

# [King tut](https://assignbuster.com/king-tut/)

King Tutankhamen: The Mysterious Pharaoh of Egypt   
King Tutankhamen was not an important pharaoh, or a successful one.

However, he is the most famous pharaoh, thanks to the incredible and exciting discovery   
of his tomb by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in 1922 1. The young pharaohs tomb   
may not have been the biggest, most elaborate tomb, but he and his family had at their   
command the wealth of the greatest period of Egyptian history 2. King Tutankhamens   
fame today is due to his tomb and what was found in it. It was the only Egyptian tomb of   
a pharaoh with most of its contents intact, found in history 3.   
King Tutankhamen was born over 3, 000 years ago. No exact date is known 4.   
Tutankhamen was believed to be born in Malkata, a place in Southern, Egypt 5. To this   
day the true parentage of Tutankhamen is unknown 6. Most historians believe that   
Tutankhamen is the son of the old pharaoh, Amenhotep III and his chief wife Queen   
Tiye7. Because his parentage remains a mystery, it is very possible that he could even be   
the blood of a common towns person 8. King Tutankhamen, only nine years old, was   
crowned as pharaoh in 1336 BC in Memphis 9. He was still a child when he was pharaoh   
and thus King Tut still carried out normal childhood events while he was pharaoh. King   
Tutankhamen began school at four years of age as did other well-born Egyptian children.   
He learned to read and write. King Tutankhamen was a very good writer and a great   
quantity of scribal equipment was found placed in his tomb 10. He was a good pupil and   
graduated with honors 11. As a pharaoh, King Tutankhamen had a great diet. The   
contents of his tomb reflected a diet of breads and cakes made of barley and wheat,   
seasoned with spices and sweetened with honey. Dates, figs, grapes, almonds, and fruit   
of palm were considered desserts. He possibly could have snacked on watermelon seeds;   
eleven baskets were found when his tomb was excavated. he drank wine at mostly every   
meal and was amply supplied with thirty large jars of vintage wine for his afterlife 12.   
Tutankhamen practiced many activities in his spare time also. King Tut indulged in   
riding in his chariots, fishing, archery, and swimming 13. Hunting was a true love for   
King Tutankhamen. He hunted antelopes, waterfowl, hare, gazelle, ibex, ostriches, and   
even the powerful dangerous hippopotamus 14. King Tutankhamen had numerous dogs   
that he loved to play with while he was relaxing in the palace 15. King Tutankhamen   
could have possibly collected walking sticks also. One hundred thirty walking sticks   
were found in his tomb. They were decorated with ebony, ivory, silver, and gold. The   
use of boomerangs as a spare time activity is also suggested because several of these were   
also found in his tomb 16. King Tut was also entertained by playing senet, an ancient   
Clothing was a very important thing in King Tutankhamens time. The dressing   
of a pharaoh was a very big ritual event that was carried out in front of favored courtiers.   
Tutankhamen was well equipped for this event. Many of his clothing items were placed   
in his tomb with him when he was buried. Clothing, sandals, necklaces, jewels, a pair of   
mirror boxes, and a life-size mannequin were all found in his tomb. The mannequin was   
cut off at the elbows and above the hips. It was the same size as Tutankhamen and was   
probably used to display options he had for robes and elaborate jeweled collars. King Tut   
usually wore his customary knee length kilt with a triangular loin cloth tied around his   
waist underneath it. Occasionally King Tutankhamen wore undershirts which were   
adorned with embroidery around the neckline. These simple garments represented a   
significant investment of labor. Some of his undershirts are estimated to have taken three   
thousand hours to complete. Many cosmetic cases were found in King Tutankhamens   
tomb also. This suggested that he wore makeup along with a lot of other Egyptians. The   
main feature he enhanced with makeup was his eyes. Everyday he outlined his eyes in   
kohl, a paste of ground malachite mixed with liquid. This created a dark liquid to define   
his eyes, resembling the eyeliner of today 18.

Tutankhamen married his half sister, Ankhesenamun soon after his crowning of   
pharaoh. This marriage was an attempt to make King Tut more capable of ruling Egypt   
in the public eye 19. Although, they did not have any children together, two female   
fetuses were found buried next to Tutankhamen. These are believed to be their stillborn   
Tutankhamen was worshipped as a living god, having immense power and wealth,   
like all the other pharaohs of ancient Egypt. He had numerous responsibilities also. He   
had the responsibility of building monuments that would please the gods, he had to   
perform ceremonies to ensure fertile land for the growing season, and he had to make   
offerings to gain the gods favor for Egypt. King Tutankhamen also made all of the laws   
was the commander-in-chief of the army. Along with all of his other duties, King   
Tutankhamen also had to rebuild Egypt after the horrible rule of Akhenaton. He did all   
of this while being in his early teenage years 21.

Tutankhamen had official guides to generally guide him in the affairs of the state   
because he was a child pharaoh. Tutankhamen had two official guides, Aye and   
Horemheb, who were both court officials. Aye was of higher ranking than Horemheb 22.   
A lot of Tutankhamens brief reign was spent rebuilding and restoring Egypt to what it   
was before Akhenaton reigned 23. Akhenaton, during his rule, abolished Egypts main   
religion, which was polytheism. Akhenaton proclaimed Aten as the one and only god.   
He forced people to abandon their other gods and convert to monotheism. Tutankhamen,   
during his reign, brought back the old religion and changed the country back to their old   
ways 24. Tutankhamens changes in religions greatly pleased the priests and the general   
public of the ancient faith. Tutankhamen also enlarged and improved the temples of gods   
25. King Tuts restoration policies had a positive effect on all of Egypt. Under his   
leadership the country grew stronger then before and the people of the country profited   
26. Tutankhamens reign was a very successful one, considering how short his rule   
lasted. Tutankhamens rule was very brief. His rule began when he was approximately   
nine years old and ended when he had an unexpected death at the age of eighteen 27.

The unexpected death of King Tutankhamen happened when he was eighteen. To   
this day no one knows for sure why or how he died. Historians have created two major   
theories that explain the cause of King Tutankhamens mysterious death 28. Some   
scholars believe that King Tut inherited the physical frailty that plagued many Egyptian   
royals of the time and died from tuberculosis 29. Although, a modern autopsy was   
performed in the 1920s when king Tuts mummy was found. His skull had a wound   
caused by a forceful blow or fall 30. With this knowledge of an injury to the head, King   
Tutankhamens death could have been an accident or a murder. When King Tut reached   
the age of eighteen he was able to make decisions on his own and rule Egypt without the   
help of his advisors Aye and Horemheb. Some historians believe that the powers behind   
the throne did not want this and therefore murdered the boy king 31. Aye is the historians   
main suspect in the murder of King Tut. Aye was ranked above Horemheb, therefore,   
Aye would be the next king if King Tut died childless. King Tut died childless, leaving   
Aye to rule the throne 32. No matter how or why King Tutankhamen died, he did and in a   
The discovery of King Tutankhamen was very exciting . It is one of the most   
famous discoveries in the whole world. The discovery took place over 3, 000 years after   
King Tutankhamen died. In November of 1922, Lord Carnarvon funded an expedition to   
the Valley of the Kings. The British archaeologist, Howard Carter, led the group 33.   
Lord Carnarvon had already been searching for King Tutankhamens tomb for seven   
years. Britain had owned Egypt for many years, but now the native population wanted its   
freedom. This revolt made Lord Carnarvon very uneasy and so he decided that this   
would be the last digging season to look for King Tutankhamens tomb 34. Howard   
Carter had been digging in the Valley of Kings since 1903 and made few important   
discoveries. He was beginning to believe that there was nothing left to find. Then on   
November 4, 1922 the beginning of the staircase to King Tutankhamens tomb was found   
35. The two archaeologists kept digging and on November 26, 1922 Howard Carter and   
Lord Carnarvon entered the tomb 36. When they entered they realized that King   
Tutankhamens tomb was not made for a pharaoh at all. When a pharaoh is crowned their   
tomb is started, but because the tombs are so elaborate for the kings it takes many years to   
complete them. Because King Tutankhamen died so shortly after he became pharaoh, his   
tomb was not ready. Aye was the man who arranged King Tutankhamens funeral. Aye   
put King Tutankhamen in a tomb made for a nobleman instead 37. When Carter and   
Carnarvon discovered the tomb King Tutankhamens mummy lay within many shrines   
and coffins. The first layer that was opened was the outer shrine. The pall frame was   
opened next. After these the second and third shrine were opened. Inside the third shrine   
lay the inner shrine. Lastly, laying inside the inner shrine was the sarcophagus. The   
sarcophagus is where King Tutankhamens coffin laid. It was carved from a single block   
of the hardest quartzite. The sarcophagus was a golden-yellow color and was elaborately   
painted and engraved with pictures and Hieroglyphics. All of the shrines were painted   
and carved but the sarcophagus was the most elaborate. The sarcophagus was opened up   
to find three coffins inside one another. these coffins fit together like Russian dolls. The   
lid of each coffin was modeled to look like the dead pharaoh, Osiris. He was wearing a   
broad collar and wristlets. His arms were crossed across his chest to clutch the symbols   
of kingship, the crook and the flail. Each coffin was elaborately designed and plaited in   
gold 38. King Tutankhamens face was covered by a stupendous mask covered in gold   
and elaborate decor on the innermost coffin. This coffin is made of 22 carat gold and   
weighs 296 pounds. It is estimated to be worth 1. 5 million dollars 39. For an Egyptian   
pharaoh. death was just an unfortunate crossing point between tow lives. 40 After his   
human death, Tutankhamens life and his position as pharaoh would carryon in his   
afterlife. His tomb was filled with the numerous items a pharaoh would need in the   
afterlife 41. When discovered, King Tutankhamens tomb contained over 5, 000 treasures.   
The most famous of these was the cornelian and gold mask worn by his mummy 42.

Carnarvon and his men began to prepare for the removal of King Tutankhamens coffin   
and objects in the tomb. They got packing crates and boxes ready 43. When it came time   
to go into the tomb and excavate the coffin Carnarvon became very ill. Twelve days later   
he died 44. This was just the beginning of the well-known Curse of Tutankhamen.   
Rumors began to spread rapidly about the curse and that death would overcome anyone   
who disturbed the eternal rest of the pharaoh. people connected with the tomb began to   
drop off in rapid succession. Georges Benedite, the head of the Department of Egyptian   
Anquities at Louvre Museum in Paris, died shortly after Carnarvon. A. C. Mace, a   
member of the Carnarvon-Carter expedition, died shortly after Benedite 45. The   
pharaohs curse was being blamed for all of these deaths. Over twenty consecutive   
deaths were considered by some to be the revenge of Tutankhamen. Public chaos led to   
investigation of written curses which might have been written on Egyptian artifacts. No   
curse has ever been found on any Egyptian artifacts. Although, even today the legend of   
the curse has not been forgotten 46. The discovery of King Tutankhamens tomb greatly   
supplemented our knowledge of Ancient Egyptian art and culture. At the same time it   
created a world-wide interest for all Egyptian things 47.

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