

TUTANKHAMUN

THE BOY KING

Who Was He?

Born: Around 1342 BC

Died: Around 1323 BC

Reign: Approximately 1333 BC to 1323 BC

Tutankhamun became the pharaoh at the age of nine and ruled at a time when the Egyptian empire was at its strongest. He ruled for about 9 years until his death at the age of about 18. We are still not sure how he died but there are many opinions about this. Some people say it was from an accident and others say it was from a disease that he suffered from after he broke his leg. We do know now that his death was a surprise for many as he was buried in a tomb which had been built very fast and messily.

Who Found His Tomb?

The tomb was found by a group of researchers lead by Howard Carter (below). 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 treasures 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 the tomb they found over 3000 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, 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.

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' (an example of it can be seen below).



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 Carnavon; 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 Carnavon's dog died the same night. Some think it was a germ but others say it was magic.

