

# The Ancient Egyptians: Tutankhamun

## Who was Tutankhamun?

Tutankhamun, also known as King Tut, is one of the most well-known Ancient Egyptian pharaohs. His gold and blue striped death mask has become one of the most recognisable symbols of Ancient Egypt. However, before his tomb was discovered in 1922, very little was known about him. He certainly wasn't a celebrity king in ancient times. There are no records of him in the ancient kings list and his tomb was very small compared to the other tombs found in the Valley of Kings.

Tutankhamun's tomb was one of only a few that had not been robbed by tomb raiders before its discovery. The well-preserved items in it allowed archaeologists to discover a lot about Tutankhamun and the life and death of other pharaohs who lived around the same time.

## Young Tut

Tutankhamun was born around 1341 BC. Although, as this was over 3,000 years ago, it's very difficult to be certain about dates. Tutankhamun's father was King Akhenaten. Akhenaten tried to change the way people thought about religion.

The Ancient Egyptians worshipped many gods, but Akhenaten thought that people should only worship one god, the sun god Aten. When Tutankhamun was born he was actually named Tutankhaten, meaning 'the living image of Aten'.

## The Boy King

After the death of his father, Tutankhamun became king aged only nine. As he was so young, he is often known as the boy king.



He saw how unpopular his father's plans to change religious beliefs had been. He wanted people to be able to worship many different gods, just as they had done before. He reversed the changes that his father had made. He also switched his religion and even changed his name so that he was no longer connected to the god Atem. Tutankhamun named himself after a different God, Amun. Tutankhamun became the 'living image of Amun' instead.

King Tut was married to Ankhesenamun, who was actually his half-sister. This sounds very strange, but marrying relatives was fairly common in Ancient Egypt. They had two infant daughters, but they did not survive childbirth. The mummified infants were found inside the tomb.

### **Tutankhamun's Death and Burial**

Ancient Egyptians believed that when a person died, they would enter an afterlife. In the afterlife, they would live in the same way that they did when they were alive. Like all other Pharaohs, Tutankhamun was buried with all of his possessions. This was so that he could take them with him to the afterlife. Tutankhamun did not travel light: over 5,000 items were found in his tomb, including beds, chariots, games, artwork, walking sticks, weapons and even food. Many of his possessions were extremely elaborate and decorated in gold, gems and ivory.

Like all important Ancient Egyptians, Tutankhamun was mummified. This preserved his body. From studying his mummified remains, archaeologists believe that Tutankhamun was only 19 when he died. No one knows exactly how he died, but it was likely to have been very sudden.



# Questions

03

- 1 What was Tutankhamun's nickname?

---

- 2 In which year was Tutankhamun's tomb discovered?

---

- 3 What was the name of the king who ruled before Tutankhamun?

---

- 4 A person who believes in multiple gods can be called a polytheist.

☐

A polytheist

☐

A monotheist

A person who believes in one god can be called a monotheist.

Was Tutankhamun's father, a polytheist or a monotheist? (tick)

- 5 Which fact is true about Tutankhamun's religious beliefs? (tick)

☐

They were the same as his father's beliefs.

☐

They were different from his father's beliefs.

☐

He was more religious than his father.

☐

He was less religious than his father.

- 6 How old was Tutankhamun when he became king?
- 

- 7 Who did Tutankhamun name himself after? (tick)

- ☐ Aten  
☐ Amun  
☐ Tutan  
☐ Khamun

- 8 Which of these words is closest in meaning to elaborate? (tick)

- ☐ immense  
☐ intense  
☐ intricate  
☐ intrusive

- 9 What do we know about Tutankhamun's death? (tick)

- ☐ He died when he was 19 years old.  
☐ He died of natural causes.  
☐ He died in the tomb.  
☐ He died when he was still a boy.

- 10 Why was Tutankhamun mummified? (tick)

- ☐ To keep his body warm.  
☐ To preserve his body.  
☐ To help him fit better inside the sarcophagus (coffin).  
☐ To protect the body from animals.

Score:

# Answers

A

- 1 What was Tutankhamun's nickname? King Tut
- 2 In which year was Tutankhamun's tomb discovered? 1922
- 3 What was the name of the king who ruled before Tutankhamun? Akhenaten
- 4 Was Tutankhamun's father, a polytheist or a monotheist? ☒ A monotheist
- 5 Which fact is true about Tutankhamun's religious beliefs? ☒ They were different from his father's beliefs.
- 6 How old was Tutankhamun when he became king? 9 years old
- 7 Who did Tutankhamun name himself after? ☒ Amun
- 8 Which of these words is closest in meaning to elaborate? ☒ intricate
- 9 What do we know about Tutankhamun's death? ☒ He died when he was 19 years old.
- 10 Why was Tutankhamun mummified? ☒ To preserve his body.