

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 were in good condition.



Howard 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 Howard Carter said helped him find the tomb of the Boy King.

What They Found Inside

Inside the tomb they found over 3,000 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 which was 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 of 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!

Rumours surrounding 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 of the lights in Cairo went out mysteriously. Other stories are that Howard Carter's pet canary was killed by a cobra and Lord Carnarvon's dog died the same night. Some people believe that an unusual germ was released when the tomb was opened and caused Lord Carnarvon to become ill. Other people believe that it was a magical curse.