

# TUTANKHAMUN

HIS TOMB AND HIS TREASURES



TEACHER'S  
MANUAL

# 1. The TUT school material

**The target group for the TUT school material is ten to twelve year-old schoolchildren. The topic of Ancient Egypt is dealt with in schools mostly under the heading of Ancient Civilisations. The topic of Tutankhamun and the Discovery of the Tomb can thus also be integrated into Religious Studies and Geography.**

The school material is designed to accompany a visit to the exhibition ‚Tutankhamun – His Tomb and His Treasures‘. It provides both preparatory information for teachers and practical instruction sheets for schoolchildren. One requirement for using the school materials is an introductory lesson on the topic of Ancient Civilisations. The material is designed for groups in a school class, which makes practical project work possible. It picks up on the following topics in the exhibition:

1. Howard Carter’s discovery / the adventure of archaeology
2. Pharaohs, pyramids, world of the gods
3. Mummies / tombs
4. The Nile
5. Writing

These topics can be worked on by five project groups in a school class and subsequently brought together in a joint presentation. These presentations can, on the one hand, be a video documentary, a talking book, a newspaper or a short play showing parts of Egyptian history, or the students can put on „TUT festivals“ in which they give individual presentations.

The school material also contains three tightly planned lessons, with one lesson scheduled for the visit to the exhibition (TUT compact material). This also makes it possible for students to engage with Tutankhamun outside the projects outlined here.

The TUT compact material deals with the following content:

- a) The discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb
- b) Pharaohs and the world of the gods

The following presents the topic and the main contents of the exhibition.

## 2. The exhibition ,Tutankhamun – His Tomb and His Treasures‘

The school material is designed to complement the objects shown in the exhibition. All the pieces in the exhibition are exact, handmade copies of treasures from Tutankhamun's tomb and are the result of years of painstaking work by craftspeople in Egypt. This has produced unique objects which make it possible to reconstruct the tomb as it was found when Howard Carter discovered it in 1922. The funerary equipment also allows many aspects of Ancient Egyptian life and the rule of the pharaohs to be presented in a particularly vivid way.



*View of the ritual beds in the antechamber*

At the beginning of the exhibition visitors are introduced to the topics of Ancient Egypt, The Land Along the Nile and Discovery of the Tomb. A time scale opens the multimedia journey through time to the 18th Dynasty. It establishes the historical background and introduces the historical personalities. A short film about Howard Carter's and Lord Carnarvon's search for Tutankhamun's tomb is then shown, which ends with the discovery of the tomb.

Three reconstructed tomb chambers can be seen after the film. Unique to this exhibition is the arrangement of the funerary equipment, which the visitor finds just as it was discovered by Howard Carter's excavation team. In the adjoining rooms, individual objects can be seen up close and information on their history, purpose and religious

background is provided. Here the shrines of the tomb chamber, the sarcophagus and all three coffins are presented first. This section of the exhibition takes the death cult and Ancient Egyptians' conception of the afterlife as its theme and explains the funerary objects, as well as the mummification process. A further high point is a display of the famous gold mask together with selected pieces of jewellery.

Various statues of gods were placed in the tomb with the pharaoh to assist his resurrection in the afterlife. Exact copies of these figures are shown in a further module. The exhibition displays 25 copies of ushabti figures which were to serve Tutankhamun in the hereafter. His tomb also contained two small coffins with the mummies of stillborn children.

Next, objects such as the throne, sceptre and fans can be seen, which the pharaoh used as symbols of power on official occasions, along with various types of furniture that were also used in daily life, as well as weapons, chariots and hunting implements. Utilitarian objects such as toy boxes, games, writing implements and musical instruments highlight other aspects of everyday life.



*Chariot*

# TUTANKHAMUN

HIS TOMB AND HIS TREASURES

## 3. Tutankhamun – pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty

Ancient Egyptian sources make very little mention of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. He only became known, indeed famous, on the spectacular discovery of his almost intact burial chambers by the British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922. Tutankhamun ruled Egypt during the New Kingdom period (18th to 20th Dynasty, around 1550 to 1070 B.C.). The 18th Dynasty began with Ahmose, who ended the domination of the 'Hyksos' over Egypt. The Hyksos were a foreign people known for their horsemanship whose actual name and origin is unknown. Ahmose drove the Hyksos out of Egypt and his successors reconquered further areas, such as Nubia. Egypt became a world power and Thebes, today known as Luxor, became the residence of the pharaohs. Their empire stretched along the Nile from the Mediterranean to Nubia and extended as far as Mesopotamia. The Valley of the Kings in the city of the dead (necropolis) on the west bank of



*Mask of Tutankhamun*

the Nile opposite Thebes became the burial place of almost all the kings of the New Kingdom. The 18th Dynasty was definitively shaped by famous pharaohs such as Hatshepsut who immortalised a foreign trade expedition to the incense land of Punt in her Theban mortuary temple, the great commander Tuthmosis III, and Pharaoh Amenhotep III, who ruled in pomp and splendour and was Tutankhamun's grandfather.



*Statue of Tutankhamun in wood*

© Copyright Griffith Institute

Unlike in the Old and Middle Kingdoms, the pharaohs of the New Kingdom were buried in tomb chambers cut deep into the rock and no longer in pyramids. Monumental temple complexes now arose in Thebes and Karnak which are still admired today. Amun, the 'hidden' god, became the chief deity.

The son of Amenhotep III, Pharaoh Amenhotep IV (1353-1336 B.C.), who called himself Akhenaten, brought in radical changes with his religious revolution. This period of rule is called the Amarna Period, because Akhenaten and his consort Nefertiti transferred their residence to Tell el-Amarna in Middle Egypt. The Pharaoh introduced a monotheistic faith and had the cults of all other gods radically suppressed, the old temples closed, and gods' statues and inscriptions destroyed, especially those of the god Amun. Only Aten, the shining god of the sun disk, was allowed to be worshipped. While Akhenaten was seen as a great innovator in Carter's day because of his worship of a single god, Egyptologists nowadays see the fanatical downside of this pharaoh's rule. Akhenaten's reign triggered a serious crisis in traditionally-minded Egypt.

# TUTANKHAMUN

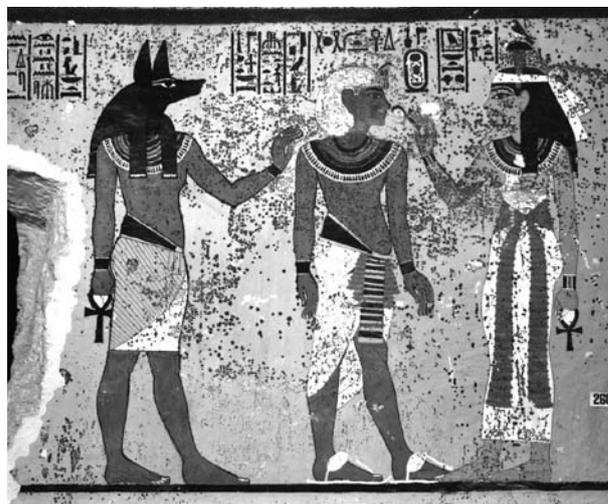
## HIS TOMB AND HIS TREASURES

### 3. Tutankhamun – pharaoh of the 18th Dynasty

After the death of Akhenaten, we know of two other pharaohs who died early and thus only ruled briefly, which meant that Tutankhamun became pharaoh in 1332 B.C. at the age of about nine. This son of Akhenaten's died at only 18 years old. The latest investigations on the mummy using CAT scans seem to indicate a severe knee injury as the cause of death. DNA data have also detected other illnesses the King suffered from.

Tutankhamun's achievements as a monarch are often underestimated today. The country went back to its traditions under his rule. This restoration was an important precondition for the renewed stability of the kingdom. Completely new religious ideas arose as a reaction to the Amarna catastrophe. For instance, one of the gilded shrines in the burial chamber bears an account similar to the Flood legend, of how the sun god would have almost completely destroyed a sinful human race because it had turned away from the gods.

Among the last pharaohs of the 18th Dynasty were the high official Ay and General Horemheb. Under Horemheb and his successors many of the monuments and statues of the Amarna period were destroyed, unfortunately including evidence of Tutankhamun. Old inscriptions of the god Amun were restored. Statues of Tutankhamun were



*Fresko der südlichen Wand der Grabkammer. Tutankhamun, in der Mitte, links gefolgt vom Gott Anubis, erhält von der Göttin Hathor das Symbol für „Leben“.*

© Copyright Griffith Institute

altered and usurped by Horemheb. Horemheb was followed by General Ra-Messe, who mounted the throne as Ramesses I and founded the 19th Dynasty. His son Seti I erected further temple buildings to the god Amun, which his famous son Ramesses II carried on. Ramesses II fought serious battles against the Hittites, who attacked Egypt from Syria. His successors had to fight off other attacks, among others from the 'Peoples of the Sea' from the Mediterranean region.

## 4. The discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter

Who was Howard Carter? He was born on 9th May 1874 in Kensington, a district of London. He grew up outside the city of London in the countryside of north Norfolk. His father Samuel worked as a painter. During his childhood Carter came into contact with the rich and famous Amherst family, which possessed a large private collection of Egyptian art. Lord Amherst was a keen supporter of the Egypt Exploration Fund, a British society for exploring Ancient Egypt founded in 1882, which still exists in London as the Egypt Exploration Society. When the Egypt Exploration Fund was looking for a talented draughtsman, Lord Amherst recommended the young Howard Carter. In September 1891, at the age of seventeen, Carter travelled to Egypt for the first time on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund. The archaeological expedition went to Beni Hasan in Middle Egypt, and the hill tombs of the governors of the 11th and 12th Dynasties, where Carter, under direction of the Egyptologist Percy E. Newberry, was to record the wall paintings of the tomb chambers. Egypt had been living through a turbulent period in its history. In 1798, French troops under Napoleon conquered Egypt, which at the time was part of the Ottoman Empire. Napoleon began by employing experts to scientifically investigate the Ancient Egyptian sites.

In 1799, during the building of fortifications in Rosetta (Rashid in Arabic), the famous Rosetta Stone was found. The text on this important find, shown in replica at the beginning of the exhibition, is written in two languages: the upper part has two Egyptian inscriptions (in Demotic script and in hieroglyphics) with the Greek translation underneath. The decipherment of this Egyptian text by Jean Francois Champollion some 20 years later laid the foundations for the beginning of scientific Egyptology. In 1801 the British defeated the French army, which then had to withdraw. After Great Britain had acquired all the shares in the



*Howard Carter during work on the burial chamber*

Suez Canal, opened in 1869, it occupied Egypt in 1882. Nominally the Egyptian viceroy remained subject to the Ottomans until 1914. The political situation was very unstable.

Carter and his contemporaries were able to build on the knowledge of the young science of Egyptology. In 1892 he gained practical experience on the excavations of the Briton William Flinders Petrie at Tell el-Amarna, the capital under Akhenaten and Nefertiti. Flinders Petrie had described the Stonehenge area when he was still a young man and in Egypt had taken the measurements of the Pyramids of Giza. He developed a special method for dating pottery fragments, which would make him the 'father of modern archaeology'.

In 1893, Carter joined an undertaking of the Fund under the Swiss Edouard Naville. The objective was to excavate the mortuary temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari in Western Thebes. The work went on

#### 4. The discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter

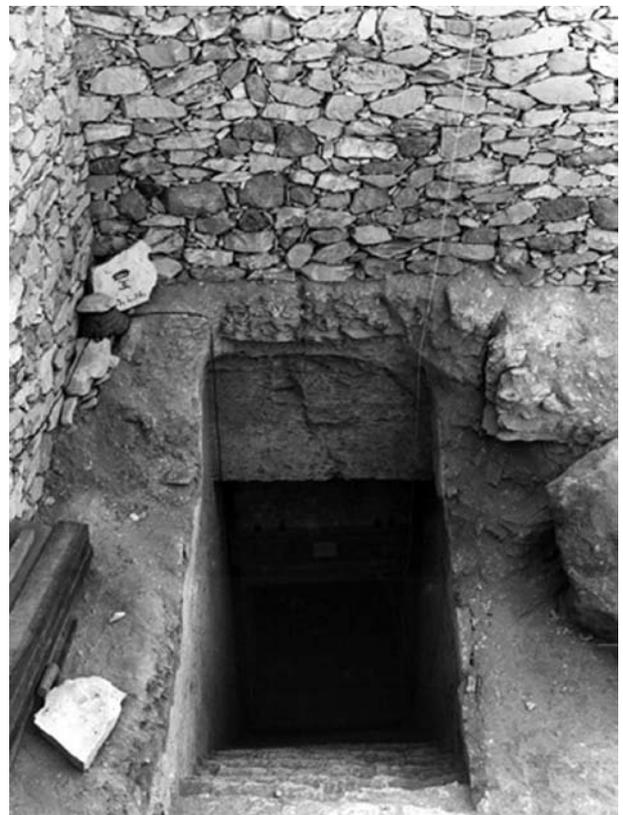
until 1899. As head draughtsman, Howard Carter was in charge of documenting the reliefs and inscriptions of the temple. During their work on the temple the archaeologists found unknown intact tombs of priests and officials. Gaston Maspero, the new head of the Antiquities Service, finally offered Carter the post of Chief Inspector for Upper Egypt and Nubia. The Antiquities Service was under the direction of French archaeologists and was responsible for allocating excavation permits and expanding the collection of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. On 1st January 1900 Howard Carter took up his new post in Luxor (Thebes).

From 1902, Carter extended his field of activities and accepted a commission from the American lawyer Theodore Davis to supervise his excavation work in the Valley of the Kings. In 1903, Carter discovered the already plundered but well-preserved tomb of Pharaoh Tuthmosis IV, probably Tutankhamun's great-grandfather. Next to it, the mummy of Hatshepsut was found in a tomb chamber. In the autumn of 1904 the Antiquities Service transferred Carter to Cairo as Chief Inspector for Lower Egypt. Soon afterwards he came into conflict with French tourists in Saqqara and was transferred for disciplinary reasons. In October 1905 Carter resigned. He carried on working as a draughtsman for archaeological publications and also worked as a tourist guide, as well as continuing his employment for Theodore Davis. At about the same time, the British Lord Carnarvon was staying in Egypt to recover from the effects of a car accident. In part through the dowry of his wife, who was a daughter of Baron Alfred de Rothschild, Lord Carnarvon possessed a fortune which he was keen to invest in excavations. His stay led to his becoming interested in Egyptology, and in the autumn of 1907 he was granted an excavation permit for Thebes. Meanwhile Theodore Davis's excavation team in the Valley of the Kings found a faience cup with the name of Tutankhamun, the first indication that a tomb of the pharaoh must exist in the Valley. Eventually

Davis also found a pit with embalming material and the remains of a funeral celebration for Tutankhamun, as well as fragments of gold foil with more cartouches of the pharaoh.

In 1914 Carnarvon took over Davis's excavation permit. The First World War interrupted the preparations for excavation, so it was only in autumn 1917 that the excavation team began systematically searching for the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings.

Carter had marked the places where the indications of Tutankhamun had been found on a map and formed a triangular area out of them which he divided into squares on the map. This meant he could document every excavation that had taken place and its finds. Carter searched in vain for five years. When Lord Carnarvon was on the point of giving up, Carter's powers of persuasion resulted in one last excavation season. When almost the whole of the area had already been investigated,



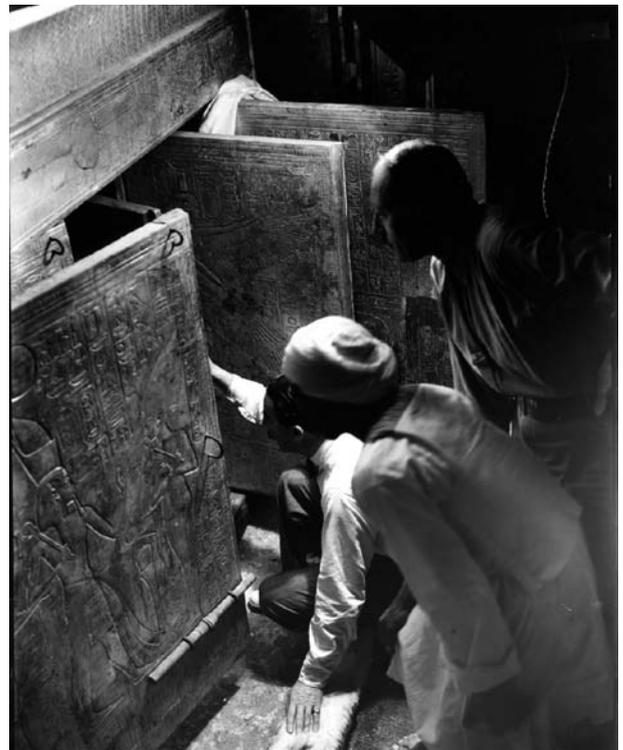
*Steps to Tutankhamun's tomb*

© Copyright Griffith Institute

#### 4. The discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter

only the unexplored land by the ruins of ancient builders' huts at the entrance to the tomb of Ramesses VI was left. On 4th November 1922, Howard Carter discovered some steps under the ruins. He telegraphed Lord Carnarvon to come over from England. On 26th 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. 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 high-calibre experts together. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York sent over its best people. Without Arthur Mace and the chemist Alfred Lucas, many of the organic materials which needed immediate conservation would be lost today. Over 2,800 glass negatives by the photographer Harry Burton serve us today as records of the original positions of the 5,000 objects that were found in the tomb chambers. Sir Alan Gardiner was to work on the inscriptions and James Harry Breasted to interpret the seal impressions. The architect Arthur Callender and the Egyptologist Percy Newberry completed the team. The chambers were to be completely inventoried and cleared. Once the antechamber was empty, Lord Carnarvon and Carter opened the wall to the burial chamber in the presence of Antiquities Service representatives on 17th February 1923. Shortly afterwards, Carnarvon was bitten by a mosquito and then cut the bite while shaving. He died on 5th April 1923 from a lung inflammation following blood poisoning. His death led to a public debate about the 'curse of the pharaoh', which claimed that it was forbidden to disturb the pharaoh's rest. The Antiquities Service now issued the excavation permit to Lady Carnarvon.

The four shrines, built one inside the other, were disassembled in the burial chamber. The innermost shrine contained a stone sarcophagus with three coffins lying one inside the other. The innermost coffin contained the mummy of Tutankhamun with the famous gold mask. [Graphic for shrine and coffin construction] The team hoisted the lid of the red quartzite sarcophagus on 12th February 1924. A day later Howard Carter protested against the interference of the Antiquities Service in the scientific processing of Tutankhamun's tomb. Behind the Egyptian actions lay political conflicts which had been smouldering for some time. Britain had granted Egypt its independence in 1922 and it had become a constitutional monarchy. The first Egyptian king was Fouad I. The Prime Minister Saad Zaghul Pasha was pursuing nationalistic goals in 1924 and attempting to combat British influence. The opened sarcophagus was to be presented to the press on 13th February 1924. The Egyptian forbade the wives of Carter's team



*Howard Carter at the opening of the fourth inner shrine in the burial chamber*

© Copyright Griffith Institute

#### 4. The discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter

members from being present at the occasion. Carter showed no sympathy for this, formulated his public protest, had the sarcophagus closed and as it were went on strike. The Antiquities Service then withdrew Lady Carnarvon's excavation permit. After the British Governor General of the Sudan was murdered in Cairo in November 1924, the Prime Minister had to resign and the country's politics became somewhat more pro-British. Howard Carter was finally able to resume work in January 1925 and on 10th October 1925 he opened the first coffin. On 11th November 1925 the team took the mask off Tutankhamun's mummy and started on the autopsy. The rooms of the tomb complex were systematically cleared until 1932, with the finds numbered

exactly and conserved. The specialists listed over 5,900 objects. Carter decided to draw up a scientific report which would give a detailed description of the discovery of the tomb with its objects. But this never happened. Only his popular science report was published in three volumes from 1923 to 1933. Under constant exposure to the artificial light and the air of the tomb, Howard Carter's state of health visibly deteriorated. He was in Egypt again and again until 1936, but then he returned to England. On 2nd March 1939 Howard Carter died of cancer. The numerous other important discoveries the famous archaeologist made before Tutankhamun are still little known to the wider public today.