

TUTANKHAMUN: TREASURES OF THE GOLDEN PHARAOH

Discover the treasures of Ancient Egypt's most famous pharaoh

It's almost 100 years since 'Boy King' Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered. Now's your last chance to see its treasures before they're returned to Egypt...

To celebrate the anniversary of the incredible tomb's discovery, **150 artefacts** from the burial site are on display at the **Saatchi Gallery** in **London**, more than **60** of which have **never** been seen outside of Egypt.

Who was King Tut?

King Tutankhamun (King Tut for short!) became ruler of **Ancient Egypt** when he was just **nine years old**. The **Boy King** died just **ten years later** and he was buried in a **golden coffin** surrounded by **5,000 priceless treasures**, including **animal statues, jewellery, clothes, weapons** and even **toys**.

Some **Egyptologists** believe King Tut may have died in a **chariot crash**. But the cause of his death remains a **mystery** today!

Finding Tut's tomb

The tomb was found by British archaeologist **Howard Carter** in **November 1922**. Howard had spent many years **excavating** the tombs of Egyptian kings and queens when he came across a cup etched with the name of an obscure pharaoh – **Tutankhamun**.

Howard became convinced that Tut's tomb was buried somewhere in the **Valley of the Kings**. But after **8 years** of searching he had found nothing. Then, just when he was about to **give up**, one of his crew – a young boy who was a **water fetcher** – found a **stair** carved into the rock.

When Howard and his Crew entered the tomb, they were greeted with thousands of **spectacular treasures** that had been left almost untouched, more than **3,300 years** after the **Egyptian Pharaoh's** death. It was the only Ancient Egyptian royal tomb ever found intact. Wow!

The curse

The discovery caused a sensation, and the little-known king instantly became the **most famous** Pharaoh on the planet.

With the world gripped by Ancient-Egyptian fever, **the media** were desperate to publish new, exciting stories. So when Lord Canarvon (the **wealthy man** who financed the search for Tut) died from an **infected mosquito bite** on his cheek, the newspapers invented a story that it was because **Tutankhamun's** tomb was cursed. Eeeek!

King Tut's Treasures



Wooden Guardian Statue of the King

This **life-sized statue** of Tutankhamun, with piercing **golden eyes**, gold clothing and contrasting **black skin**, was one of two **sentries** that Howard Carter found guarding the **sealed entrance** of Tut's burial chamber. Would you have dared mess with it?!

Miniature Canopic Coffin

The **afterlife** was incredibly important to the Ancient Egyptians. They believed that by **preserving** a dead person's body – through the process of **mummification** – the **soul** would live on in the afterlife **forever**. During the mummification process,

the **internal organs were removed**, wrapped in **linen bandages** and placed in containers called **canopic vessels**. Usually these were **jars**, but sometimes the organs were stored in **miniature golden coffins**. This beautiful coffin (left) contained King Tut's **liver**. Wow!



Gilded Wooden Bed



Experts think this **gold-covered bed** (below) was made for King Tut's funeral. The Ancient Egyptians believed that the dead were merely **asleep** and that they woke up when they were 'reborn' in the **afterlife**. To ensure the Pharaoh's **safe passage into the afterlife** and to **keep evil forces at bay**, divine figures were

carved on to the bed – in this case **Bes**, a **god who frightened away evil spirits** from **newborn babies**, and **Tauret**, the **hippo goddess**. Sweet dreams!

Silver military trumpet

Two **trumpets** were found inside the tomb of Tutankhamun. It is said that the trumpets are **magical**. The first time one was blown after their re-discovery, the lights went out in Cairo's Egyptian Museum – and a few months later **war broke out** in Europe. The trumpets were played again before the **Six Day War** in 1967, before the 1990 **Gulf War** and the **Egyptian revolution** of 2011. Some people have blamed these weird coincidences on **the curse**. Spooky!



649 words

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