

## *Tutankhamun*

Tutankhamun or “King Tut” is probably the most well-known Egyptian pharaoh. One of the reasons is that his burial tomb is one of the few that was discovered with everything still in it.

It was common for tomb raiders to steal all the treasures that were buried with the pharaohs and so little has ever been found.

The tomb raiders did not locate King Tut’s tomb and we can use the contents of the tomb to learn about the culture and people of ancient Egypt.



When was Tutankhamun born?

King Tut lived around 1341 to 1323 BC, and because he was only ten years old when he became a pharaoh, he was called the ‘boy king’. King Tut’s father was the pharaoh Akhenaten.

King Tut’s father made many religious changes and he was very unpopular.

Who Was Tutankhamun?

King Tut’s original name was ‘Tutankhaten’ which means ‘the living image of Aten’.

After the death of his unpopular father, he changed his name to Tutankhamun which means ‘the living image of Amun’.

His hope was to restore popularity of the pharaoh and try to fix the damage that his father had done.

Tutankhamun Married

King Tut did get married but he and his wife did not have any children that survived.

Many people have tried to study King Tut's mummy to see the reason that he died, but no one has come up with anything definite.

King Tut died at the age of 19 and after he was buried there was little information in the usual records for pharaohs.

His tomb was never touched and so the people that study history did not even know that it existed.

#### Who Discovered Tutankhamun's Tomb?

In 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the burial tomb of King Tut.

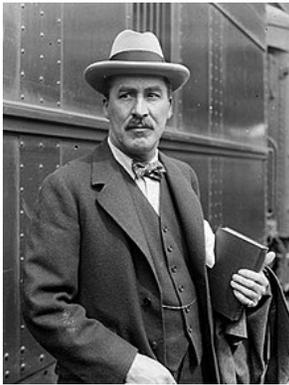
This was the first tomb that had everything in it and was untouched.

Ancient Egyptians believed that when a person died, they would enter an 'afterlife' where they would live in the same way that they did when they were alive.

To do that, they would need to take everything they needed with them.

The burial tombs of pharaohs were piled with all their possessions: beds, chariots, games, artwork, walking sticks, weapons and even food.

Pharaohs had the most highly crafted items, many were made of gold, imported wood, inlaid gems and ivory.



Egyptologists Howard Carter

#### King Tut's Tomb

When Howard Carter discovered King Tut's tomb, he found a huge chamber with four rooms filled with everything King Tut would need in the afterlife.

The most prized item was a 'sarcophagus' which is usually the burial box for the mummy.

For King Tut, they had placed the mummy in one sarcophagus and there were also two additional ones.

The third one was made of gold and that is the famous 'gold' image that has become the symbol of King Tut that we know today.

What was found in King Tut's tomb?

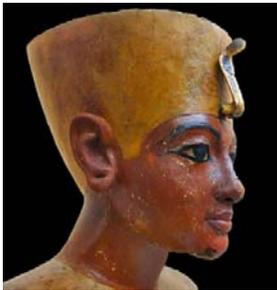
It took seventeen years to go through all the things in the tomb and catalogue (write down) each item.

One of the things that Carter noticed when he first investigated the tomb is that many of the things appeared to have been thrown into the tomb, rather than organized.

Another thing that was later noticed is that one of the sarcophagi may have belonged to someone else and they changed it for King Tut.

It has been thought that the reason for this is that King Tut died so suddenly and unexpectedly that they did not have time to make a sarcophagus for him.

The treasures and artifacts from King Tut's tomb became so popular that the Egyptians allowed them to go on a world tour and be shown at museums in many cities.



#### *Tutankhamun Facts*

- Tutankhamun was born a prince in Egypt's around 1341 BC.
- Tutankhamun lived around 1341 to 1323 BC
- His original name was Tutankhaten
- His father was the pharaoh Akhenaten
- His tomb is in the Valley of the Kings
- British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the burial tomb in 1922
- The objects in the [original] tomb was in four rooms.
- 5,000 items were found inside Tutankhamun tomb.
- It took Carter eight years to remove and catalogue everything