

# Tutankhamun's Tomb



## Who Found His Tomb?

The tomb was found by a group of researchers led by Howard Carter. The reason why Tutankhamun is one of the most famous and talked about pharaohs is because his tomb was only found in 1922, which means that all of the artefacts 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. A cup found by a man named Theodore Davis, with Tutankhamun and his wife on it, was a clue that Carter said helped him find the tomb of the Boy King.

## What They Found Inside

Inside the tomb they found over 3000 artefacts 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 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. Explain, in your own words, how Carter knew where to look for Tutankhamun's tomb.

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2. Which word is closest in meaning to the word 'historical treasures'?

- afterlife
- artefacts
- decorated
- objects

3. Why are the artefacts described as 'fitting for a king' to own?

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4. Why might Howard Carter be surprised to see that the burial chamber was the only room decorated?

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5. Do you think Tutankhamun was an important king in his lifetime? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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6. Read the '**Who Found His Tomb?**' section. What other name is used to refer to Tutankhamun?

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7. Fill in the table.

Sentence	True	False
The tomb had one room in it.		
Lord Carnarvon's dog died the same night as the canary.		
Theodore Davies discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.		
When Lord Carnarvon died, all the lights went out in Cairo.		

8. Would you like to discover an ancient Egyptian tomb? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Tutankhamun's Tomb Answers

1. Explain, in your own words, how Carter knew where to look for Tutankhamun's tomb.  
**Pupil's own response, such as; 'Howard Carter used his knowledge of where other Egyptian artefacts had been found to work out that the tomb was in the Valley of the Kings. Then Theodore Davies found a cup that had Tutankhamun and his wife on it, so Howard Carter knew he was close and to look nearby.'**

2. Which word is closest in meaning to the word 'historical treasures'?

**artefacts**

3. Why are the artefacts described as 'fitting for a king' to own?

**Accept any response that refers to the artefacts being precious and 'fitting for a king' meaning 'suitable' such as; 'The artefacts are described as 'fitting for a king' because that means it makes sense that a king should own them. The artefacts are covered in (or made from) gold, so we know they are expensive and precious, and like something a king should own.'**

4. Why might Howard Carter be surprised to see that the burial chamber was the only room decorated?

**Howard Carter might be surprised that the burial chamber was the only room in the tomb decorated because usually all the rooms in a tomb are decorated for a King.**

5. Do you think Tutankhamun was an important king in his lifetime? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: 'I think Tutankhamun was an important king in his lifetime because he was buried with over 3000 artefacts made from gold. If he wasn't important, they would not have buried him with them.' Or 'I think Tutankhamun was not an important king in his lifetime, because his tomb was unfinished. If he was really important, his tomb would have been decorated fully.'**

6. Read the 'Who Found His Tomb?' section. What other name is used to refer to Tutankhamun?  
**Tutankhamun is referred to as the 'Boy King'.**

7. Fill in the table.

Sentence	True	False
The tomb had one room in it.		✓
Lord Carnarvon's dog died the same night as the canary.	✓	
Theodore Davies discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.		✓
When Lord Carnarvon died, all the lights went out in Cairo.	✓	

8. Would you like to discover an ancient Egyptian tomb? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, that refers to the text.**