

# What can we find out about ancient Egypt from what has survived?

## Learning Objective:

To find out about Tutankhamen and how artefacts can teach us about the past.





This is Howard Carter. He was born in 1874. He was an English archaeologist and Egyptologist who worked on several important excavations. Then, in 1907, he met Lord Carnarvon. By this time, Carter believed that there was a tomb buried somewhere in the Valley of the Kings and he needed money to search for it. Lord Carnarvon agreed to finance the dig.

BACK

NEXT



Howard Carter and his team started the search in 1914 and spent years looking for the tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Lots of other tombs had been found there but Carter was certain there was still one more to find.



BACK

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As the search continued, Lord Carnarvon started to get cross. He had spent a lot of money trying to find the tomb and nothing had been found. In 1922 he gave Carter one more chance to find it and after that he would give him no more money. Three days later, Howard Carter found the steps to Tutankhamen's tomb.



Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon at the steps of the tomb.

BACK

NEXT



"Slowly, desperately slowly it seemed to us as we watched, the remains of passage debris that encumbered the lower part of the doorway were removed, until at last we had the whole door clear before us. The decisive moment had arrived. With trembling hands I made a tiny breach in the upper left hand corner. Darkness and blank space, as far as an iron testing-rod could reach, showed that whatever lay beyond was empty, and not filled like the passage we had just cleared. Candle tests were applied as a precaution against possible foul gases, and then, widening the hole a little, I inserted the candle and peered in, Lord Carnarvon, Lady Evelyn and Callender standing anxiously beside me to hear the verdict. At first I could see nothing, the hot air escaping from the chamber causing the candle flame to flicker, but presently, as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold - everywhere the glint of gold. For the moment - an eternity it must have seemed to the others standing by - I was struck dumb with amazement, and when Lord Carnarvon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, inquired anxiously, 'Can you see anything?' It was all I could do to get out the words, 'Yes, wonderful things.' Then widening the hole a little further, so that we both could see, we inserted an electric torch."

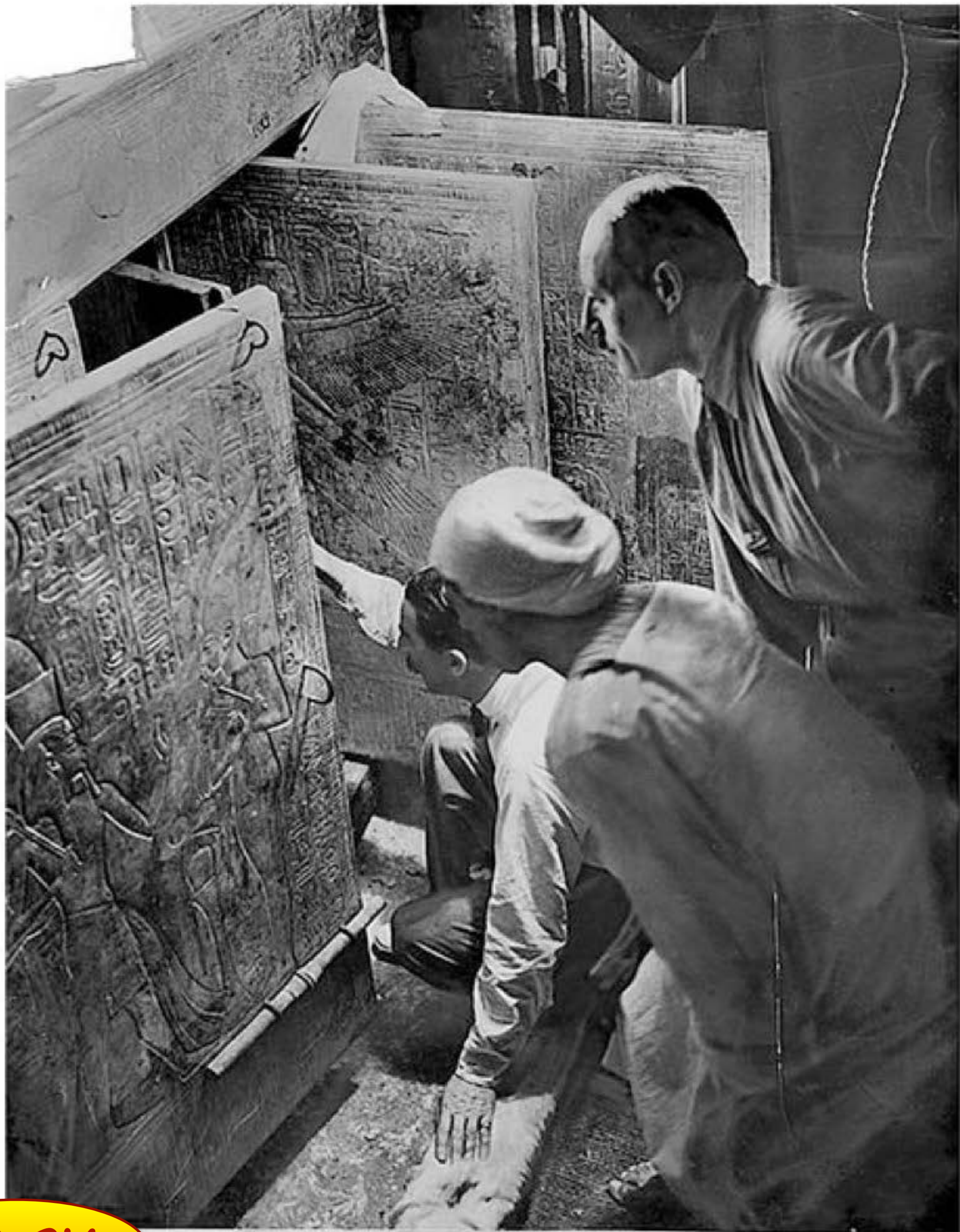
Howard Carter

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How do you think Howard Carter felt when he discovered the tomb?

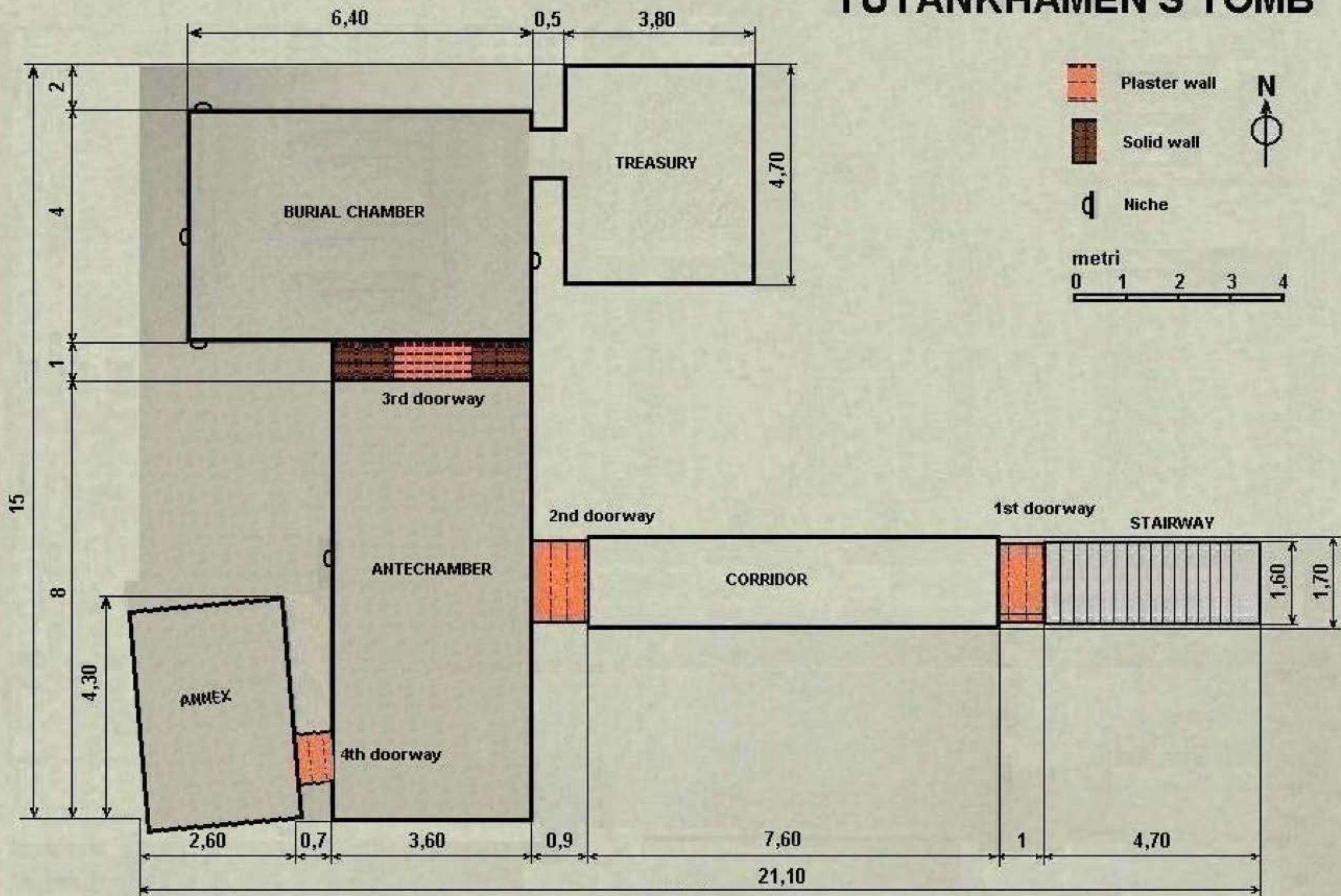


BACK

NEXT



# TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB



This is a map of Tutankhamen's tomb. What can you see?



BACK

NEXT





Lots of treasures were found in the tomb. The Egyptians buried their pharaohs in elaborate tombs with lots of treasures and other items they might need in the after-life. It was unusual to find a tomb that had not been disturbed by tomb robbers but no one had been in King Tut's tombs since his burial around 3300 years previously.

BACK

NEXT



What does this item tell you about Tutankhamen and his life in ancient Egypt?

This photo shows part of a throne found in the tomb.



BACK

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What does this item tell you about Tutankhamen and his life in ancient Egypt?



This is a statue of the god Anubis.



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What does this item tell you about Tutankhamen and his life in ancient Egypt?

This is a pectoral which is a type of jewellery worn on your chest.



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What does this item tell you about Tutankhamen and his life in ancient Egypt?

This is one of the chairs found in the treasury.



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What does this item tell you about Tutankhamen and his life in ancient Egypt?



This is a headrest.



BACK

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All the treasures in his tomb amazed Howard Carter and his team, but the most exciting discovery was of Tutankhamen himself. They found his mummified body inside a special coffin called a sarcophagus.

BACK

NEXT





This photo shows Howard Carter investigating the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen.



BACK

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This is Tutankhamen's death mask. It is the mask that was put over him in his sarcophagus. It is now one of the most iconic images of ancient Egypt.

BACK

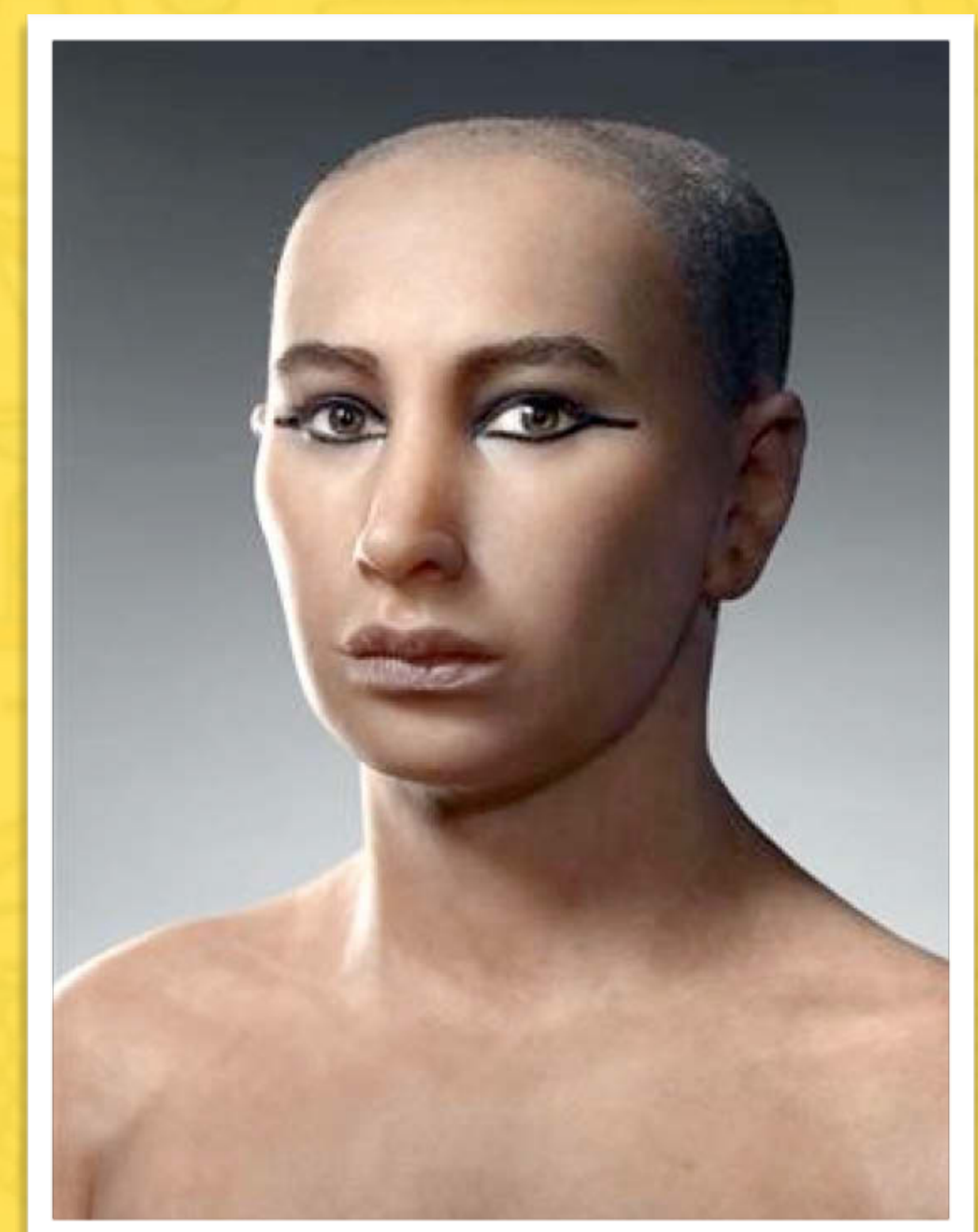
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King Tut's body was still intact, although not in perfect condition. However, scientists were able to find out a lot about him from his preserved body. We know he was between 18 and 20 when he died. There was evidence of head injuries although no one is exactly sure how he died. Some people think he was murdered, others believe he may have died in an accident.



In recent years, people have been able to use modern technology to reconstruct what Tutankhamen's face would have looked like using his mummy.



BACK