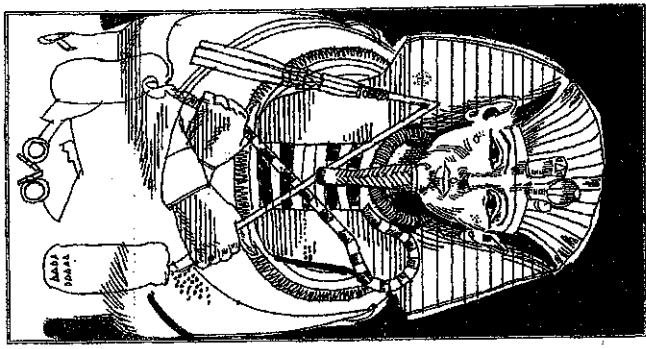


# In Memory of King Tutankhamen



*Understand a Historical Figure*  
**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following fictional autobiography of King Tutankhamen. Then answer the questions on the following page.

As I look back now from the realm of the gods, I believe my most difficult time as pharaoh came when I was 12 years old. I'd been king for only three years when I had to make an important decision. Should I open the shrines of Osiris and the other gods that King Akhenaton had closed? Or should I follow Akhenaton's example and insist that the people forget the ancient gods and worship only the god Aton?  
 My vizier, Ay, told me that the priests, the army, and many other people thought that Akhenaton was a heretic who had no right to close the shrines. Ay also warned that I would bring harm to the country if I turned my back on our ancient gods. Clearly, if I did not open the shrines, I would make all of Egypt my enemy.  
 On the other hand, I was part of Akhenaton's family. His daughter was to be my wife. If I opened the shrines that he closed, I would make powerful enemies within the family. The priests of Aton and the court officials who had served Akhenaton would hate me.

For the good of Egypt, I knew I had to open the shrines once again. In those days, I thought that I was young and could put off giving the order to begin building my tomb. Now I see how an unpopular decision can shorten a pharaoh's reign. But I was a god, and gods don't fear death. Yet, even gods want their deeds remembered. I am convinced that those who erase the names of past pharaohs from history are the ones who really harm Egypt. They had already begun on Akhenaton. And I was right to suspect that they would do the same to me.  
 When Horemheb became pharaoh, he went about destroying every monument ever built in my honor. That is why I was quite happy when the stonecutters working near my tomb accidentally covered the entrance. The tomb remained sealed for 33 centuries until it was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter.  
*(Continued)*

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Of course, Carter's team was thrilled to find the golden death mask and thousands of carved and golden objects. But what really delighted me was their discovery of the white jars. They had date labels that told them I had ruled for nine years until my death in 1322 B.C. Finally, history would remember me for trying to do the right thing. I was also pleased when they found my fan. An inscription on its handle told them how much I enjoyed hunting in Heliopolis. Even gods have a human side. That was obvious, too, when they found that I was once a child who had fun with a toy box, a paint set, and games.

1. How long did King Tutankhamen reign, and when did he die?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the hardest decision of King Tutankhamen's life?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was this decision so difficult?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. How old was King Tutankhamen when he faced that decision?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Using information in this autobiography, figure out how old King Tutankhamen was when he died.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why was King Tutankhamen's tomb undiscovered for 33 centuries?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who discovered King Tutankhamen's tomb, and in what year?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What artifact helped date King Tutankhamen's reign?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What artifacts give us some personal information about King Tutankhamen?  
 LIST 3  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Highlight/number where you find each answer's support/evidence (Front & Backs).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In 1922 Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen. Tutankhamen, also known as King Tut, was an ancient Egyptian king who died at the age of eighteen or nineteen. Carter spent fifteen years searching for his tomb.

Carter thought that there must be undiscovered tombs in ancient Egypt's royal burial ground. He was sure that a small part of it had not been searched, but most people disagreed.

A few days after his crew started digging they found the beginning of a staircase which seemed like the entrance to a tomb. When the staircase was cleared, they saw the top of a doorway. Carter's search was paid for by Lord Carnarvon, a wealthy Englishman, so Carter immediately wired Carnarvon about his discovery.

When Carnarvon arrived, Carter drilled a small hole through the door. The gnat of gold could be seen everywhere. Weapons, vases, and chariots were strewn about. The tomb had been broken into. Carter thought it had been robbed twice, probably soon after the burial.

A few months later the Burial Chamber of the tomb could be entered. King Tut's body was encased in three coffins. The inner coffin was solid gold. When it was opened, they saw King Tut's head and shoulders covered with a fabulous, gold funeral mask. Attached to the body and its wrappings were 143 jewels and amulets.

Carter and his staff worked ten years to clean and preserve the treasures of this four-room tomb.

- Choose the best title:
  - Tombs of Ancient Egypt.
  - An Ancient Egyptian King's Tomb.
  - The Work of an American Archaeologist.
  - Ancient Burial Grounds.

- King Tut's tomb was robbed
  - just before Carter discovered it.
  - thousands of years ago.
  - 100 years ago.
  - in 1922.

- We can conclude that Carter was a man who
  - had great wealth.
  - did not give up easily.
  - had no patience.
  - had no imagination.

4. Who would be least interested in the discovery of King Tut's tomb?

a. historians  
 b. jewelers  
 c. scientists  
 d. athletes

*no highlighting/numbering*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mummies are bodies of people who died thousands of years ago in Egypt. They fascinate people because they tell us a lot about ancient Egypt. Mummies were first found in 1798. Many of them were taken out of Egypt, but now the government forbids people to do this.

These bodies were preserved by removing the fluids from them. The Egyptians did this because they wanted to preserve a dead person's identity after death.

At first, mummies were made naturally. About 5,000 year ago Egyptians buried their dead in sand. This warm sand dried the bodies, and natural mummies were the result.

Later on, Egyptians feared grave robbers so they buried the bodies in closed tombs. They had learned how to make their own mummies. It was a long process that took about 70 days. The last step was wrapping the body in linen.

Then the dead person's family and friend's had a great feast. They believed that after the feast the body would go on a long trip. They thought it would go through the underworld to the Judgment Hall. If the person had been good, he would go to a heaven that looked much like Egypt.

People wanted the dead to feel at home so they painted their tombs with happy scenes and put food, drink, and furniture in them. Gold was even placed in the tombs of rich people.

- Egyptians made dead people into mummies because it
  - was the law.
  - helped prevent disease.
  - was a quick way to bury the dead.
  - preserved the bodies.

- Ancient Egyptian tombs were like
  - homes.
  - museums.
  - churches.
  - modern graves.

- Choose the best answer.
 

How long did it take to make a mummy?

  - about a month
  - about two months
  - about three months
  - about four months

- We can conclude that ancient Egyptian funeral ceremonies were
  - long.
  - cheap.
  - short.
  - simple.