

Who is Tutankamon



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Tutankhamun also known by the Egyptological pronunciation Tutankhamen , reconstructed /ˈtʌŋkəˈmɛn/ , was an ancient Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, during the period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom. He has, since the discovery of his intact tomb, been referred to colloquially as King Tut.

The 1922 discovery by Howard Carter of Tutankhamun's nearly intact tomb, funded by Lord Carnarvon, received worldwide press coverage.

It sparked a renewed public interest in ancient Egypt, for which Tutankhamun's mask, now in the Egyptian Museum, remains a popular symbol.

In February 2010, genetic testing confirmed that he was the son of the mummy found in the tomb KV55, believed by some to be Akhenaten.

His mother was his father's sister and wife, whose name is unknown but whose remains are positively identified as The Younger Lady mummy found in KV35.

The deaths of a few involved in the discovery of Tutankhamun's mummy have been popularly attributed to the curse of the pharaohs.

Tutankhamun was the son of Akhenaten who is believed to be the mummy found in tomb KV55.

His mother is one of Akhenaten's sisters.

At birth he was named Tutankhaten, a name indicating birth during the Aten era.

His wet nurse was a woman called Maia, known from her tomb at Saqqara that was nearly destroyed by looters during the Egyptian revolution of 2011.

Shortly after reports of looting at Saqqara, Dr. Zahi Hawass confirmed that stories of the destruction of tombs was inaccurate.

In 2015 the tomb of Maia was opened to the public for the first time since its discovery.

French Archaeologist Dr. Alain Zivie, who uncovered the tomb, believes that, not only was Maia a high status woman, but also the oldest sister of Tutankhamun.

A scene illustrated in a royal tomb in Tal Al-Amarna depicts the funeral of Meketaten, another daughter of Pharaoh Akhenaten.

In the scene, "Merit Aten" is breast feeding a young child believed to be the young pharaoh

In 2008 genetic research was carried out on the mummified remains of other members of Tutankhamun and his family members was conducted at the University of Cairo.

The results indicated that his father was the KV55 mummy, identified as Akhenaten, and that his mother was not one of Akhenaten's known wives but one of his father's five sisters. The team reported it was over 99.99 percent certain that Amenhotep III was the father of the individual in KV55, who was in turn the father of Tutankhamun.

The young king's mother was found through the DNA testing of a mummy designated as 'The Younger Lady' , which was found lying beside Queen Tiye in the alcove of KV35. The validity and reliability of the genetic data from mummified remains has been questioned due to possible degradation due to decay

When he became king, he married his half-sister, Ankhesenpaaten, who later changed her name to Ankhesenamun.

They had two daughters, neither of whom survived infancy.

While the data are still incomplete, the 2008 research suggests that one of the mummified fetuses found in Tutankhamun's tomb is his daughter, and the other fetus

is also most likely his.

Only partial data for the two female mummies from KV21 has been obtained so far.

Computed tomography studies released in 2011 revealed that one daughter was born prematurely at 5–6 months of pregnancy and the other at full-term, 9 months.

The daughter born at 9 months gestation had spina bifida, scoliosis, and Sprengel's deformity .

Tutankhamun was between eight and nine years of age when he ascended the throne and became Pharaoh, taking the throne name Nebkheperure.

He reigned for about 9 years.

His tomb in the Valley of the Kings was discovered by Carter almost completely intact—the most complete ancient Egyptian royal tomb found.

As Tutankhamun began his reign so young, his vizier and eventual successor, Ay, was probably making most of the important political decisions during Tutankhamun's reign.

Kings were venerated after their deaths through mortuary cults and associated temples.

Tutankhamun was one of the few kings worshiped in this manner during his lifetime.

A stela discovered at Karnak and dedicated to Amun-Ra and Tutankhamun indicates that the king could be appealed to in his deified state for forgiveness and to free the petitioner from an ailment caused by sin.

Temples of his cult were built as far away as in Kawa and Faras in Nubia.

The title of the sister of the Viceroy of Kush included a reference to the deified king, indicative of the universality of his cult.

In order that the pharaoh, who held divine office, could be linked to the people and the gods, special epithets were created for them at their accession to the throne.

These titles also served to demonstrate ones qualities and link them to the terrestrial realm.

The five names were developed over the centuries beginning with the Horus Name.

This name identified the figure as a representative of the god Horus.

The Nebty name was the second part of the royal titular of Upper and Lower Egypt.

This name placed the king under the protection of two female deities, Nekhbet and Wadjet and began sometime towards the end of the First Dynasty as a reference to "The one who belongs to Upper and lower Egypt", along with mention of the Two Ladies.

Beginning sometime in the Fourth Dynasty of Egypt, the Gold Falcon name was created.

The last two names of the king, the prenomen and the nomen, were generally depicted within the circular, roped Cartouche of the king and were known as the Throne name and the Son of Re name.

The Five Names of the King attributed to Tutankhamun are; Horus name: Kanakht
Tutmesut, translated as; Victorious bull, the image of birth.

Nebty name : Neferhepusegerehtawy, translated as; Perfect of laws, who has quieted down the Two Lands.

Nebty name : Neferhepusegerehtawy seh-atep netjeru nabu, translated as; Perfect of laws, who has quieted down the Two Lands and pacified all the gods.

Nebty name : Wer ah imen, translated as; The great one of the palace of amun.

Gold Falcon name : Wetjes khau, sehetep netjeru translated as; Elevated of appearances, who has satisfied the gods.

Gold Falcon name : Wetjes khau it, efra, translates as; Who has elevated the appearances of his father Re.

Prenomen : Neb kheperu re, translated as: The possessor of the manifestation of Re

epithet added to Throne name : Haqa maat, translated as; Ruler of Maat

Nomen : Tut ankh aten, generally translated as; The living image of Aten
Nomen : Tut anke imen, haqa iunu shemau, translated as; The living image of Amun, Ruler of Southern Heliopolis, His original nomen was; Tutankhaten.

Nothing has been found with the full 5 name protocol of the kings with this earlier nomen.

Tutankhaten was believed to mean; "Living-image-of-Aten" as far back as 1877 however, not all Egyptologists agree with this interpretation.

English Egyptologist Battiscombe Gunn believed that the older interpretation did not fit with Akhenaten's theology.

Gunn believed that such an name would have been blasphemous.

He saw tut as a verb and not a noun and gave his translation in 1926 as; The-life-of-Aten-is-pleasing.

Professor Gerhard Fecht also believed the word tut was a verb.

He noted that Akhenaten used; tit as a word for 'image', not tut.

Fecht translated the verb tut as; "To be perfect/complete".

Using Aten as the subject, Fecht's full translation was; "One-perfect-of-life-is-Aten".

The Hermopolis Block has a unique spelling of the first nomen written as; Tutankhuaten which uses ankh as a verb which does support the older translation of Living-image-of-Aten.

The earlier nomen did not have a Nebty Nam or a Gold Falcon name associated with them. The country was economically weak and in turmoil following the reign of Akhenaten.

Diplomatic relations with other kingdoms had been neglected, and Tutankhamun sought to restore them, in particular with the Mitanni.

Evidence of his success is suggested by the gifts from various countries found in his tomb.

Despite his efforts for improved relations, battles with Nubians and Asiatics were recorded in his mortuary temple at Thebes.

His tomb contained body armor, folding stools appropriate for military campaigns, and bows, and he was trained in archery.

However, given his youth and physical disabilities, which seemed to require the use of a cane in order to walk, most historians speculate that he did not personally take part in these battles

As part of his restoration, the king initiated building projects, in particular at Karnak in Thebes, where he dedicated a temple to Amun.

Many monuments were erected, and an inscription on his tomb door declares the king had "spent his life in fashioning the images of the gods".

The traditional festivals were now celebrated again, including those related to the Apis Bull, Horemakhet, and Opet.

His restoration stela says: The temples of the gods and goddesses ... were in ruins.

Their shrines were deserted and overgrown.

Their sanctuaries were as non-existent and their courts were used as roads ... the gods turned their backs upon this land ...

If anyone made a prayer to a god for advice he would never respond.

Given his age, the king probably had very powerful advisers, presumably including General Horemheb and Grand Vizier Ay .

Horemheb records that the king appointed him "lord of the land" as hereditary prince to maintain law.

He also noted his ability to calm the young king when his temper flared

In his third regnal year, under the influence of his advisors, Tutankhamun reversed several changes made during his father's reign.

He ended the worship of the god Aten and restored the god Amun to supremacy.

The ban on the cult of Amun was lifted and traditional privileges were restored to its priesthood.

The capital was moved back to Thebes and the city of Akhetaten abandoned.

This is when he changed his name to Tutankhamun, "Living image of Amun", reinforcing the restoration of Amun.

Tutankhamun was buried in a tomb that was unusually small considering his status.

His death may have occurred unexpectedly, before the completion of a grander royal tomb, causing his mummy to be buried in a tomb intended for someone else.

This would preserve the observance of the customary 70 days between death and burial

In 1915, George Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, the financial backer of the search for and the excavation of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, employed English archaeologist Howard Carter to explore it.

After a systematic search, Carter discovered the actual tomb of Tutankhamun in November 1922, and unsealed the burial chamber on 16 February 1923

On 4 November 2007, 85 years to the day after Carter's discovery, Tutankhamun's mummy was placed on display in his underground tomb at Luxor, when the linen-wrapped mummy was removed from its golden sarcophagus to a climate-controlled glass box.

The case was designed to prevent the heightened rate of decomposition caused by the humidity and warmth from tourists visiting the tomb

His tomb was robbed at least twice in antiquity, but based on the items taken and the evidence of restoration of the tomb after the intrusions, these robberies likely took place within several months at most of the initial burial.

The location of the tomb was lost because it had come to be buried by debris from subsequent tombs, and worker's houses were built over the tomb entrance

There were 5,398 items found in the tomb, including a solid gold coffin, face mask, thrones, archery bows, trumpets, a lotus chalice, food, wine, sandals, and fresh linen underwear.

Howard Carter took 10 years to catalog the items.

Recent analysis suggests a dagger recovered from the tomb had an iron blade made from a meteorite; study of artifacts of the time including other artifacts from Tutankhamun's tomb could provide valuable insights into metalworking technologies around the Mediterranean at the time

Almost 80% of Tutankhamun's burial equipment originated from the female pharaoh Neferneferuaten's funerary goods, including the Mask of Tutankhamun.

In 2015, English Egyptologist Nicholas Reeves published evidence showing that an earlier cartouche on Tutankhamun's famous gold mask read "Ankhkheperure mery-Neferkheperure" ; therefore, the mask was originally made for Nefertiti, Akhenaten's chief queen, who used the royal name Ankhkheperure when she most likely assumed the throne after her husband's death.

Neferneferuaten may have been deposed in a struggle for power and possibly deprived of a royal burial, or she was buried with a different set of Akhenaten's funerary equipment by Tutankhamun's officials, since Tutankhamun succeeded her as king.

Neferneferuaten was likely succeeded by Tutankhamun based on the presence of her funerary goods in his tomb

In January 2019, it was announced that the tomb would re-open to visitors after nine years of restoration.

Tutankhamun was slight of build, and roughly 167 cm tall.

He had large front incisors and an overbite characteristic of the Thutmosid royal line to which he belonged.

Analysis of the clothing found in his tomb, particularly the dimensions of his loincloths and belts indicates that he had a narrow waist and rounded hips.

The king possibly suffered from gynecomastia; evidence for this comes primarily from the art style of the period.

In January 2005 Tutankhamun's mummy was CT scanned.

The results showed that Tutankhamun had a cleft palate and possibly a mild case of scoliosis.

The scan also showed his right foot was flat, while his left foot was clubbed and suffered necrosis of the bone tissue due to Freiberg disease or Köhler disease II.

The affliction may have forced Tutankhamun to walk with the use of a cane, many of which were found in his tomb.

The CT scan also showed that he had suffered a compound left leg fracture.

There are no surviving records of Tutankhamun's death, the subject of which has been of considerable debate and major studies.

Between September 2007 and October 2009, 11 mummies that are closely associated with Tutankhamun's genealogy were tested through a number of genetic studies.

DNA tests of his mummy show DNA of mosquito-borne parasites that cause malaria.

This is currently the oldest known genetic proof of ailment.

Tutankhamun contracted multiple malarial infections according to multiple strains discovered through the testing.

The presence of malaria in his system, led to a conclusion that a combination of malaria and Köhler disease II could have been partly how Tutankhamun died

A facial reconstruction of Tutankhamun was carried out in 2005 by the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and National Geographic.

Three separate teams – Egyptian, French, and American – worked separately to approximate the face of the boy king.

While the Egyptian and French teams knew their subject was Tutankhamun, the American team worked blind.

All teams produced very similar results, but it was that of the French team that was ultimately cast in silicone

In 2005, research using CT scans on the mummy found that he was not killed by a blow to the head.

It is suspected he also had a partially cleft palate, another congenital defect

It has been theorised that Tutankhamun also suffered from Marfan syndrome, Wilson–Turner X-linked mental retardation syndrome, Fröhlich syndrome , Klinefelter syndrome, androgen insensitivity syndrome, aromatase excess syndrome in conjunction with sagittal craniosynostosis syndrome, Antley–Bixler syndrome or one of its variants, and temporal lobe epilepsy

A research team from the National Research Centre in Cairo conducted further CT scans, STR analysis have rejected the hypothesis of gynecomastia and craniosynostoses or Marfan syndrome, but an accumulation of malformations in Tutankhamun's family was evident.

Several pathologies including Köhler disease II were diagnosed in Tutankhamun; none alone would have caused death.

Genetic testing for STEVOR, AMA1, or MSP1 genes specific for *Plasmodium falciparum* revealed indications of malaria tropica in 4 mummies, including Tutankhamun's.

The team discovered DNA from several strains of a parasite, indicated that he was repeatedly infected with the most severe strain of malaria multiple times.

His malaria infections may have caused a fatal immune response in the body or trigger circulatory shock.

Additionally, he suffered from mild kyphoscoliosis, pes planus , hypophalangism of the right foot, bone necrosis of the second and third metatarsal bones of the left foot, malaria, and a complex bone fracture of the right knee, which occurred shortly before his death

The Egyptian priest Manetho wrote about ancient Egyptian history, starting from before the First Dynasty and continuing down to Alexander the Great.

The copies, however, were poorly transcribed.

Josephus, a Jewish historian, for example, had two different copies.

This history called Tutankhamun "King Rathotis", and according to Manetho, he reigned for nine years, a figure that conforms with Josephus's two copies.

For many years, rumors of a "curse of the pharaohs" persisted, emphasizing the early death of some of those who had entered the tomb.

The most prominent was George Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, who died on 5 April 1923, five months after the discovery of the first step leading down to the tomb on 4 November 1922

A study of documents and academic sources led The Lancet to conclude that Carnarvon's death had nothing to do with Tutankhamun's tomb, regardless of whether because of a curse or exposure to toxic fungi .

The cause of Carnarvon's death was pneumonia supervening on [facial] erysipelas .

Pneumonia was thought to be only one of various complications, arising from the progressively invasive infection, that eventually resulted in multiorgan failure".

The Earl had been "prone to frequent and severe lung infections" according to The Lancet and there had been a "general belief ... that one acute attack of bronchitis could have killed him.

In such a debilitated state, the Earl's immune system was easily overwhelmed by erysipelas"

A study showed that of the 58 people who were present when the tomb and sarcophagus were opened, only eight died within a dozen years; Howard Carter died of lymphoma in 1939 at the age of 64.

The last survivors included Lady Evelyn Herbert, Lord Carnarvon's daughter who was among the first people to enter the tomb after its discovery in November 1922, who lived for a further 57 years and died in 1980, and American archaeologist J.O.

Kinnaman who died in 1961, 39 years after the event.

Tutankhamun's fame is primarily the result of his well-preserved tomb and the global exhibitions of his associated artifacts.

As Jon Manchip White writes, in his foreword to the 1977 edition of Carter's *The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun*, "The pharaoh who in life was one of the least esteemed of Egypt's Pharaohs has become in death the most renowned"

The discoveries in the tomb were prominent news in the 1920s.

Tutankhamen came to be called by a modern neologism, "King Tut".

Ancient Egyptian references became common in popular culture, including Tin Pan Alley songs; the most popular of the latter was "Old King Tut" by Harry Von Tilzer from 1923, which was recorded by such prominent artists of the time as Jones & Hare and Sophie Tucker.

"King Tut" became the name of products, businesses, and the pet dog of U.S.

President Herbert Hoover

Relics from Tutankhamun's tomb are among the most traveled artifacts in the world.

They have been to many countries, but probably the best-known exhibition tour was The Treasures of Tutankhamun tour, which ran from 1972 to 1979.

This exhibition was first shown in London at the British Museum from 30 March until 30 September 1972.

More than 1.6 million visitors saw the exhibition, some queuing for up to eight hours.

It remains the most popular exhibition in the Museum's history.

The exhibition moved on to many other countries, including the United States, Soviet Union, Japan, France, Canada, and West Germany.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art organized the U.S. exhibition, which ran from 17 November 1976 through 15 April 1979.

More than eight million attended.

In 2005, Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, in partnership with Arts and Exhibitions International and the National Geographic Society, launched a tour of Tutankhamun treasures and other 18th Dynasty funerary objects, this time called Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs.

It featured the same exhibits as Tutankhamen: The Golden Hereafter in a slightly different format.

It was expected to draw more than three million people.

The exhibition started in Los Angeles, then moved to Fort Lauderdale, Chicago, Philadelphia and London before finally returning to Egypt in August 2008.

An encore of the exhibition in the United States ran at the Dallas Museum of Art.

The tour continued to other U.S. cities.

After Dallas the exhibition moved to the de Young Museum in San Francisco, followed by the Discovery Times Square Exposition in New York City.

The exhibition visited Australia for the first time, opening at the Melbourne Museum for its only Australian stop before Egypt's treasures returned to Cairo in December 2011

The exhibition included 80 exhibits from the reigns of Tutankhamun's immediate predecessors in the 18th dynasty, such as Hatshepsut, whose trade policies greatly increased the wealth of that dynasty and enabled the lavish wealth of Tutankhamun's burial artifacts, as well as 50 from Tutankhamun's tomb.

The exhibition did not include the gold mask that was a feature of the 1972–1979 tour, as the Egyptian government has decided that damage which occurred to previous artifacts on tours precludes this one from joining them.

Mask of Tutankhamun Tutankhamun's mummy Tutankhamun's meteoric iron dagger
Tutankhamun's trumpets Anubis Shrine Footnotes Citations Grim secrets of Pharaoh's
city—BBC News Tutankhamun and the Age of the Golden Pharaohs website British
Museum Tutankhamun highlight "Swiss geneticists examine Tutankhamun's genetic
profile" by Reuters Ultimate Tut Documentary produced by the PBS Series Secrets of
the Dead