

Howard Carter

Howard Carter achieved international fame when he discovered the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. It sparked massive public interest throughout the world and his discovery is one of the most important ancient Egyptian finds ever.

Early Life

Howard Carter was born in Kensington, south London, in 1874. He was the son of Samuel Carter and Martha Carter. Howard spent much of his childhood living in Norfolk and it was here that he was introduced to the ancient Egyptians. Nearby was Didlington Hall which contained a large collection of Egyptian antiques. These fascinated Howard and inspired him to eventually become one of the finest archaeologists of all time.



Learning Archaeology

At the age of 17, Howard was asked to help other archaeologists dig some tombs in Egypt. In the following years, Howard learnt a great deal about Egypt and about archaeology by visiting different sites and by making new discoveries.



His Amazing Discovery

In 1922, a wealthy man called Lord Carnarvon asked Howard to join him on an important dig. It was at a place known as the Valley of the Kings and it was here that Howard made his discovery.

On the 26th November that year, Howard discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun – the boy king of ancient Egypt. Most of the Pharaoh's treasures were still in place, untouched for thousands of years.



A few weeks later, Howard managed to reach into the next section of the tomb. Here lay the sarcophagus of 'King Tut' himself.

Later Life

The treasures found in King Tutankhamun's tomb are still considered the best preserved and the most complete ever to be found in the Valley of the Kings. Its discovery was hot news at the time and it made Howard very famous.

After this discovery, Howard decided to retire from archaeology and he worked for collectors and for museums. In 1924, he visited different countries and he gave talks about the treasures he had found and what it had been like to discover King Tut's tomb.



On 2nd March 1939, Howard Carter passed away. The words on his tombstone read: 'May your spirit live, may you spend millions of years, you who love Thebes, sitting with your face to the north wind, your eyes beholding happiness.' This is a quotation borrowed from the Wishing Cup of Tutankhamun – one of the amazing treasures that he discovered on that special day in 1922.

The Discovery



What did Howard Carter discover inside the tomb of Tutankhamun?

Over 3,000 treasures were found.



Who was Tutankhamun?

Tutankhamun was an Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. He is sometimes known as 'King Tut'. He had been resting in his tomb for over 3000 years before Howard Carter discovered him.

What do we know about him?

He was Pharaoh for only nine years and he was 18 when he died.



Glossary

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Archaeologist | Someone who studies history by digging up sites in order to find buried remains. |
| Archaeology | The study of history by digging up sites to find buried remains. |
| Pharaoh | A ruler of ancient Egypt. |
| Sarcophagus | A stone coffin. |
| Tomb | A large room, usually underground, used for burying someone when they have died. |

Questions

1. Who was Howard Carter's father? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Tutankhamun
- ☐ Lord Carnarvon
- ☐ Samuel
- ☐ Martha

2. Match these to the correct date.

Howard visited other countries to give talks.

1874

Howard was born.

1922

Howard discovered King Tutankhamun's tomb.

1924

3. What was King Tutankhamun also sometimes known as?

4. What is the name of the place that inspired Howard '**to become one of the finest archaeologists of all time,**' when he was young?

5. '**The treasures found in King Tutankhamun's tomb are still considered the best preserved and most complete ever to be found.**' What other word or phrase could be used instead of 'preserved'?

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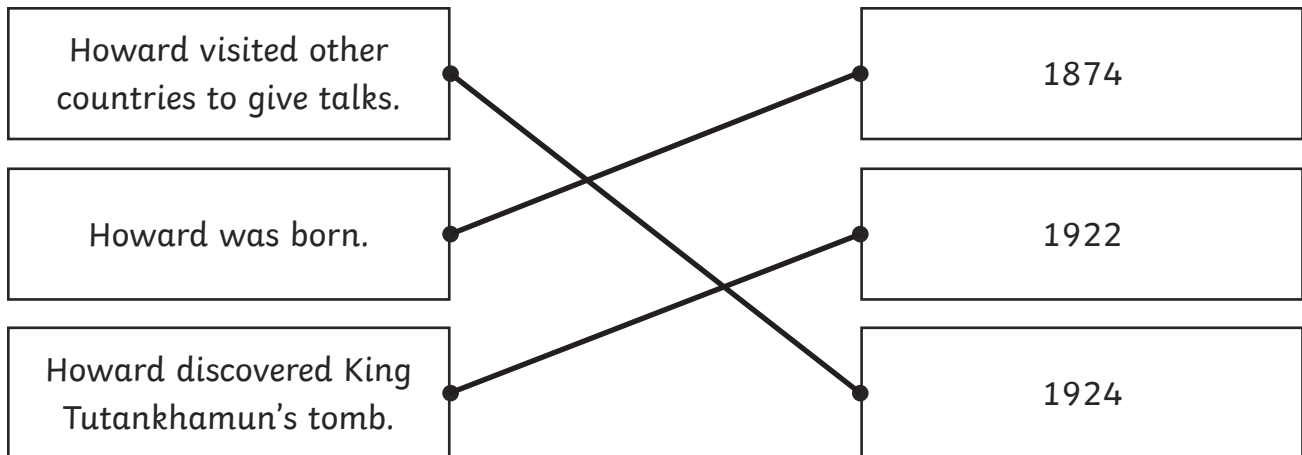
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Answers

1. Who was Howard Carter's father? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Tutankhamun
- ☐ Lord Carnarvon
- ☒ **Samuel**
- ☐ Martha

2. Match these to the correct date.



3. What was King Tutankhamun also sometimes known as?

King Tutenkhamun was also known as King Tut (also accept 'Boy King').

4. What is the name of the place that inspired Howard '**to become one of the finest archaeologists of all time,**' when he was young?

The place that inspired Howard 'to become one of the finest archaeologists of all time,' was called Didlington Hall.

5. '**The treasures found in King Tutankhamun's tomb are still considered the best preserved and most complete ever to be found.**' What other word or phrase could be used instead of 'preserved'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'conserved', 'protected', 'saved', 'well looked after'.

Answers

6. **'On 26th November 1922, Howard discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.'** How do you think this made Howard feel? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think Howard would have felt really pleased that he discovered the treasure. He was an archaeologist and this was what he wanted to achieve. He would have felt tremendous satisfaction and he would have been very proud.'

7. Howard chose the following words to be on his tombstone: **'May your spirit live, may you spend millions of years, you who love Thebes, sitting with your face to the north wind, your eyes beholding happiness.'** Why do you think he chose these words?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'The words were taken from one of Tutankhamun's treasures, which sums up Howard's life because he was known around the world for discovering them. He loved anything to do with ancient Egypt and especially digging up pharaohs' tombs. To have something like this on his own tombstone is rather fitting.'

8. Imagine you are Howard Carter when he was a young boy. Write a short letter about what you want to achieve in life.

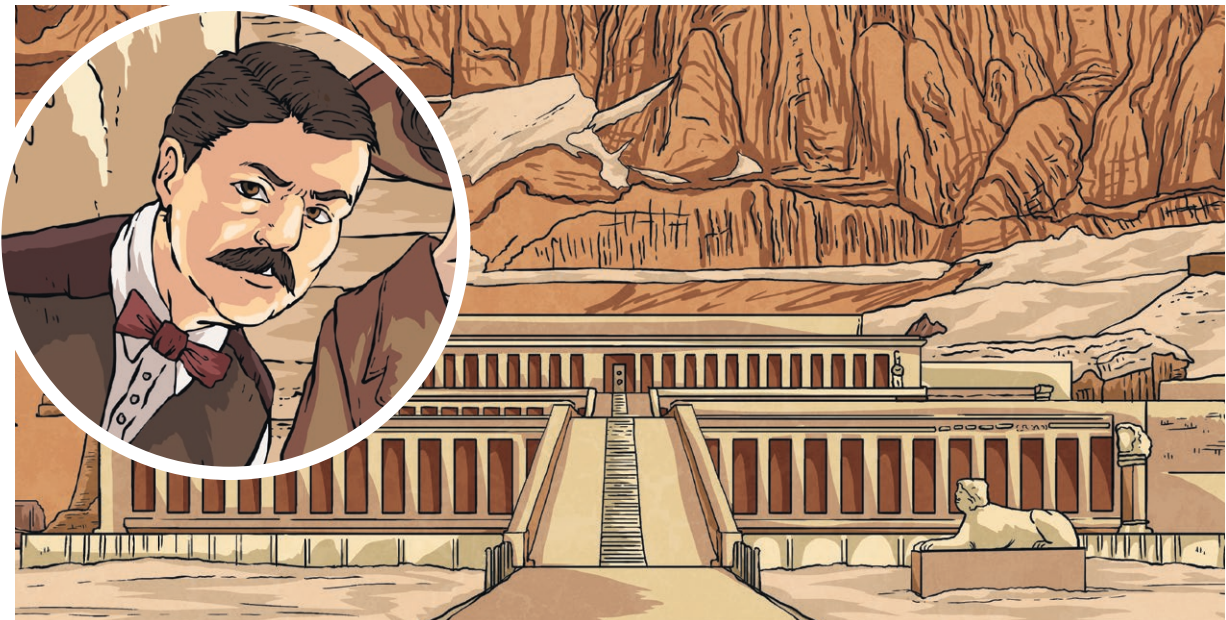
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I love all the Egyptian antiques in Didlington Hall; I think they are really special. I would love to have been the person who discovered them buried in a pharaoh's tomb. When I'm older, I want to discover secrets of mummies and pharaohs and learn all about the ancient Egyptians. I want to be an archaeologist.'

Howard Carter

Howard Carter achieved international fame when he discovered the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun in November 1922. Funded by Lord Carnarvon, Howard's find sparked massive public interest throughout the world. His discovery is one of the most important ancient Egyptian finds ever.

Early Life

Born in Kensington in 1874, Howard Carter was the son of the artist Samuel Carter and Martha Carter. He spent much of his childhood living in Norfolk and it was here that Howard got his first taste of the ancient Egyptians. Nearby was Didlington Hall – owned by the wealthy Amherst family – where a large collection of Egyptian antiques could be found. This fascinated Howard, igniting an interest that would lead him to become arguably Britain's most celebrated archaeologist of all time.



Being an Archaeologist

In 1891, at the age of 17, the Egypt Exploration Fund (EEF) asked Howard to help them in the excavation of the Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hasan.

In the following years, Howard worked under many renowned archaeologists and he learnt a great deal from them.

Within eight years, Howard became Chief Inspector of the Egyptian Antiquities Service (EAS). Within this role, he supervised excavations at many ancient Egyptians sites.

His Amazing Discovery

In 1922, Lord Carnarvon – a wealthy man with an interest in Egyptology – asked Howard to join him on an important excavation at the west banks of the River Nile, near Thebes. The area was known as the Valley of the Kings and it was here that Howard made his discovery.



On 26th November 1922, after weeks of excavating, Howard discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun – the fabled boy king of ancient Egypt. Most of the Pharaoh's treasures were still in place, untouched for thousands of years.

A few weeks later, Howard managed to reach into the next section of the tomb. Here lay the sarcophagus of 'King Tut' himself. King Tutankhamun's sarcophagus is still considered the best preserved and the most complete ever to be found in the Valley of the Kings; its discovery was hot news at the time.

Later Life

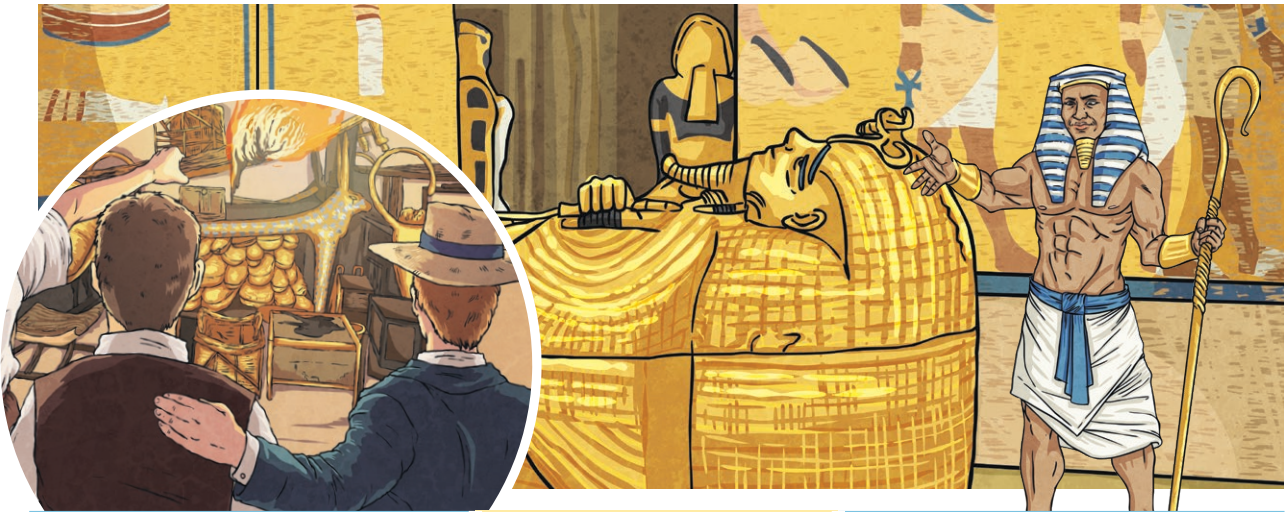
Once the clearance of the tomb was complete, Howard decided to retire from archaeology and he worked for collectors and for museums. In 1924, he visited different countries giving lectures about his incredible discovery.



On 2nd March 1939, aged 64, Howard Carter passed away and his body was laid to rest. Even then, his love for ancient Egypt remained strong. His epitaph reads: 'May your spirit live, may you spend millions of years, you who love Thebes, sitting with your face to the north wind, your eyes beholding happiness.' This is a quotation borrowed from the Wishing Cup of Tutankhamun – one of the amazing treasures he discovered on that special day in 1922.



The Discovery



What did Howard Carter discover inside the tomb of Tutankhamun?

Over 3,000 treasures were found in Tutankhamun's tomb. There were also pictures of his voyage in the afterworld painted all over the walls.



Who was Tutankhamun?

Tutankhamun was an Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. Sometimes known simply as 'King Tut', his name means; 'Living image of Amun'.



What do we know about him?

We know he reigned as Pharaoh for around nine years (between 1332–1323 BC), which means he was only about 18 when he died. We know this partly because of the age of some of the wine jars found in his tomb – and the fact that scientists have studied the remains of Tutankhamun's body.

Glossary

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Archaeologist | Someone who studies history through the excavation of sites. |
| Epitaph | Words written, often on a tombstone, in memory of a person who has died. |
| Excavation | A site that has been dug through the careful removal of earth in order to find buried remains. |
| Sarcophagus | A stone coffin. |

Questions

1. Who provided the money for Howard Carter's 'important' ancient Egyptian discovery?
Tick **one**.

- ☐ Howard Carter
☐ Samuel Carter
☐ Samuel Carter and Martha Carter
☐ Lord Carnarvon

2. '**This fascinated Howard, igniting an interest that would lead him to become arguably Britain's most celebrated archaeologist of all time.**'

What word could be used instead of 'igniting'?

3. What did Howard Carter become, eight years after he arrived in Egypt, in 1891?

4. What does the name '**Tutankhamun**' mean?

5. Summarise what Howard Carter's '**amazing discovery**' was.

Give two or three pieces of information in your answer.

6. How do you think that discovering Tutankhamun's tomb made Howard feel?

Explain your answer.

Questions

7. Why do you think Howard decided to retire from archaeology?
Think of at least **two** reasons.

8. Think of two ways in which the stories of Howard Carter and King Tutankhamun are similar.
Explain why you think this.

9. Which words best describe Howard Carter? Tick **two**.

- ☐ curious
- ☐ saddened
- ☐ lost
- ☐ proud

Answers

1. Who provided the money for Howard Carter's 'important' ancient Egyptian discovery?
Tick **one**.

- ☐ Howard Carter
- ☐ Samuel Carter
- ☐ Samuel Carter and Martha Carter
- ☒ **Lord Carnarvon**

2. **'This fascinated Howard, igniting an interest that would lead him to become arguably Britain's most celebrated archaeologist of all time.'**

What word could be used instead of 'igniting'?

Accept acceptable similar word, such as: 'sparking', 'starting', 'provoking'.

3. What did Howard Carter become, eight years after he arrived in Egypt, in 1891?

Eight years after he arrived in Egypt, Howard became Chief Inspector of the Egyptian Antiquities Service (EAS).

4. What does the name '**Tutankhamun**' mean?

The name 'Tutankhamun' means 'Living image of Amun'.

5. Summarise what Howard Carter's '**amazing discovery**' was.

Give two or three pieces of information in your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. In it, he found over 3000 pieces of treasure, including King Tut's sarcophagus. It is still considered the most intact tomb ever to be found in Egypt and the news of its discovery spread all over the world, making Howard incredibly famous.'

6. How do you think that discovering Tutankhamun's tomb made Howard feel?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses such as: 'Howard must have felt a real sense of achievement and pride at discovering Tutankhamun's tomb. It was his life's ambition to discover ancient Egyptian artefacts so this must have been really fulfilling for him. It must also have been exciting for him to realise how old everything was and how well preserved the treasures were.'

Answers

7. Why do you think Howard decided to retire from archaeology?

Think of at least **two** reasons.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think Howard retired after discovering Tutankhamun's tomb because he probably felt it was not going to get any better than this. It was his life's dream to be an archaeologist and now he had discovered the biggest ancient Egyptian find of all time. He probably needed time to rest. Plus, he was famous now; he probably wanted to speak to people around the world about what had happened.'

8. Think of two ways in which the stories of Howard Carter and King Tutankhamun are similar. Explain why you think this.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Both Tutankhamun and Howard were linked with the history of the ancient Egyptians and they both became famous. They were both also similar in death in a way; they had the same words written in or around their tombs.'

9. Which words best describe Howard Carter? Tick **two**.

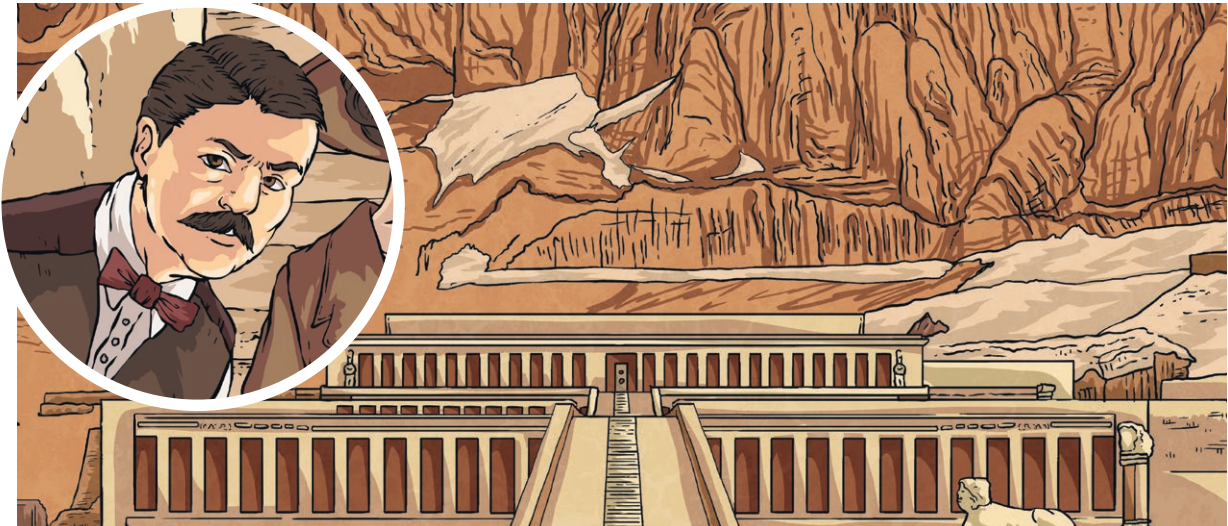
- ☒ curious
- ☐ saddened
- ☐ lost
- ☒ proud

Howard Carter

Howard Carter achieved international fame when he discovered the intact tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun in November 1922. Funded by Lord Carnarvon, Howard sparked massive public interest throughout the world. His discovery remains one of the most important ancient Egyptian finds, even to this day.

Early Life

Born in Kensington in 1874, Howard Carter was the son of the artist Samuel John Carter and Martha Joyce Carter. He spent much of his childhood living in Swaffham, Norfolk, where he grew up with his relatives. It was here that Howard got his first taste of the ancient Egyptians. Nearby was Didlington Hall – owned by the wealthy Amherst family – where a substantial collection of Egyptian antiques could be found. This fascinated Howard, igniting an interest that would lead him to become arguably Britain's most celebrated archaeologist and **Egyptologist** of all time.



Becoming an Archaeologist

By the age of 17, Howard was pioneering new methods of copying tomb decorations. This prompted the Egypt Exploration Fund (EEF) to ask Howard to assist them in the excavation of the Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hasan, in 1891.

In the following years, Howard worked under the tutelage of both prominent archaeologists and Egyptologists, and he learnt a great deal.

Within eight years, Howard had worked his way to the position of Chief Inspector of the Egyptian Antiquities Service (EAS). Within this role, he supervised **excavations** at many ancient Egyptian sites.

His Amazing Discovery

In 1922, Lord Carnarvon – a rich aristocrat with an interest in Egyptology – asked Howard to join him on an important excavation at the west banks of the River Nile, near Thebes. It was known as the Valley of the Kings and it was here that Howard made his discovery.



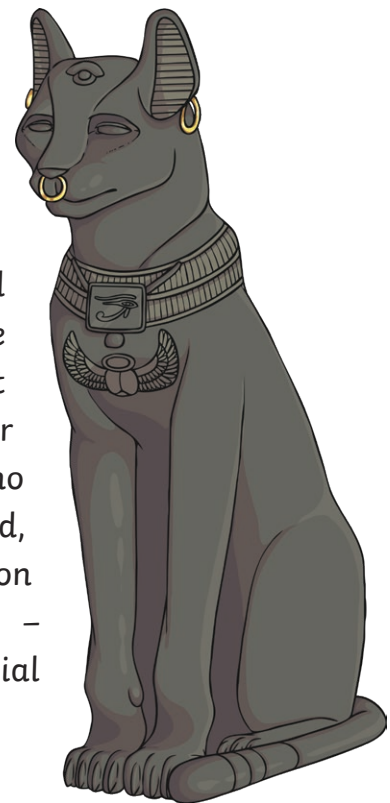
On 26th November 1922, after weeks of excavating, Howard discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun – the fabled boy king of ancient Egypt. Unlike many other tombs, most of the pharaoh's treasures were still in place, untouched for thousands of years. A few weeks later, Howard managed to reach into the next section of the tomb. Here lay the sarcophagus of 'King Tut' himself.

Later Life

King Tutankhamun's sarcophagus is still considered the best preserved and the most complete ever to be found in the Valley of the Kings; its discovery was hot news at the time. Despite it being such an amazing archaeological find, Howard received no honour from the British government.

Once the clearance of the tomb was complete, Howard decided to retire from archaeology and he began spending time working for collectors and for museums. In 1924, he toured Britain, France, Spain and the USA giving lectures about his incredible discovery.

On 2nd March 1939, aged 64, Howard Carter passed away and his body was laid to rest in Putney Vale Cemetery, London. Even then, his love for ancient Egypt remained strong; his epitaph reading: 'May your spirit live, may you spend millions of years, you who love Thebes, sitting with your face to the north wind, your eyes beholding happiness.' This is a quotation borrowed from the Wishing Cup of Tutankhamun – one of the amazing treasures he unearthed on that special day in 1922.



The Discovery



What did Howard Carter discover inside the tomb of Tutankhamun?

Over 3,000 treasures were found (thought by the ancient Egyptians to help Tutankhamen in the afterlife). There were pictures of his voyage in the afterworld painted all over the burial chamber walls.



Who was Tutankhamun?

Tutankhamun was an Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, during the New Kingdom period of ancient Egypt. Sometimes known simply as 'King Tut', his name means: 'Living image of Amun'.

What do we know about him?

We know he reigned as Pharaoh for around nine years (between 1332–1323 BC) which means he was only about 18 when he died. We know this partly because of the age of some of the wine jars found in his tomb – and the fact that scientists have studied the remains of Tutankhamun's body.

Glossary

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Archaeologist | Someone who studies history through the excavation of sites. |
| Aristocrat | A member of the ruling class, such as a nobleman or a noblewoman. |
| Egyptologist | Someone who studies the history of ancient Egypt. |
| Epitaph | Words written, often on a tombstone, in memory of a person who has died. |
| Excavation | A site that has been dug through the careful removal of earth in order to find buried remains. |
| Sarcophagus | A stone coffin. |

Questions

1. 'Howard Carter reached international fame when he discovered the intact tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun.' Which word or phrase below has a similar meaning to the word 'intact'? Tick **one**.

☐ cared for
☐ undamaged
☐ lost
☐ ancient Egypt

2. '**In the following years, Howard worked under the tutelage of prominent archaeologists and Egyptologists.**' In your own words, summarise what this sentence is saying.

3. Imagine that you were Howard when he peered into Tutankhamun's tomb for the first time. Write down what he might have shouted out to the other archaeologists in his team.

4. Think of **three** words or phrases to sum up how Howard felt when he discovered the tomb.

5. What do you think '**tutankh**' in '**Tutankhamun**' means?

Questions

6. Why do you think Howard decided to retire from archaeology?
Think of at least **two** reasons.

7. If you were to write your own epitaph for Howard, what would you put?

8. Would you have liked to have lived Howard's life? Give reasons for your answer.

9. Think of **two** ways in which the stories of Howard and Tutankhamun are similar.
Explain why you think this.

10. Which of these words most accurately describe Howard. Tick **three**.

- ☐ excavator
- ☐ plunderer
- ☐ aristocrat
- ☐ historian

Answers

1. 'Howard Carter reached international fame when he discovered the intact tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun.' Which word or phrase below has a similar meaning to the word 'intact'? Tick **one**.

- ☐ cared for
- ☒ **undamaged**
- ☐ lost
- ☐ ancient Egypt

2. **'In the following years, Howard worked under the tutelage of prominent archaeologists and Egyptologists.'** In your own words, summarise what this sentence is saying.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Over the next few years, Howard learnt about his subject by watching other really good archaeologists and learning from them.'

3. Imagine that you were Howard when he peered into Tutankhamun's tomb for the first time. Write down what he might have shouted out to the other archaeologists in his team.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Oh my goodness! Chaps — come here quickly! I can see a chamber full of the most incredible treasures; thousands of them! It's a pharaoh's tomb, I can see that much. It's amazing! Hand me another trowel – let's get this earth shifted!'

4. Think of **three** words or phrases to sum up how Howard felt when he discovered the tomb.

Accept suitable positive feelings or emotions such as: 'proud', 'a sense of achievement', 'excited'. (Also accept appropriate perceived negative ones, such as 'scared' or 'overcome with emotion'.)

5. What do you think **'tutankh'** in **'Tutankhamun'** means?

Living image (of)

Answers

6. Why do you think Howard decided to retire from archaeology?

Think of at least **two** reasons.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think Howard retired after discovering Tutankhamun's tomb as he probably felt that his achievements would not get any better than this. It was his life's dream to be an archaeologist and now he had discovered the biggest ancient Egyptian find of all time. He probably needed time to rest. Plus, he was famous now; he probably wanted to speak to people around the world about what had happened.'

7. If you were to write your own epitaph for Howard, what would you put?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Ancient Egypt was his life: he explored, he unearthed, he discovered...'

8. Would you have liked to have lived Howard's life? Give reasons for your answer.

Accept answers negative, neutral or positive, as long as reasons are given, such as: 'I would have enjoyed being Howard because he travelled to different countries and discovered ancient tombs which would have been exciting. It would also have been good to be famous!'

9. Think of two ways in which the stories of Howard and Tutankhamun are similar. Explain why you think this.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Both Tutankhamun and Howard were linked with the history of the ancient Egyptians and they both became famous. They were both also similar in death in a way; they had the same words written in or around their tombs.'

10. Which of these words most accurately describe Howard. Tick **three**.

- ☒ **excavator**
- ☒ **plunderer**
- ☐ **aristocrat**
- ☒ **historian**