fast.
- Generate custom textures and natural phenomena like rain and lightning.
- Achieve advanced transparency effects within your images.
- Export artwork to Photoshop — with layers and transparency.

Adobe Creative Cloud e-learning series

[After Effects for Print, Web, Photography, and more](#)



Topics in this article



Recommended Articles

