



King Tutankhamen Part I



Essential Question:

Why was the
discovery of King
Tutankhamun's
tomb so important?

A man dressed as King Tut, wearing a golden nemes and a broad collar, stands behind a microphone. The background is dark. The letters "SNL" are overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

SNL

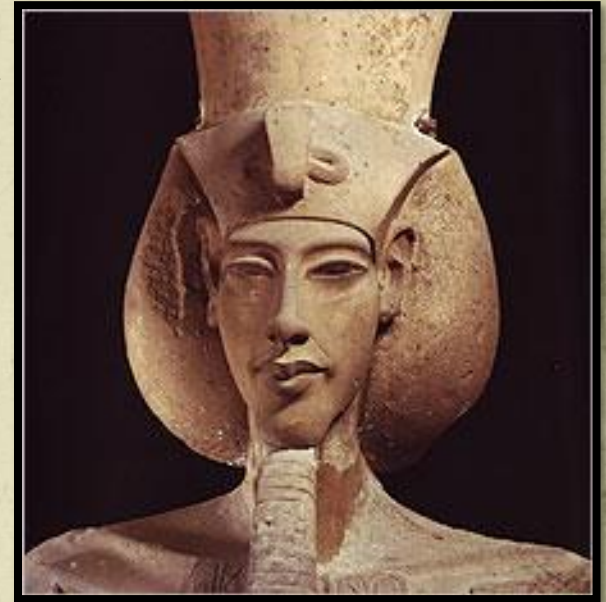
[King Tut Video](#) 3 min



- King Tutankhamen is one of the most well known of Egypt's **Pharaohs**.
- But who was he? To answer this we have to go back a generation, to his father, **Akhenaton**

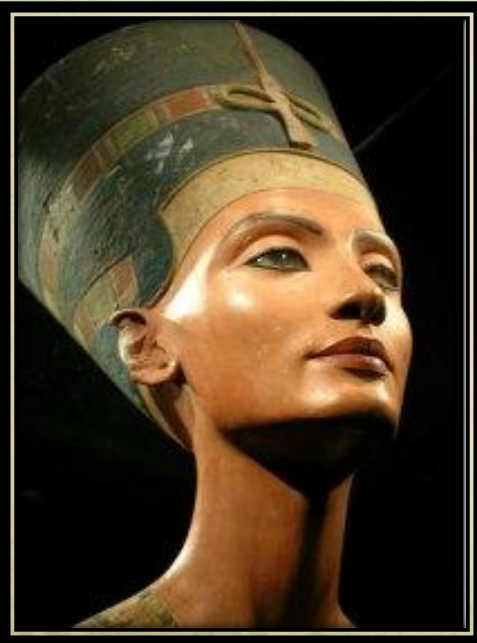
How did King Akhenaton change Egypt?

- King Akhenaton was originally known as **Amenhotep IV**
- When Amenhotep IV came to power, the capitol of Thebes was very powerful, they had recently begun to worship a new god, **Aton**. This was another name for the sun god.
- Amenhotep devoted himself to this new god, and even changed his name to Akhenaton, a name meaning “He who is of service to Aton”





- King Akhenaton's parents were Amenhotep III and Queen Tiy.
- His wife was **Nefertiti**, which meant, "The Beautiful One has Arrived".
 - Some people think she came from a foreign land
 - Most likely she was a distant cousin of Akhenaton.



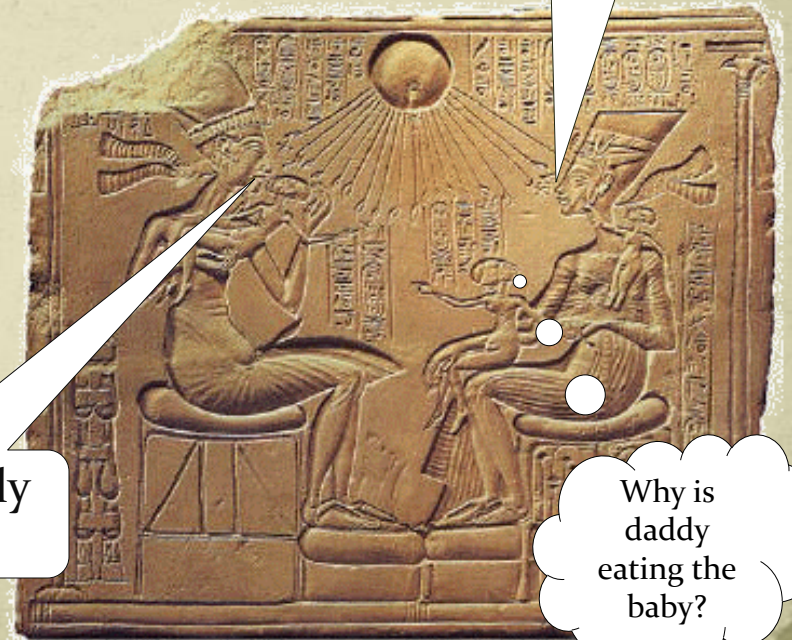
- Together they had six daughters named Ankhesenpaaten, Neferneferuaten-tasharit, Neferneferure, Meketaten, Merytaten, and Sotepenre.
- Akhenaton also had a son with a secondary wife, Kiya, this son's name was Tutankhaton.

- Akhenaton was raised in a traditional Egyptian household, he was raised to believe in Amon, the sun god.
- When he became Pharaoh, he abandoned his beliefs for the new god, Aton.
- He had his people only worship this **one** god, and claimed he was the only one who could communicate with “The Aton”.
- He banned any priests that still believed in Amon.
- He even closed down **temples** to Amon.



(4a)

- Akhenaton changed the capitol of Thebes to a new city he called Akhetaton.
- Today this city is called Armana.
- He changed the style of **artwork** in Ancient Egypt
- People were portrayed as they were.
- He had drawings done of him with his wife and daughters.
- **Daily life** was shown in the drawings.



How are you dear?

Lovely, simply lovely...

Why is daddy eating the baby?

- During Akhenaton's 12th year of reigning, he no longer favored Nefertiti
- She was replaced with a new wife, Kiya.
- Akhenaton ruled for **eighteen** years and then died
- Some say he was murdered.
- After his death, all of his monuments and temples were **destroyed**
- His mummy has never been found.





[Akhenaton video 3 min](#)

An aerial photograph of an ancient Egyptian city, likely Akhetaten, showing a grid-like street pattern and a river. The image is overlaid with red text. The text reads: "How did King Akhenaton change Egypt?".

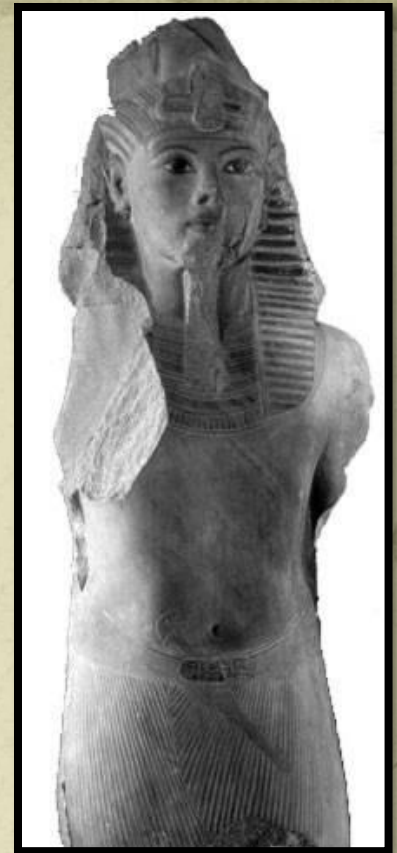
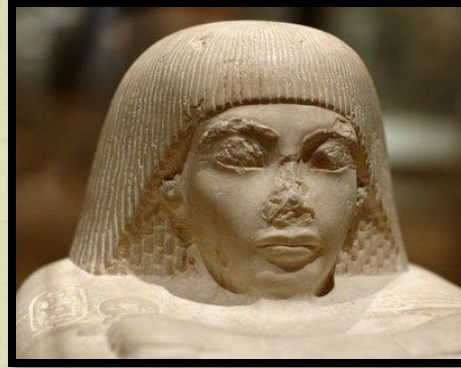
How did King
Akhenaton
change Egypt?

Who was King Tutankhamun?

- After the death of Akhenaton, the pharaoh **Smenkhkre** took the throne
- Little is known about him, he was possibly a brother to Akhenaton, he only reigned for three years.
- Akhenaton's son (supposedly) Tutankhaton took the throne next, he was only **nine** years old, in an effort to restore the old religion, he removed the god "Aton" from his name and changed it to **Tutankhamen**.



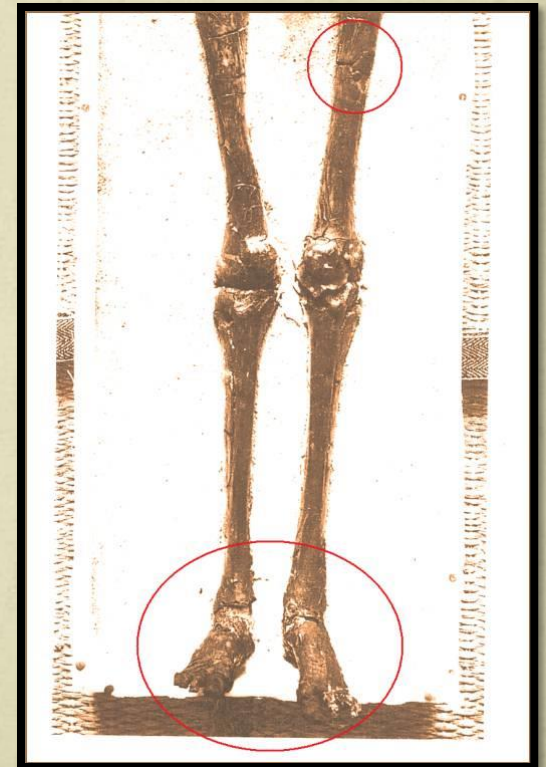
- Because he was so young, he shared his power with two older men in the court, his uncle, Ay, and a general, Horemheb.



- Tutankhamen restored the temples of the gods of Egypt, and allowed the priests to continue the practice of the old religion.
- Tutankhamen married his half-sister, Ankhesenamun.
- He ruled for only nine years.

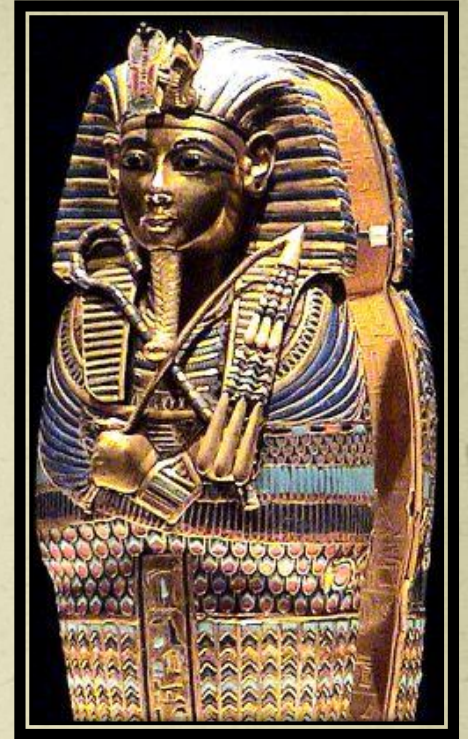


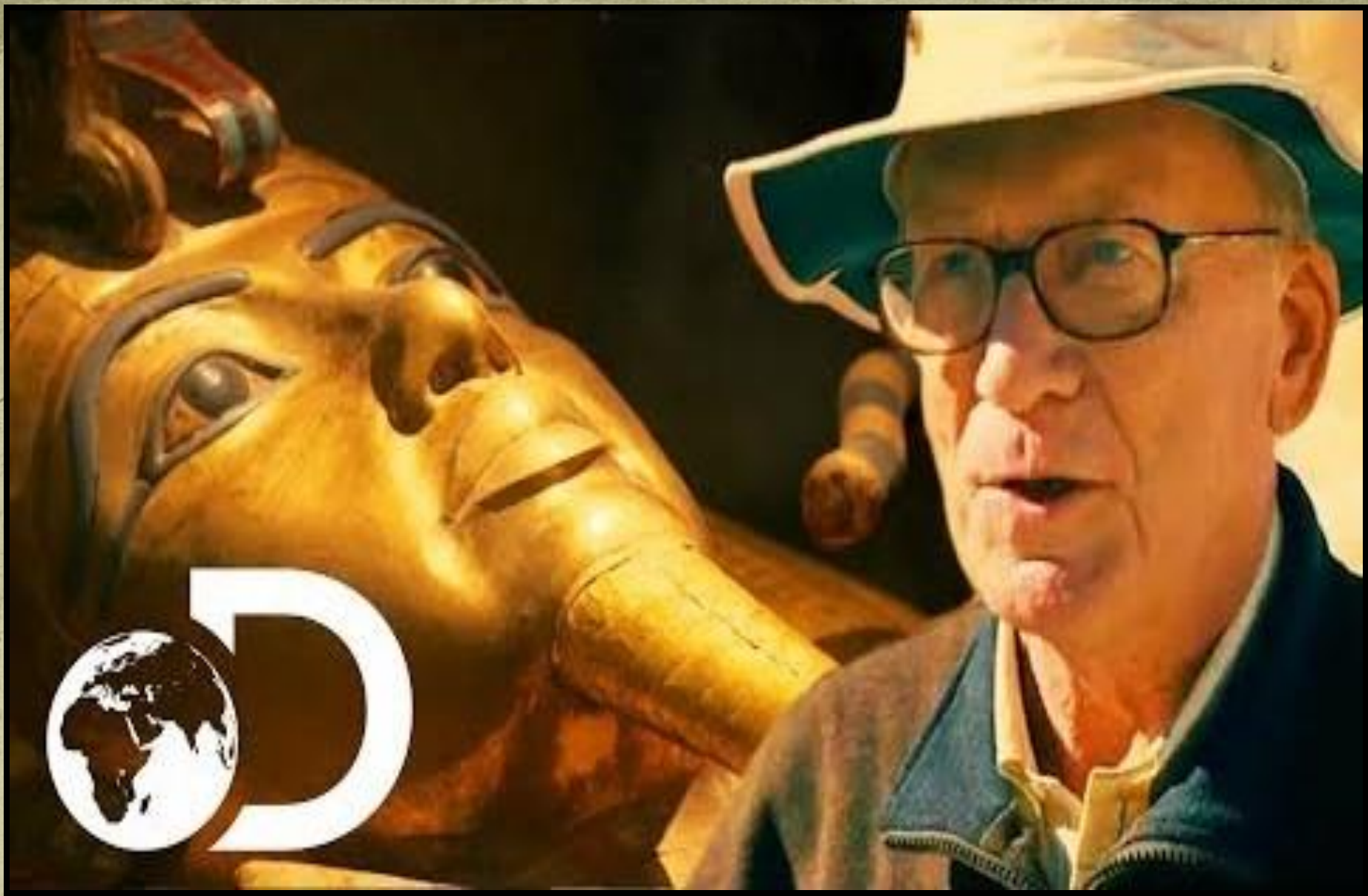
- He died at the age of 18 or 19
- There was a hole in Tutankhamen's skull, which has led some to believe he was murdered.
- Although recent studies suggest that the king died of a **bone fracture** in his thigh that became infected.
- The hole in his skull was most likely caused when his golden death mask was removed.



king Tut's death

- Tutankhamen's death was **unexpected**
- The tomb he was buried in was most likely supposed to be for someone else, perhaps his advisor, Ay.
- The coffin had to be altered to fit a smaller person
- The top lid of the sarcophagus had been cracked while being put in place.
- One of the sarcophagus's was clearly made for someone else, but used for Tut instead
- He was buried in the **Valley of the Kings**





[Exploring Tut's tomb 8 min](#)

An aerial photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, showing the three main pyramids and the surrounding desert landscape. The text "Who was King Tutankhamun?" is overlaid in a large, red, serif font across the center of the image.

Who was King
Tutankhamun?



King Tutankhamun
Part II


Discovery of
the tomb

What is the Valley of the Kings?

- Located on the west bank of the Nile, opposite Thebes
- 500 years of kings and pharaohs are buried here.
- Over **63** tombs have been found there, including:
 - Queen Hatshepsut
 - King Thutmose I, II, III, IV
 - King Ramses I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, IX, X, XI
 - Horemheb
 - And many other unknown tombs

- One by one Egyptologists would dig until there was nothing more to be found, then another would take their place, finally, a man named **Howard Carter** was able to take his turn.



An aerial photograph of the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, showing several large, rectangular stone tombs with high walls and flat roofs, arranged in a row. The tombs are built into a sandy, hilly landscape. The text "What was the Valley of the Kings?" is overlaid in a large, red, serif font across the center of the image.

What was the
Valley of the
Kings?

Who was Howard Carter?

- Born in 1874
- Talented **artist**
- Hired by Percy Newberry to assist in excavating and recording tombs in Egypt
- Appointed *First Chief Inspector of the Egyptian Antiquities Service*
- Convinced that Tutankhamen's tomb lay in the Valley of the Kings.
- Carter was employed by **Lord Carnarvon** to dig in Egypt.
- Howard excavated for six years with little result.
- Carnarvon agreed to finance him for one more season...





[Howard Carter Video 2 min](#)

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-winged ancient Egyptian temple complex, likely the Temple of Karnak. The structure is composed of numerous long, parallel corridors or wings, each supported by a regular grid of columns. The architecture is made of light-colored stone, and the overall layout is highly organized and symmetrical. The photograph is presented with a white border, suggesting it is a physical print.

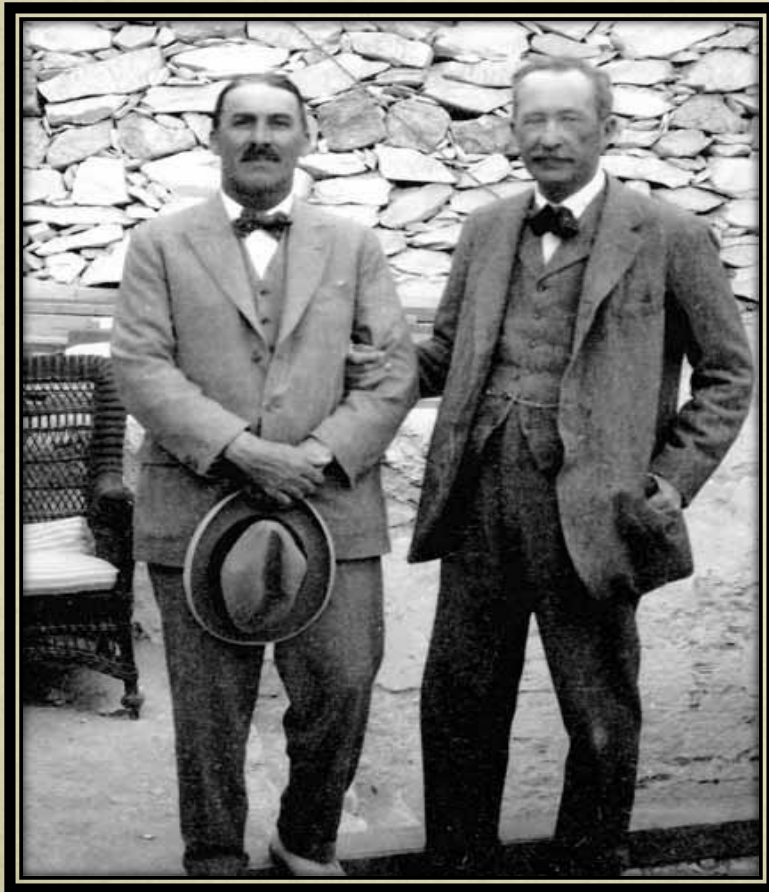
Who was Howard
Carter?

Who was Lord Carnarvon

- Born in 1866
- He loved to sail and race cars, he was once ticketed for racing past bikers and pedestrians at “terrifying speeds” of 20 miles per hour!
- In Germany in 1901 he was in a terrible accident that nearly took his life. To recover from difficulty breathing, he would spend his winters in Egypt, where he took up Egyptology as a hobby.



- After six weeks of excavating in one area, all he had to show was a mummified cat.



Meow?



- Finally, in 1907, Carnarvon was introduced to Howard Carter, the two became good friends and worked together for years

An aerial photograph of the Roman ruins of Carnarvon, showing a large rectangular building with a prominent colonnade. The text "Who was Lord Carnarvon?" is overlaid in red on the image.

Who was Lord
Carnarvon?

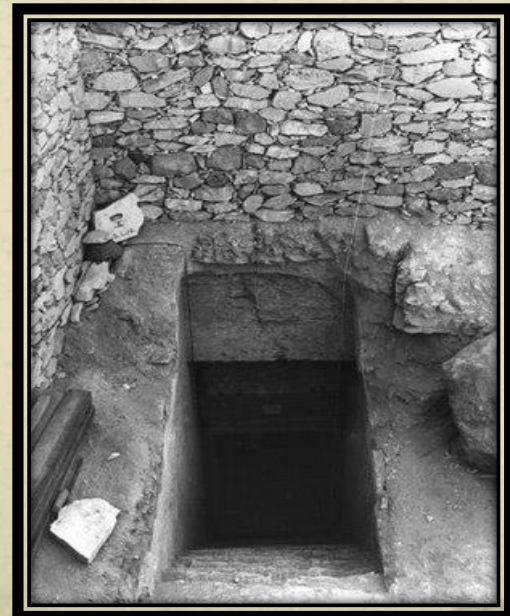
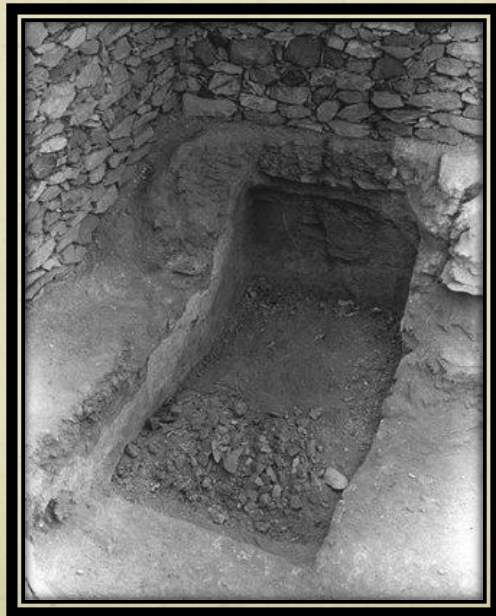
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How was the tomb discovered?

- Howard Carter believed the tomb of King Tutankhamen to be somewhere in the Valley of the Kings.
- They had searched everywhere, even dug down to the bedrock, and found nothing except some old stone huts.
- During the time that Ramesses VI's tomb was being prepared, several ancient stone huts were set up for the workers.
- These had been unearthed in the Valley of the Kings.
- Because Ramesses ruled *AFTER* king Tut, the boy's tomb could still lie beneath these ancient huts.
- In his seventh season of excavating, Howard Carter began to dig under and around these ancient stone huts.



- On Saturday, November 4th, **1922**, one of the water boys on the site discovered something solid in the sand, it was the first of 16 steps leading down.
- After digging down to a door at the bottom, Carter refilled the hole and contacted Lord Carnarvon, then in England.
- When Carnarvon arrived three weeks later, they dug out the sand again together. At the bottom was a sealed **door**.



An aerial photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple complex, likely the Temple of Isis at Philae. The temple features a large, rectangular colonnade with numerous columns, and a long, narrow structure extending from the main complex. The surrounding area is a flat, sandy landscape with some smaller structures and a winding path or canal in the background. The image has a vintage, slightly faded appearance with a white border.

How was the tomb
discovered?

What was inside the tomb?

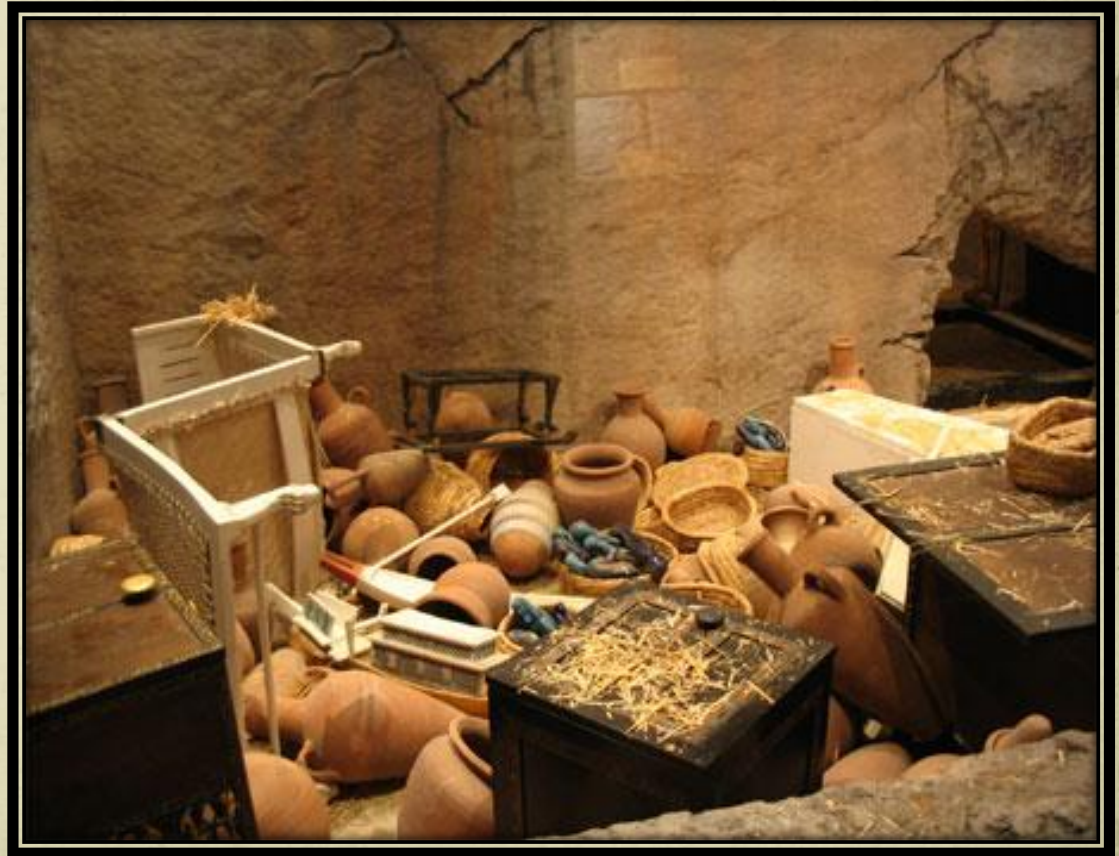
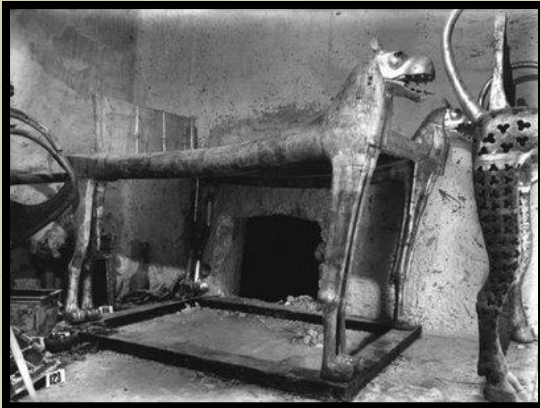
“Wonderful Things”

- Beyond the door was a long hallway filled with rocks and rubble.
- At the end of this passage was another doorway, and beyond this was “everywhere the glint of gold.”

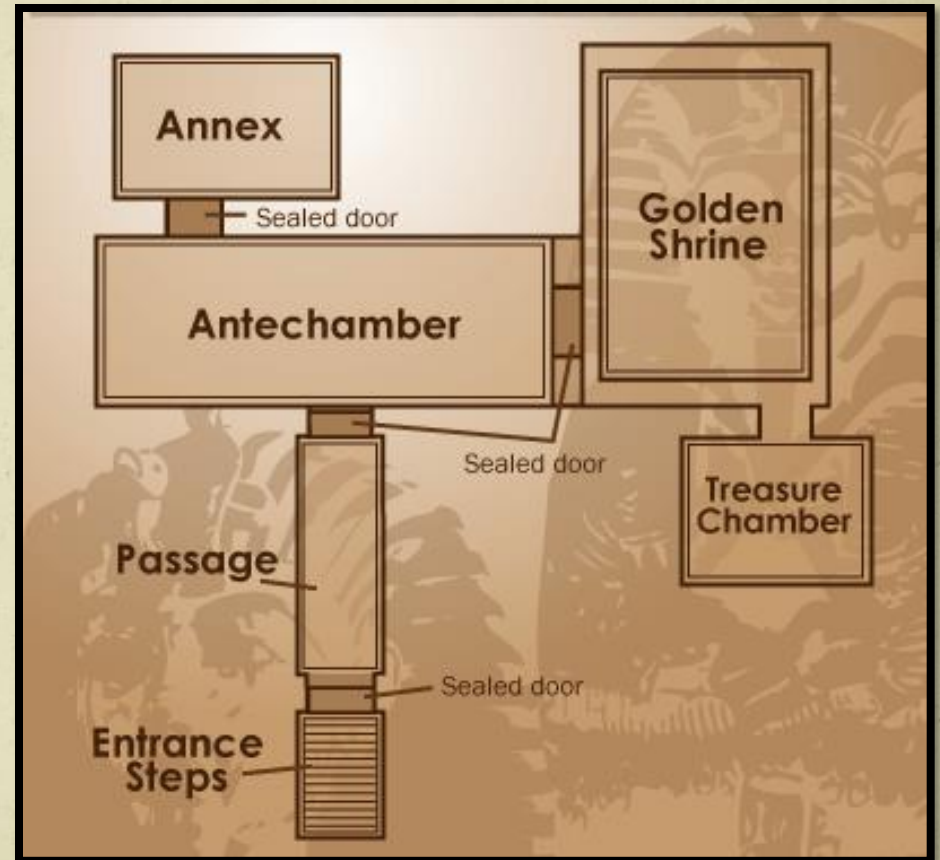
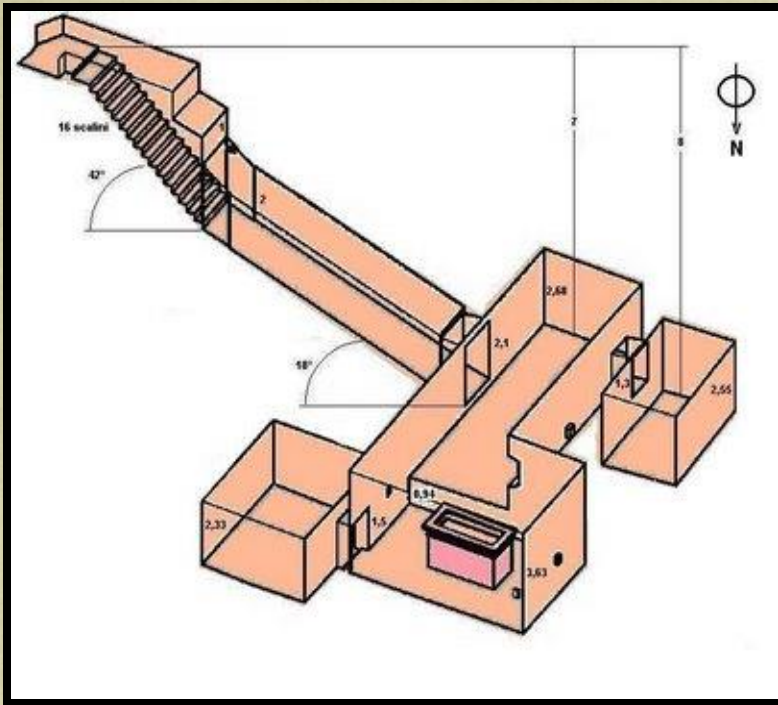




- In the tomb were **four** chambers, the next room to be discovered was the annex.
- This room had been broken into and trashed by tomb robbers.
- The entrance was only a small hole near the floor.

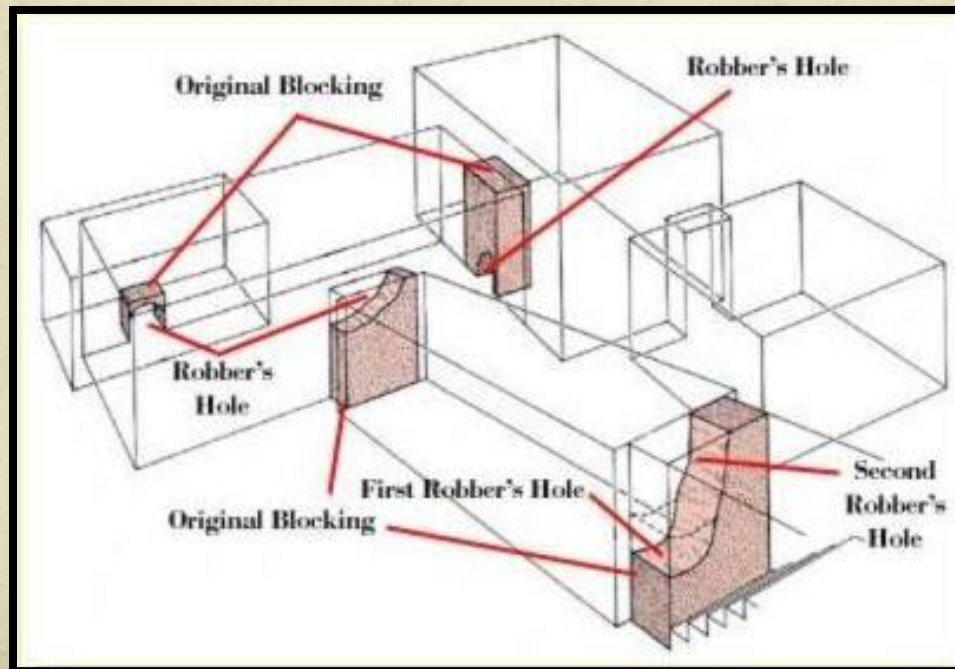


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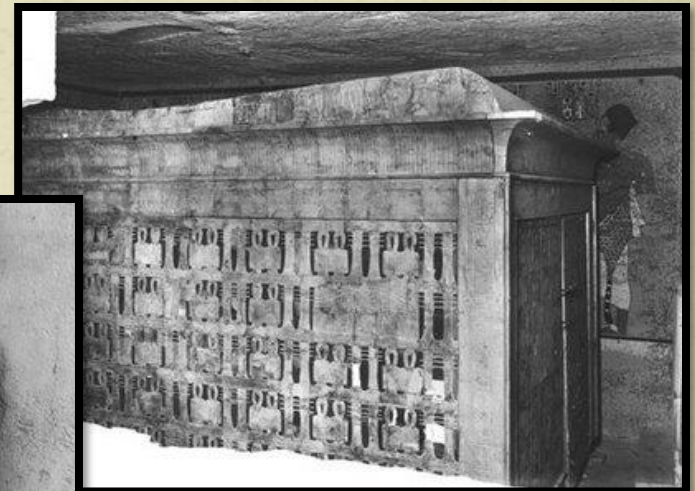


- The tomb had four rooms
 - Antechamber
 - Annex
 - Shrine
 - **Treasury (video link)**

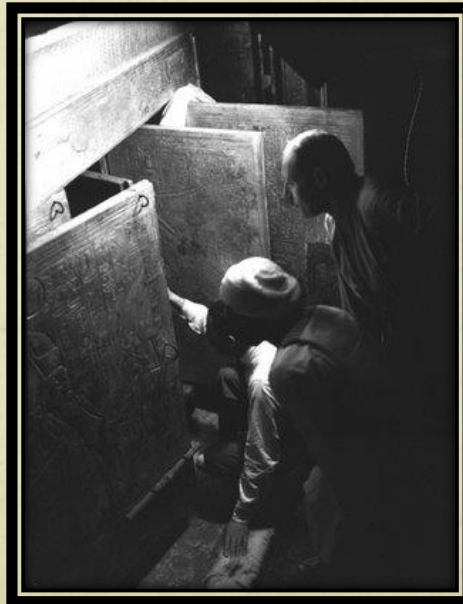
- It soon became clear that Carter and Carnarvon were not the first ones to **enter the tomb**
- At least **twice** before the tomb had been entered by robbers
- Both times, the robbers made small openings and searched for whatever gold they could carry out.
- Priests resealed the robbers holes.



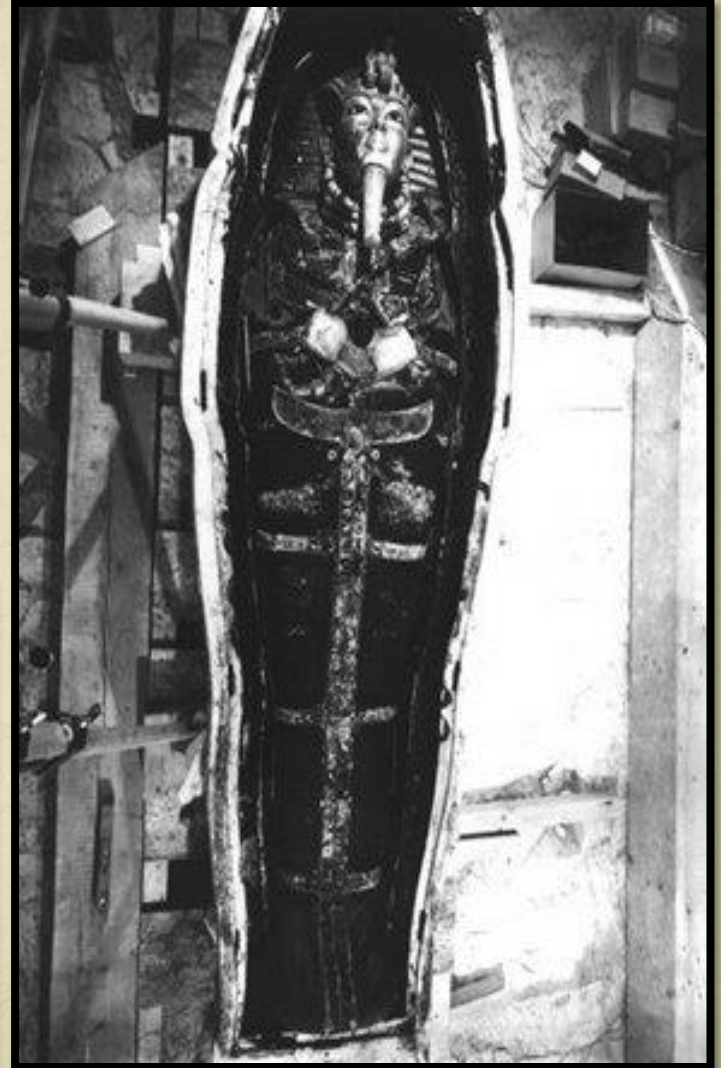
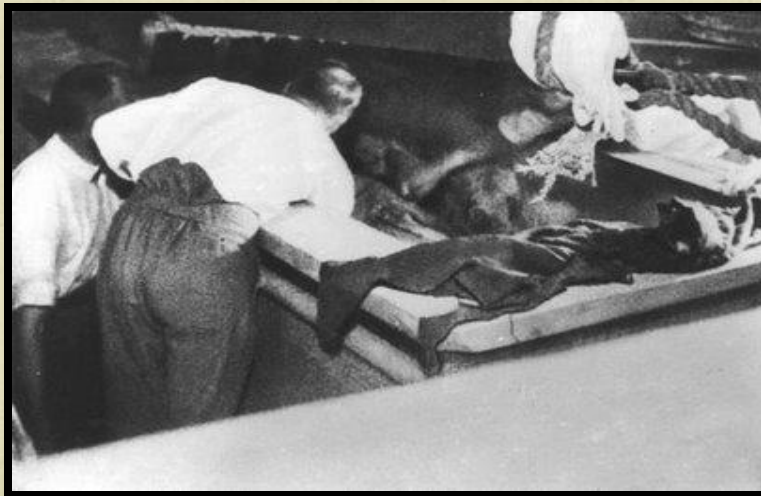
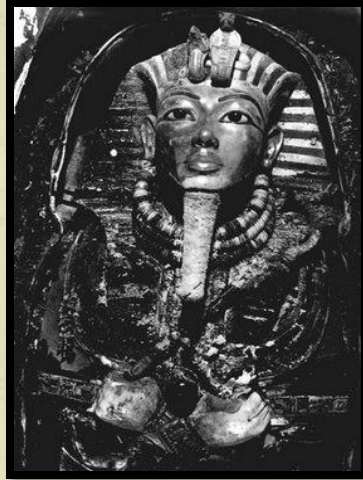
- On February 16th, 1923, the burial chamber had its official opening, many people from the Egypt government were there, as well as many prominent Egyptologists
- Howard Carter, Lord Carnarvon, Lady Evelyn, and another man had snuck into the tomb several weeks earlier, they broke the law by doing so.
- Lord Carnarvon died just a few weeks later in April



- King Tutankhamen's tomb, though entered into twice by tomb robbers, was the first tomb to be found with its burial chamber **intact**.
- Connected to the burial chamber was the king's treasury, this room had not been ransacked by robbers.
- Overall, there were more than **3,000** items placed inside the tomb
- Howard Carter would spend **ten** years excavating, cataloging, and researching the tomb of the boy king, Tutankhamen



- In 1925, Howard Carter was finally able to remove the several sarcophagus's that housed the mummy of king Tut.







An aerial photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple complex, likely the Temple of Isis at Philae. The temple features a large central courtyard with a colonnade of columns. In the background, a large pyramid is visible, partially obscured by the temple's structures. The entire scene is set in a desert landscape.

What was inside
the tomb?

An aerial photograph of an ancient Egyptian city, likely Thebes, showing a river winding through the city and several large pyramids in the distance. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent parchment-like texture.

Essential Question:

Why was the
discovery of King
Tutankhamun's
tomb so important?



The Curse of the Mummy

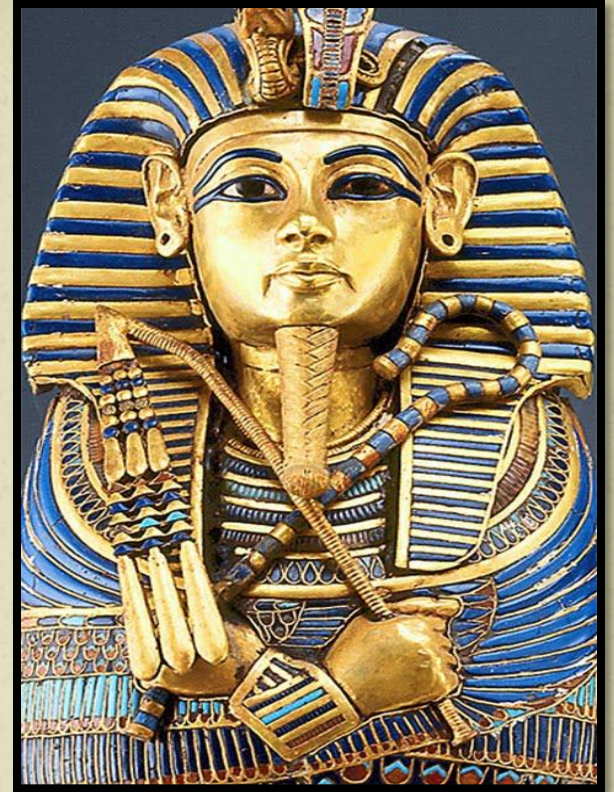


- Several strange events are associated with the opening of King Tut's tomb.
 - Above the entrance to King Tut's tomb was written the phrase: **“Death shall come on swift wings to him that toucheth the tomb of the Pharaoh.”**
- Howard Carter's pet canary was killed by a cobra the day they opened the tomb.
- Many people connected to the tomb died mysteriously

- Howard Carter had purchased a yellow canary to cheer up the workers with its song.
- One of the workers said the “golden bird” would bring them luck. Within a week of buying the bird, King Tut’s tomb was discovered.
- When the tomb was opened, a cobra entered the house where the bird was kept and killed the good luck charm.



- Lord Carnarvon was very big into mysticism, spiritualism, and the occult, he often held séances in his home, Howard Carter was known to be in attendance at more than one of these.
- Lord Carnarvon visited with a psychic frequently, on one occasion, he was told that if he disturbed the tomb, or removed anything from it, he would be killed by something from the tomb itself.

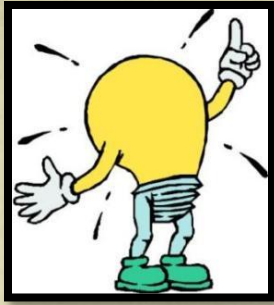




- During the excavations, Lord Carnarvon was bitten by a mosquito, when cleaning out the infection, nicked himself with a razor and contracted blood poisoning.
- He died six weeks after the tomb's official opening.
- Some people say he was poisoned because he disturbed the mummy's tomb.
- When the mummy was finally unwrapped in 1925, the boy pharaoh had a scar on his left cheek, in exactly the same spot where Carnarvon had been bitten.

- It was reported that the lights went out all over Cairo when Lord Carnarvon died.
- At the exact moment of Lord Carnarvon's death, his favorite dog, Susie, howled and dropped dead...all the way over in England.

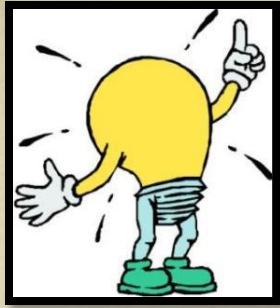




The Facts:

- Howard Carter supposedly gave his canary to a friend.
- It is unclear whether there really was a cobra around or not, they are actually pretty rare in Egypt.



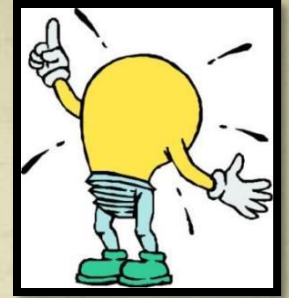


The facts:

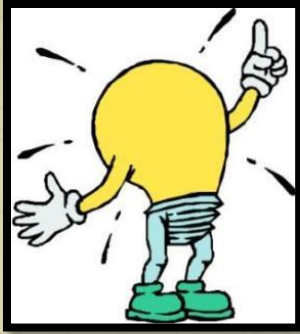
- Of the 58 or so people involved with King Tut, only 8 died within the next ten years.
- Lord Carnarvon was in pretty poor health when he arrived in Egypt.
- Howard Carter, who did most of the work, lived a normal lifespan.
- King Tut DID have a scar on his left cheek though...



The Facts



- Lord Carnarvon DID visit often with psychics and mediums.
- One of these psychics sent him a letter telling him not to take anything from the tomb.
- ALL the people during this time period were ‘into’ psychics and ‘curses’, many fictionalized books had already been written about it.
- Howard Carter did not believe any of the ‘curse’ nonsense.
- NOWHERE was it written: **“Death shall come on swift wings to him that toucheth the tomb of the Pharaoh.”**
- This phrase was a complete fabrication of a journalist’s imagination.



The Facts

- The lights frequently go out in Cairo, even today.
- It was only the hospital lights that went out at his death, and only for a few minutes.
- Although the dog really *did* die that night, there is no way to prove that it really died at the exact time, plus, it wasn't really even his dog.



So, was there really a curse?

- I guess only King Tut knows the truth...
- And he isn't talking...



Power Point By James Reese

2011

