



Tutankhamun's Tomb



Who Found His Tomb?

The tomb was found by a group of researchers led by Howard Carter. It was discovered in 1922, which means that all of the treasures and the body inside have been left in very good condition. Carter worked out from other important finds that the tomb would be in the Valley of the Kings. A man named Theodore Davis found a cup with Tutankhamun and his wife on it. This was a clue that helped Carter find the tomb.

What They Found Inside

Inside the tomb they found over 3000 treasures meant for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. Many of the items were made from, or covered in, gold – perfect for a king. The tomb 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.

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 and will curse anyone who disturbs them. It started when Lord Carnarvon, the man who paid for the dig of King Tut's tomb, died soon 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**.

- 1992
- 1922
- 1912
- 1299

2. Where did Carter find the tomb?

3. What is the name of the room that had the sarcophagus in? Tick **one**.

- tomb
- burial chamber
- sarcophagus area
- Tutankhamun

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

Lord Carnarvon	Paid all the workers who discovered the tomb.
Howard Carter	Found a cup that led to the discovery.
Theodore Davies	Discovered the tomb.

5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are true or false.

Sentence	True	False
Some people think Mummies can curse people who find them.		
Lord Carnarvon's cat died the same night as the canary.		
When Lord Carnarvon died, the lights went out in Egypt.		
Some people say Lord Carnarvon died from a germ.		

6. What is the name of the ritual that can be seen in the paintings in the burial chamber?

7. Do you believe the mummy's curse? Use the text to support your answer.
