

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mummy of King Tutankhamun

---

The sands of Egypt hid a secret tomb for more than three millennia. A man named Howard Carter wanted to find the tomb of a pharaoh of Egypt named Tutankhamun. Carter hunted for several years. Just when he was about to give up, he found it.

King Tutankhamun, better known to us today as "King Tut," was a pharaoh during the New Kingdom. He died around 1323 B.C. In 1922, the tomb was opened for the first time in three thousand years. It had not been looted by modern tomb raiders. When Carter found it, he first peeked through a hole punched through the tomb's wall. Someone asked, "Can you see anything?" Carter said, "Yes, wonderful things."



The treasures inside the boy king's tomb were described as "marvelous." His chariot waited near him to carry him to the afterlife. Also inside the tomb were lamps, beautiful furniture, musical instruments, and board games. There was a small chair the king had used when he was a child. The tomb held more than one hundred twenty items, including clothes, fans, and vases.

Tut's mummy was elaborate. His fingers and toes were given special gold covers with the fingernails and toenails marked on them. He wore sandals made of gold. The portrait mask that covered the mummy's face is thought to be an exact likeness of the boy king. It was made from gold and inlaid with precious stones and colored glass. It weighed twenty-two pounds! The false beard below his chin and the uraeus, a symbol representing Upper and Lower Egypt, on his forehead were symbols of his royal power.

King Tut's mummy had three coffins, and one of them was made of solid gold. These were placed inside a stone sarcophagus, which was placed inside four nested shrines. Each of the shrines was made of wood gilded with gold. Each was lavishly decorated. The whole thing weighed more than 3,000 pounds!

King Tutankhamun was not an important ruler of Egypt. He did not add land or riches to his country. He was pharaoh for only about nine years because he died at a young age. He lived to be only nineteen or twenty years old. But today, he is probably the best known of all the Egyptian pharaohs. He is famous because of his tomb and the treasures it held. The discovery in 1922 captured the imagination of the world. Newspapers shared pictures and stories of the incredible finds with people around the world. Rumors of the "curse of the pharaohs" helped turn King Tut into a media sensation. The public had an avid interest in learning everything about the boy king's tomb and the treasures within it. The treasures gave clues about a boy king's life in ancient Egypt more than three thousand years ago.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The Mummy of King Tutankhamun

## Questions

---

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. King Tutankhamun was the most important ruler of Egypt.
- A. true
  - B. false
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Using clues in the text and what you know about prefixes, what do you think "millennia" means in paragraph 1?
- A. one thousand years
  - B. one hundred meters
  - C. one hundred years
  - D. one hundred miles
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. *The portrait mask that covered the mummy's face is thought to be an exact likeness of the boy king.* Based upon this sentence from the story, which adjective best describes the mummy's mask?
- A. probable
  - B. impractical
  - C. lifelike
  - D. unrealistic
4. How old was King Tutankhamun when he died?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. King Tut's sarcophagus was made of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. gold inlaid with jewels
  - B. solid gold
  - C. stone
  - D. wood gilded with gold
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What did the sarcophagus hold?
- A. the Book of the Dead
  - B. lamps and furniture
  - C. three coffins and Tut's mummy
  - D. Tut's heart and other organs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many of these can you write about? Think! Write! Check all the ones you answered.

- The last paragraph mentions "rumors of the curse of the pharaohs." Write a story from your own imagination about "the curse of the pharaohs."
- Do more research to find out about the "curse of the pharaohs." Write an essay detailing what happened that caused people to think that Tut's mummy was cursed.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---