

Tutankhamun's Tomb



Who Found His Tomb?

The tomb was found by a group of researchers led by Howard Carter. Tutankhamun is one of the most famous and talked about pharaohs because his tomb was only found in 1922, which means that all of the treasures and the body inside have been left in very good condition. Carter knew where to look because he worked out from other important finds that the tomb would be in the Valley of the Kings. Carter said that a cup, with Tutankhamun and his wife on it, was a clue that helped him find the tomb. The cup was found by a man called Theodore Davies.

What They Found Inside

Inside the tomb they found over 3000 treasures that were put in for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. Many of the items were made from, or covered in, gold - only fitting for a king to own. The tomb itself was split into many different rooms. Most of the rooms were for the objects, apart from the burial chamber which just held his sarcophagus (a decorated stone coffin).

Decoration

The burial chamber with the body is the only decorated room in the tomb, which is very unusual for a resting place for a king.



Normally, all the walls would be carved or painted, which is how we know that Tutankhamun died very suddenly. Many historians also believe that the tomb itself was not made for him in the first place and the burial chamber and decorations were added later.

The images on the walls were from a ritual called the 'opening of the mouth'.

The Curse of the Mummy!

The curse of the mummy started after Tutankhamun's tomb was opened. Mummies have been thought to have magical powers over any who disturb them. It started with Lord Carnarvon; the man who paid for the dig of King Tut's tomb died 5 months after it was opened. As soon as he died, all the lights in Cairo went out mysteriously. Other stories are that Carter's pet canary was killed by a cobra and Carnarvon's dog died the same night. Some think it was a germ but others say it was magic.



Tutankhamun's Tomb Questions

1. Which year was Tutankhamun's tomb discovered? Tick **one**.

- Lord Carnarvon
- Thoedore Davies
- Howard Carter
- Howard Carnarvon

2. Why is Tutankhamun one of the most famous pharaohs?

3. Explain in your own words how we know Tutankhamun died suddenly.

4. Use the information in the text to match the people up to their role in the discovery.

- Over 3000
- Over 300
- Over 30,000
- Over 30

5. **Find** and **copy** a word that means 'a religious ceremony'.

6. What happened 5 months after the tomb was opened? Tick **one**.

- Howard Carter died
- Lord Carnarvon died
- The tomb collapsed
- Lord Carnarvon's cat died.

7. Use the information in the text to fill in the blanks.

Tutankahamun's tomb contained so many treasures covered in, or _____

_____, gold so he could take them with him to the _____.

His body was in a stone coffin called a _____.

8. Do you think Howard Carter believed in the mummy's curse? Use the text to support your ideas?

Tutankhamun's Tomb Answers

1. Which year was Tutankhamun's tomb discovered? Tick **one**.

Howard Carter

2. Why is Tutankhamun one of the most famous pharaohs?

Tutankhamun is one of the most famous pharaohs because his tomb was discovered quite recently (1922). This means that the artefacts and the body are in a good condition.

3. Explain in your own words how we know Tutankhamun died suddenly. **Accept any response that suggests Tutankhamun died before the tomb was finished, such as: 'We know Tutankhamun died suddenly because the tomb was not completely decorated. Usually a tomb for a king would have paintings in all of the rooms, but only his burial chamber had paintings in, so maybe he died before the tomb was ready for him.'**

4. Use the information in the text to match the people up to their role in the discovery.

Over 3000

5. **Find and copy** a word that means 'a religious ceremony'.
ritual

6. What happened 5 months after the tomb was opened? Tick **one**.

Lord Carnarvon died

7. Use the information in the text to fill in the blanks.

Tutankhamun's tomb contained so many treasures covered in, or **made from**, gold so he could take them with him to the **afterlife**. His body was in a stone coffin called a **sarcophagus**.

8. Do you think Howard Carter believed in the mummy's curse? Use the text to support your ideas.

Pupil's own response, that refers to the text, such as, 'I believe Howard Carter might start to believe in the mummy's curse because of all the things happened to Lord Carnarvon and his pets.' Or 'I believe Howard Carter didn't believe in the Mummy's curse because if he did, he would not have opened the tomb.'