

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 had been left in very good condition.

Howard Carter knew where to look because he worked out from other important finds that the tomb would be in the Valley of the Kings. Howard 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 3,000 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 which was 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 decorated stone coffin, called a sarcophagus.



Decoration

The burial chamber with the body was a very unusual resting place for a king because it was the only decorated room in the tomb.

Normally, all of 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 that 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!

Rumors about 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 who was the man who paid for the dig of King Tut's tomb as he died five months after it was opened. As soon as he died, all of the lights

in Cairo went out mysteriously. Other stories are that Howard Carter's pet canary was killed by a cobra and Lord Carnarvon's dog died that same night. Some people believe that an unusual germ was released when the tomb was opened and that this caused Lord Carnarvon to become ill. Other people believe that it was a magical curse.

Questions

1. Who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb? Tick one.

- Lord Carnarvon
- Theodore 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. How many treasures were found inside the tomb?

- over 3,000
- over 300
- over 30,000
- over 30

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

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

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

7. Fill in the missing words.

Most of the rooms were for the _____, apart from the
burial chamber which just held his _____ stone coffin.

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