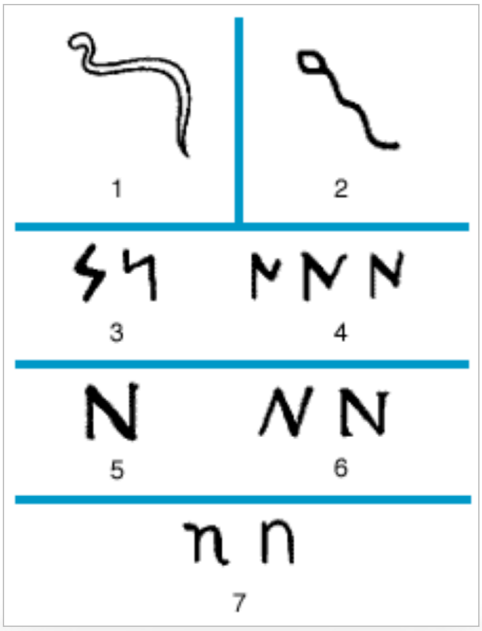
nape

Pattern power

A deeper dive into n

n is found in different parts of 310,458 words: a few counts follow:

n	_ n	_ _ n	_ _ _ n	_ _ _ _ n	_ _ _ _ _ n
16,174	41,038	41,516	25,424	25,315	29,985



Development of the letter n.

The letter probably started as a picture sign of a snake, as in Egyptian hieroglyphic writing

1. and in a very early Semitic writing which was used about 1500 bce on the Sinai Peninsula.
2. About 1000 bce, in Byblos and other Phoenician and Canaanite centres, the sign was given a linear form
3. The source of all later forms. In the Semitic languages the sign was called nahas, meaning “snake,” or nun, meaning "fish." The Greeks changed the Semitic name nun to nu. They also changed the direction of the sign to suit the left-to-right direction of their writing
4. Later they made the upright strokes of equal length
5. The Romans took the sign without change into Latin
6. From Latin the capital letter N came into English. The English small handwritten n is simply a quickly made capital N with curves instead of angles
7. The printed small n is similar to the handwritten form.

source: Encyclopedia Britannica

The letter n is a common, obvious abbreviation for several words, most notably number, north, and noun. It is also used informally to represent "and" in phrases like "rock 'n' roll”.

nape is found 6 times in the Complete Works of William Shakespeare while the letter n appears 264,426 times. n appears 179 times in two speeches by entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker.