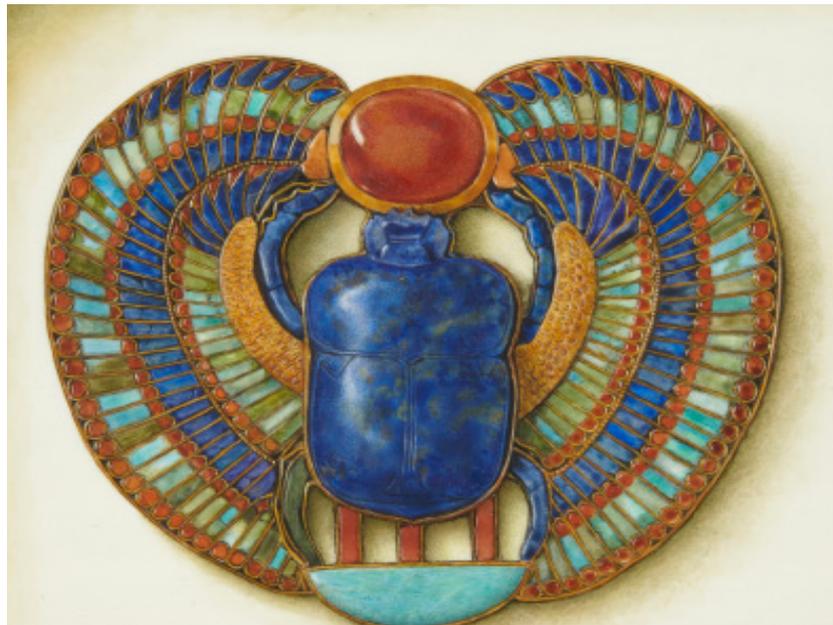


Discovering Tutankhamun

24 July - 2 November 2014



'Discovering Tutankhamun' uncovers the story of the most exciting archaeological discovery of the 20th Century – the 3000 year old tomb of King Tutankhamun.

The exhibition is organised into roughly three parts:

1. Discovering the tomb
2. Tutmania: world response to the discovery
3. Sculpture and art from the age of Tutankhamun

The exhibition could be used to explore a variety of themes and subject areas:

- Exploration and discovery
- Uncovering evidence from the past
- Photography now and then
- Egyptian art and design



'at last have made wonderful discovery in valley a magnificent tomb with seals intact'

Howard Carter's telegram to Lord Carnarvon on 5 November 1922

This is a charging exhibition but FREE for booked school groups and for under 18s.

To book a group visit please contact the Education Department:

education.service@ashmus.ox.ac.uk
t: 01865 278015



Look out for this symbol to find links with our collection in the main Egyptian Galleries 22-27

Introduction

Before you enter the exhibition ask children to look out for:

- photographs of the two men who discovered the tomb
- the diary entry from Howard Carter recording the discovery of the tomb on 5th November

Please note that the Introduction corridor is a small space and not suitable for group activities; suggested initial stopping point is in the first room you come to (Gallery 1) to the left of the large wall photograph (please take care to keep the gallery entrance clear).

Gallery 1: Discovering the Tomb

Stop to the left of the large wall photograph, with the photograph visible to the children (see image below).

Tutankhamun's tomb was found on 5th November 1922, after Howard Carter had been searching for 8 years. Funding from Lord Carnarvon was close to running out however Carter begged to have one final attempt at discovering the tomb.

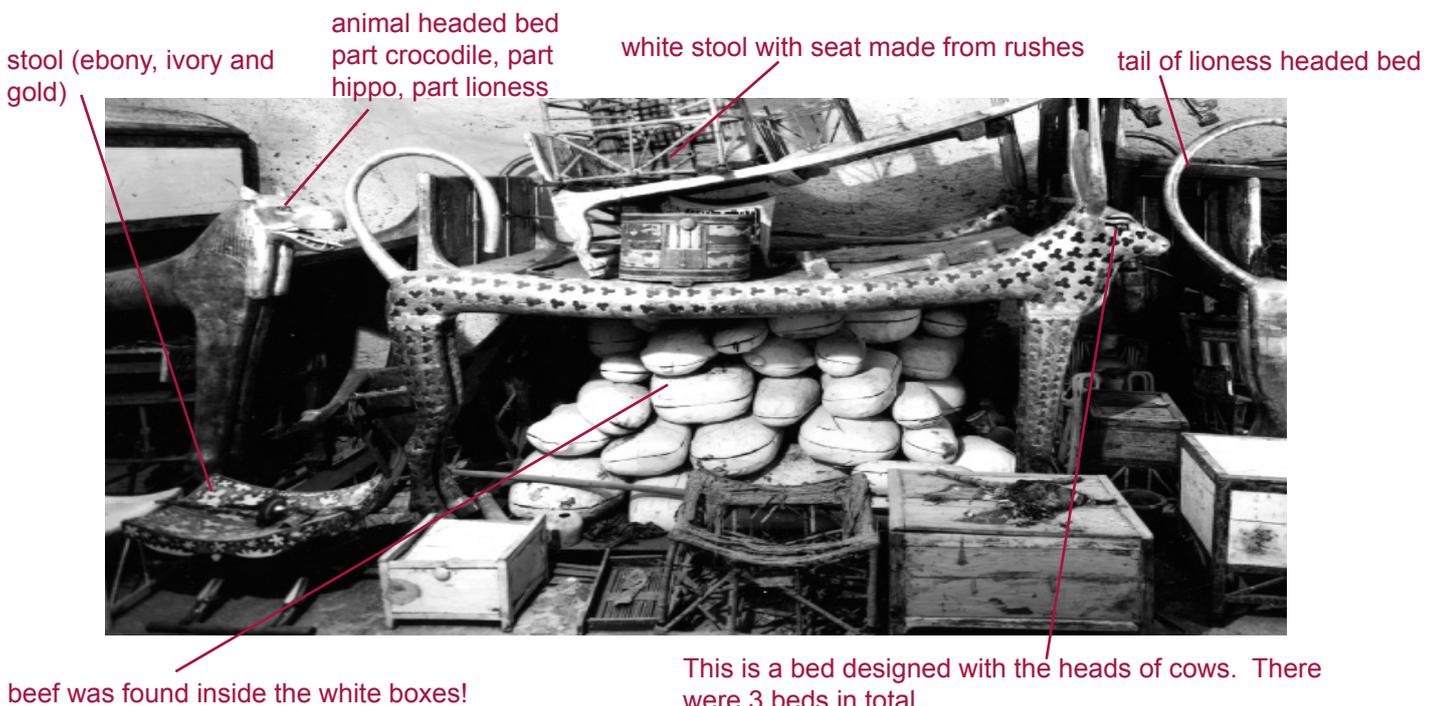
- Consider how Howard Carter felt when he wrote the diary entry to say he had finally discovered the tomb.
- Look at the photograph of the antechamber and discuss the group's first impressions of the contents of the tomb.

Key Questions

- How would you feel as you were about to walk down the steps into the tomb of Tutankhamun? What would you expect to see?
- Look at the photograph, what objects can you see?
- What are the white objects in the centre of the picture? How many can you count?
- Carter said that when he looked into the tomb he saw 'glints of gold' but the photos taken were all black and white; which objects would have been gold?
- If you were an archaeologist, how would you go about keeping a record of all your discoveries, to make sure that nothing got lost?
- How could you get around the problem of being limited to black and white photographs?
- What do you think happened to the treasures?

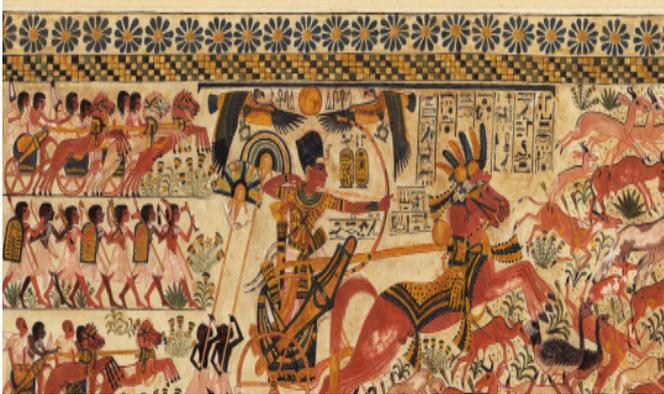
Further Information

- Howard Carter kept detailed notes on the colours of individual objects. You will see a coloured reconstruction of this photo when you get to gallery 3.
- Most of the objects are now at Cairo Museum in Egypt. Tutankhamun's tomb can still be visited in the Valley of the Kings.
- Carter was painstaking in his cataloging of items. It took 10 years to excavate the whole tomb.
- 70% of his discoveries in the tomb still haven't been researched - a job for a future young archaeologist?



Gallery 1 cont.

Other objects to look out for in this gallery:



Copies of paintings that decorate the sides of a small box found in the tomb.

- What animals can you see?
- Can you spot Tutankhamun's chariot?
- What weapon is he holding?
- Can you see the original box in the photo on the wall behind?

6 chariots were found in the tomb.



Look out for a fragment of a chariot wheel in the main Egyptian Galleries 22-27



Paintings of jewellery from the tomb, painted on ivory

Children could play a describing game, in pairs: choose one of the paintings (but don't tell anyone which one)

Describe the object, giving clues, e.g., what colours and shapes are in it?

See how many guesses it takes your partner to work out which one you chose.



Look out for the scarab beetle on amulets and sarcophagi in the main Egyptian Galleries 22-27

Before you move on to the next gallery, look out for more examples of food that the Egyptians left for Tutankhamun for the afterlife (you'll find watermelon, almond and perseas seeds in a case at the end of the room).

Gallery 2: Tutmania: world response to the discovery

Go to the middle of the room and position group to view the film on the wall.

In this gallery you will find a number of artefacts relating to the 'Tutmania' of the 1920s. You will also find a short film to watch showing original archive footage from Carter's expedition, including images of the photographer, Harry Burton, at work.

Key Questions:

- How have cameras changed since those that are shown in this film from the early 1920s?
- How did people dress then compared to now?
- How do you think the excavation site was protected from the crowds? (note soldier in one of the images)
- What would it be like to be one of the team working inside the tomb?
- Do you recognise any of the objects in the film? (features the cow bed in the photograph in gallery 1)

Before you leave this gallery, note the large replica animal head bed (part crocodile, lioness and hippo) that was featured in the photograph in gallery 1.

Also look at the case showing artefacts from the 1970s exhibition of the treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb, which travelled the world.

Key Questions:

- What are the problems in sending valuable objects on tours of museums around the world?
- Carter's excavations in the 1920s took place during a period of political unrest in Egypt. What do you think are the challenges for archeologists working in countries where conflicts are taking place?

Gallery 3. Sculpture and Art from the age of Tutankhamun

In this gallery there are more images of Tutankhamun to spot, including sculptures of the king, a reproduction of the wall painting in Tutankhamun's burial chamber and a copy of Tutankhamun's death mask.

Position the group in front of the reproduction of the scene from King Tut's burial chamber (see below)

Key Questions

- What can you see?
- Where is Tutankhamun here?
- Do you think he looks like the sculptures in this gallery?
- What are the different characters wearing?
- Can you spot the leopard skin?
- Does it make a difference whether you look at the images from right to left or left to right?



Look out for a statue of Osiris in the Egypt gallery.

Can you find more ankhs (symbols of life) on Taharqa's shrine in Gallery 23?

There are 3 scenes (starting from the right):

1. Tutankhamun's successor, King Ay, performing the Opening the Mouth ceremony before Tutankhamun, (who is mummified)

Osiris



3. Tutankhamun, with his *Ka* (life force represented as his double), embracing Osiris, god of the afterlife

2. In the middle, Tutankhamun, before Nut, making *Nini*, a welcoming gesture

Before you leave, look at the colour photographic reconstructions showing the contents of the king's tomb. How does it compare with the black and white photo you saw at the beginning?

Links to other information sources

The Griffith Institute <http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk/discoveringTut/>

Contains a wealth of resources including original photographs taken by Harry Burton

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/the-tomb-of-tutankhamun/5183.html>

BBC Class Clip 5183. A short video showing Tutankhamun's tomb today and featuring the burial chamber wall painting in situ

<http://www.ashmolean.org/education/resources/resources2011/?rid=6>

Ashmolean Education Department Egyptian Resources