

The Ancient Egyptians: Biography of Howard Carter

Name: Howard Carter

Date of Birth: 9th May 1874

Best known for: Discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun

Early Life

Howard Carter was the son of an artist. He shared his father's passion for drawing and painting, and he was very talented. He was also fascinated by archaeology and the Ancient Egyptians.

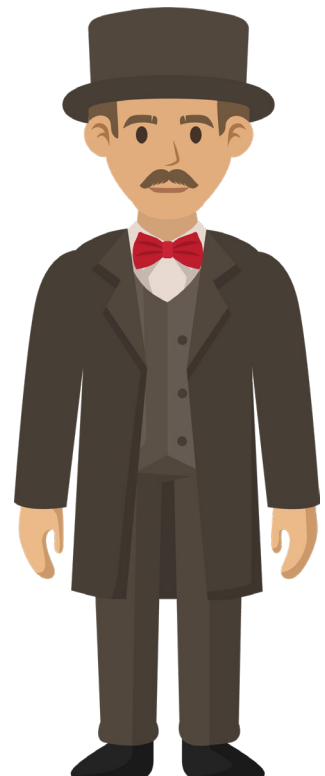
Early Career

In 1891, aged 17, Carter was given his dream job by Egyptologist Percy Newberry. He travelled to Egypt to begin his new role. His job was to draw the artefacts that Newberry and his team discovered on their archaeological digs. Carter's drawings provided an accurate record of everything that was found. Carter became well known for his artistic work, but also for his growing knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians. Over time, Carter moved away from his work as an artist and became a well-respected archaeologist.

Egyptologist — someone who studies the language, history and culture of ancient Egypt

Carter's Big Discovery

In 1914, Carter teamed up with a very wealthy man named Lord Carnarvon. They were both passionate about the Valley of the Kings. This was an area where many pharaohs were known to be buried. They were particularly interested in finding the tomb belonging to Tutankhamun. Lord Carnarvon was given permission to start excavating in the area and employed Howard Carter to lead



the search. The search got off to a good start but it was interrupted by World War One. All excavations were on hold until the end of 1917.

By 1922, Carter and his team hadn't found anything of great importance. Lord Carnarvon wanted them to give up, but Carter persuaded him to allow them to continue for another few months.

On November the 4th 1922, a boy who worked as a water carrier stumbled on a very crucial stone. It turned out to be the top step of a flight of stairs that led down to a sealed door: the door of Tutankhamun's tomb.

On the 26th of November, with Lord Carnarvon by his side, Carter made a small hole in the door so that they could peep through. What they saw through the peephole was amazing. On the other side of the door was the antechamber. This room was filled with ancient treasures including couches, chests, baskets, statues, beds, stools and vases.

Shortly after discovering the antechamber, they found the burial chamber. Inside was the intricately decorated sarcophagus and the mummified remains of Tutankhamun. News of this amazing discovery travelled very quickly. People from all over were very excited to find out more about Carter's discovery.

After the Main Discovery



Howard stayed in Egypt for another nine years to continue his work. During that time, Carter and his team uncovered two more rooms: the annex and the treasury. In total, they found over 5000 treasures and documented every single one of them. Carter went on to write many books on Tutankhamun's tomb. His discoveries have helped people to understand more about Tutankhamun and the life and death of pharaohs in Ancient Egypt.

Questions

03

- 1 Who did the tomb that Howard Carter discovered belong to?

- 2 What is the name given to someone who studies Ancient Egyptian history?

- 3 Where was Tutankhamun's tomb located? (tick)

- ☐ Cairo
- ☐ In the Valley of the Kings
- ☐ Giza
- ☐ In the Nile Delta

- 4 Who paid Howard Carter to excavate Tutankhamun's Tomb?

- 5 Why were all excavations put on hold until the end of 1917? (tick)

- ☐ They ran out of money.
- ☐ They hadn't found anything.
- ☐ They had to stop because of the war.
- ☐ It was too hot for them to carry on.

- 6 Why was the stone that the water carrier tripped on described as a 'crucial' stone? (tick)

- ☐ It caused the water carrier to spill the water on the ground.
- ☐ It was very large.
- ☐ It was circular.
- ☐ It was the stone that led to the discovery of the tomb.

- 7 In which year did they make their major discovery?
-

- 8 Which fact is true? (tick)

- ☐ Only Carter could see through the peephole.
- ☐ Only Carnavon could see through the peephole.
- ☐ Carter and Carnarvon were amazed by what they found in the tomb.
- ☐ Lord Carnarvon was not in Egypt when the main discovery was made.

- 9 Which word in the last paragraph means to have discovered something secret or hidden?
-

- 10 Which fact is true about Howard Carter? (tick)

- ☐ He inspired people to learn more about Ancient Egypt.
- ☐ He worked in Egypt for a total of 9 years.
- ☐ He wrote stories about Tutankhamun's adventures in Ancient Egypt.
- ☐ He went on to discover many more tombs in the Valley of the Kings.

Score:

Answers

A

- 1** Who did the tomb that Howard Carter discovered belong to? Tutankhamun
- 2** What is the name given to someone who studies Ancient Egyptian history? ☒ egyptologist
- 3** Where was Tutankhamun's tomb located? ☒ In the Valley of the Kings
- 4** Who paid Howard Carter to excavate Tutankhamun's Tomb? Lord Carnarvon
- 5** Why were all excavations put on hold until the end of 1917? ☒ They had to stop because of the war.
- 6** Why was the stone that the water carrier tripped on described as a 'crucial' stone? ☒ It was the stone that led to the discovery of the tomb.
- 7** In which year did they make their major discovery? 1922
- 8** Which fact is true? ☒ Carter and Carnarvon were amazed by what they found in the tomb.
- 9** Which word in the last paragraph means to have discovered something secret or hidden? uncovered
- 10** Which fact is true about Howard Carter? ☒ He inspired people to learn more about Ancient Egypt.