

Centenary of Tutankhamun excavation



TUTANKHAMUN

Born in 1341 BC, believed to be son of pharaoh **Akhenaten** and Akhenaten's sister

Becomes king in 1333 BC at age nine. Marries paternal half-sister, **Ankhesenamun**

Dies in 1323 BC aged 19, possibly from malaria and degenerative bone disease

Wood and plaster statuette of King Tut emerging from lotus flower, found in tomb

THRILL OF DISCOVERY

Nov 4, 1922: Three days into final season bankrolled by **Lord Carnarvon**, Carter finds stairway cut into limestone bedrock

In Nov 1922, after years of searching, British archaeologist **Howard Carter** stumbles upon a buried flight of steps while working in Egypt's Valley of the Kings and unearths the entrance to the 3,000-year-old tomb of Tutankhamun. In the months that follow, thousands of priceless artefacts are recovered in one of the greatest finds in the history of archaeology

TOMB (KV 62)

Only tomb from pharaonic New Kingdom (1550 BC-1069 BC) to be found almost intact

Evidence of ancient, minor break-ins only, probably soon after funeral

Treasures give unique insight into funeral rites and skill of craftsmen

Antechamber

Contains household items for king's voyage to afterlife

Annexe

Crammed with more than 2,000 artefacts

Coffins

Mummified remains preserved in nest of three elaborately-decorated coffins

Outermost coffin
Made of gilded wood

Middle coffin
Gilded wood inlaid with red and turquoise glass and blue pottery

Innermost coffin
110kg of solid gold

Mummified body of King Tut

Funerary mask

Pure gold "death mask" of boy king, inlaid with lapis, obsidian and quartz, now iconic symbol of Ancient Egypt

Burial chamber

Only room with wall paintings, showing funeral and arrival in underworld

Royal sarcophagus

Carved from single block of red quartzite and surrounded by four gilded wooden shrines

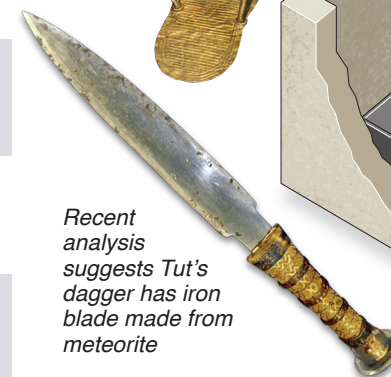
Treasury

Canopic shrine stores chest of four jars, which contain internal organs – lungs, stomach, intestines and liver – each topped with alabaster image of Tutankhamun

Statue of god Anubis



Sandals found in tomb



Recent analysis suggests Tut's dagger has iron blade made from meteorite

2 metres

Nov 25:

Rubble blocking access to first sealed door removed, revealing corridor

Nov 26: Carter peers through hole on second sealed door for first look into tomb. He sees "wonderful things"

Feb 17, 1923: Burial chamber is finally unsealed before invited guests. Outermost shrine is seen, filling the space

Photographer **Harry Burton's** 1924 recreation of moment Carter (kneeling), engineer **Arthur Callender** and assistant first see sarcophagus through opened shrine doors

Oct 28, 1925: After three years excavating tomb, Carter opens last of king's three coffins to reveal gold mask, seen for first time in 3,250 years

It would take Carter 10 years to catalogue all 5,398 items from burial, which included thrones, archery bows, trumpets, food, wine and fresh underwear

