

Howard Carter

Howard Carter was a British Egyptologist and archaeologist. He became famous after making an incredible discovery in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.



Early Life

Howard Carter was born in London on 9th May 1874. His father was an artist and he taught Howard how to create accurate paintings and drawings. When he was young, Howard spent a lot of time with his relatives who lived very close to a grand mansion, which contained a large number of ancient Egyptian artefacts.

It was here that Howard first developed an interest in ancient Egypt. When he was 17 years old, Howard started to work as an artist and he was paid to create drawings of important Egyptian finds.

Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb

After working as an archaeologist for several years, Howard was employed by Lord Carnarvon. Lord Carnarvon was a wealthy man who was very interested in the Valley of the Kings. Unfortunately, during the first few years of their work, Howard and his team discovered very little. Because of this, Lord Carnarvon told Howard that he had one year left to find something significant or he would cease all funding.

Luckily, on the 4th November 1922, Howard Carter's water boy stumbled across a large stone in the place they had been excavating. Howard recognised this stone as one that belonged to a set of stairs. He believed that they led to a previously undiscovered tomb. Immediately, Howard called Lord Carnarvon who landed in Egypt on 26th November 1922. The team were now ready to make an incredible discovery.

Using a small chisel that his grandmother had given to him as a present for his 17th birthday, Howard made a small hole in the wall they had discovered. When Howard looked through the hole in the wall, he could see hundreds of golden objects.





When Lord Carnarvon asked Howard Carter what he could see in the tomb, Howard replied, "Wonderful things."

After the Discovery

Howard continued to work and, on the 16th February 1923, he opened the sealed door within the antechamber. Through this door, Howard found the magnificent burial chamber of Tutankhamun which was filled with golden objects that Tutankhamun would need in the afterlife. One of the most notable objects in this room was Tutankhamun's golden sarcophagus. For the next nine years, Howard worked hard to document every one of the thousands of objects buried with Tutankhamun. He drew each object, as well as diagrams showing their position within the tomb. When he had finished, most of the objects were moved to a museum in Cairo where many of them remain today.



Questions

1. Draw lines to match each date to the event which happened on it.

Lord Carnarvon arrives in Egypt.	9 th May 1874
The water boy discovers a stone step.	4 th November 1922
Howard Carter is born.	26 th November 1922
The door to the burial chamber is opened.	16 th February 1923

2. Which part of Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered **first**? Tick one.

- the antechamber
- the golden objects
- the top of the set of stairs
- the burial chamber

3. If you wanted to see many of the golden artefacts discovered by Howard Carter, where would you need to go? Tick one.

- Tutankhamun's tomb
- the Valley of the Kings
- a museum in Cairo
- London

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they occurred.

- Howard Carter says that he can see wonderful things.
- Lord Carnarvon threatens to withdraw funding.
- The golden objects are moved to Cairo.
- Howard Carter learns how to draw and paint.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning: **After working as an archaeologist...**

Find and copy one word from this paragraph which means **stop**.

6. How long did it take Howard Carter to document all of the objects in Tutankhamun's tomb?

7. Who do you think should be named as discovering Tutankhamun's tomb? Tick one.

- Howard Carter
- Howard's water boy
- both

Explain your answer.

8. How do you think Lord Carnarvon felt when he arrived in Egypt on 26th November 1922?
