

# TUTANKHAMUN

HIS TOMB AND HIS TREASURES



WORKSHEET  
CARTER –  
ARCHAEOLOGY

## 1. Howard Carter's discovery

### Text A

#### The Valley of the Kings

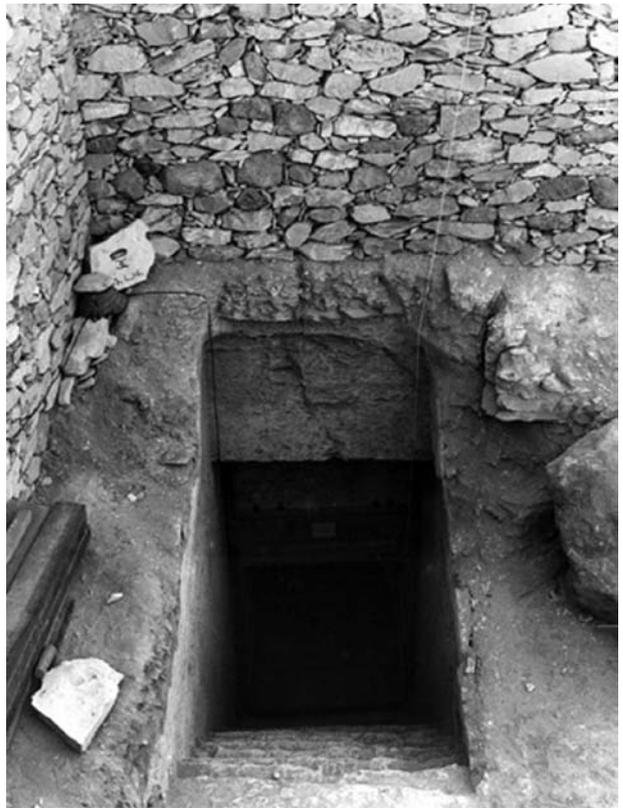
The Valley of the Kings is on the west bank of the Nile, opposite the ancient city of Thebes. Thebes is called Luxor today and was the official residence of the pharaohs. The city of the dead (necropolis) on the west bank was one of the most important burial places of Ancient Egypt during the time of the New Kingdom (18th to 20th Dynasties, 1550 to 1070 B.C.). Almost all the New Kingdom Kings were buried there but only the tomb of Tutankhamun was found almost untouched.

### Text B

#### The discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter in 1922

Howard Carter first went to Egypt in September 1891 when he was 17. The British Lord Carnarvon later spent some time in Egypt too. This awoke his interest in Egyptology, and he had enough money to pay for excavations. In 1907, Theodore M. Davis's excavation team found a pit in the Valley of the Kings with embalming materials and the remains of a funeral celebration for Tutankhamun. Then, in 1909, Davis found a plundered tomb which he thought was Tutankhamun's, and he declared that the Valley of the Kings was now completely explored. Howard Carter thought differently and convinced Lord Carnarvon to invest in excavations in the Valley of the Kings. In 1914, Carnarvon took over the excavation permit from Davis and gave Howard Carter the job of heading the excavations in the Valley of the Kings to find Tutankhamun's tomb. The First World War interrupted the preparations, so it was only in autumn 1917 that the systematic search for the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings

began. Carter thought about where the clues to Tutankhamun had been found and divided the area between the finds into squares on a map. This meant he could record every excavation that had taken place and all the finds. After five years, almost the whole area had been investigated, and only the unexplored land by the ancient builders' huts at the entrance to the tomb of Ramesses VI was left. That's where the excavation team searched during the last planned digging season. On the 4th of November 1922, Howard Carter discovered some steps under the builders'



*Steps to Tutankhamun's tomb*

huts. He sent for Lord Carnarvon who came over from England. On the 26th of November 1922, Carter opened the wall to the antechamber in the presence of Carnarvon, his daughter Lady Evelyn Herbert and Carter's colleague Arthur Callender.

## 1. Howard Carter's discovery

Carnarvon asked Carter whether he could see anything. Carter answered with the famous words: "Yes, wonderful things." Soon the team was certain it had discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun. The first article about the discovery of the tomb appeared on 30th November in the English newspaper *The Times*. The discovery was celebrated as a sensation in the media around the whole world. Howard Carter immediately put a team of experts together. The chambers were thoroughly and scientifically catalogued and cleared out. That took 10 years. The exhibition "Tutankhamun – His Tomb and His Treasures" shows the tomb chambers just as Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon found them on their discovery.



*Howard Carter during work on the burial chamber*

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### Task A

Find out where the Valley of the Kings is on a map of Egypt.

## 2. The work of archaeologists

### Text C

#### What is an archaeologist?

Archaeologists study the remains of bygone cultures. Their science is called archaeology, a word which comes from Greek and means the science of ancient times. Archaeologists look for evidence they can find by excavating under the ground, in the form of buildings or ruins, paintings and writings. The beginnings of archaeology in Europe stretch back to the 16th century. In 1798, French troops under Napoleon conquered Egypt, which at the time was part of the Ottoman Empire. Napoleon employed experts to scientifically investigate the Ancient Egyptian sites. One British archaeologist was especially important

for archaeology as a science: Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie (1853-1942) described the Stonehenge area when he was still a young man and, from 1880, began excavating in Egypt. The first thing he did was measure the Pyramids of Giza. Flinders Petrie developed a special method for dating pottery fragments (known today as seriation), which made him the “father of modern archaeology”. He also set up some guidelines for archaeologists to work with. Flinders Petrie was the first to use X-rays in archaeology and in 1898 he X-rayed a mummy.



#### Task B

1. There are still archaeological teams from all over the world working in Egypt today. Find out from the internet whether archaeologists from your country are also excavating in Egypt.
2. Archaeologists don't just work in Egypt. Are there excavations of ancient cultures going on near where you live?

## 2. The work of archaeologists



### Task C

**Hold an interview with Howard Carter. The interview could take place in 1932, ten years after the discovery of the tomb when Carter had finally recovered all the finds.**

In the exhibition you'll find more information about Howard Carter and how the tomb was discovered. Before you visit the exhibition, split your group into two teams, and make notes about it. Add to these notes with information from books and the internet after you've been to the exhibition.

Find out about the excavation's sponsor, Lord Carnarvon. Make notes at the exhibition and then expand these notes with information from your lexicon and the internet.

The first team thinks up the questions to Howard Carter and writes them down. The other team answers the questions. You need to pay attention to the way people in 1930 talked about their thoughts and feelings.

You can then record the interview. Choose one speaker to play the reporter and another speaker to play Howard Carter. You can then present the recording in front of the whole class. If you have no way of making a recording, write the interview down and find yourselves a sample interview from a newspaper. Then arrange the interview like a newspaper cutting and present it on a big placard to your class.



### Task D

**Write a newspaper article about the discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter.**

Use Texts A and B to make notes on the discovery of the tomb. You'll find more information about Howard Carter in the exhibition.