

# Howard Carter

## Fact File

**Name:** Howard Carter

**Date of Birth:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 1874

**Place of Birth:** Kensington, London

**Profession:** archaeologist and Egyptologist

**Famous for:** discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun



## Early Life

Howard's father was an artist. When Howard was young, his father taught him how to draw and paint.

As a young child, Howard spent a lot of time with his family in Norfolk. His family lived very close to a large manor house called Didlington Hall. This building was home to many ancient Egyptian artefacts and this is where Howard first decided that he wanted to become an archaeologist.



When he was 17 years old, Howard got a job creating drawings and paintings of important Egyptian finds. After that, he became an archaeologist and began working on his own **excavations**.

## Excavating in the Valley of the Kings

One day, Howard was approached by a wealthy man named Lord Carnarvon. Lord Carnarvon was very interested in a place called the Valley of the Kings in Egypt because lots of tombs had been found there. Lord Carnarvon offered to pay for Howard and his team to search for a hidden tomb.



Unfortunately, after several years, the team had uncovered very little. Frustrated with the lack of discovery, Lord Carnarvon said that he would stop paying Howard if he did not find anything in the next year. A short while after this, Howard's water boy stumbled upon a recently excavated stone. Howard recognised that this stone belonged to the top of a set of stairs and immediately began work to uncover it.

## Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 1922, Howard Carter was ready to look through the wall at the base of the stairs. Cheered on by a small crowd, including Lord Carnarvon and Howard's daughter, he made a small hole in the wall. This wall led to the golden antechamber of the pharaoh, Tutankhamun.



### Did You Know...?

- The chisel Howard used to break through the wall was a present given to him by his grandmother on his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- When Lord Carnarvon first asked Howard what he could see, he replied, "Wonderful things!"

After opening the antechamber, Howard noticed another door inside and work started to open it. This room was the burial chamber and contained golden objects and the intricately decorated **sarcophagus** of Tutankhamun. News of this amazing discovery spread quickly and, soon, people from all over the world were travelling to Egypt to catch a glimpse of Howard Carter and his incredible find.

## After the Discovery

After the tomb had been opened, Howard worked for nine more years to ensure that each golden object within the tomb was carefully documented. He drew each object alongside diagrams of their position within the tomb. These illustrations are still important today as they allow Egyptologists to understand how those who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago used to live.

When he had finished drawing all of the objects, Howard began touring the USA. While there, he gave talks about Tutankhamun's tomb and the amazing objects within it. Howard also wrote many books on Egyptology and Tutankhamun's tomb.

### Glossary

**archaeologist:** A person who studies human history by looking at artefacts and remains.

**Egyptologist:** A person who studies ancient Egypt.

**excavation:** Removing earth carefully from an area to find buried remains.

**sarcophagus:** A decorated coffin.

# Questions

1. Where was Howard Carter when he first decided that he wanted to be an archaeologist?  
Tick one.

- Kensington  
 Egypt  
 Didlington Hall  
 London

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order they occurred.

- Lord Carnarvon threatens to stop paying Howard Carter.  
 Howard Carter tours the USA.  
 Howard Carter is born.  
 Howard Carter uncovers Tutankhamun's tomb.

3. Look at the section titled **Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb**.  
Find and copy one word which means **very detailed**.
- 

4. What did Howard Carter's grandmother give him as a present for his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday?
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5. Fill in the missing words.

When he was young, Howard's father taught him how to \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

6. How do you think that Howard Carter felt when he first looked through the hole in the wall? Explain your answer.
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7. What do you think people today could learn from Howard Carter's drawings?

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8. Imagine that you are one of the journalists who travelled to Egypt after the discovery.  
Write a short summary of the find for your readers.

# Answers

1. Where was Howard Carter when he first decided that he wanted to be an archaeologist?  
Tick one.

- Kensington  
 Egypt  
 **Didlington Hall**  
 London

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order they occurred.

- 2** Lord Carnarvon threatens to stop paying Howard Carter.  
**4** Howard Carter tours the USA.  
**1** Howard Carter is born.  
**3** Howard Carter uncovers Tutankhamun's tomb.

3. Look at the section titled **Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb**.  
Find and copy one word which means **very detailed**.

**intricately**

4. What did Howard Carter's grandmother give him as a present for his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday?

**For his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, Howard Carter's grandmother gave him a chisel.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

When he was young, Howard's father taught him how to **paint** and **draw**.

6. How do you think that Howard Carter felt when he first looked through the hole in the wall? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Howard Carter felt incredibly excited because he had been working really hard for many years and had finally discovered something amazing.**

7. What do you think people today could learn from Howard Carter's drawings?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that people today could discover things about the ancient Egyptian people, such as how they mummified people and how they made the golden objects.**

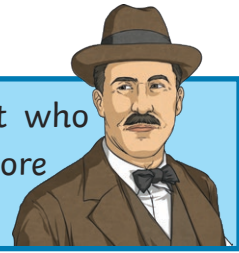
8. Imagine that you are one of the journalists who travelled to Egypt after the discovery.  
Write a short summary of the find for your readers.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Howard Carter finds hidden tomb! A British archaeologist has found the intact tomb of a pharaoh called Tutankhamun. The tomb is filled with golden treasures.**



# Howard Carter

Howard Carter was a British archaeologist and Egyptologist who became famous when he uncovered an intact Egyptian tomb more than 3,000 years after it had been sealed.



## Early Life

Howard was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1874 in Kensington, London. Howard's father was an artist and taught him how to draw and paint the world around him accurately. These skills would prove to be essential in Howard's later years.

As a young child, Howard spent a lot of time with his relatives in Norfolk. It was here that his interest in Egyptology began, inspired by the nearby Didlington Hall. This manor house was home to a large collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts and it is believed that this is where Howard first decided that he wanted to become an archaeologist. When he was 17, Howard started work as an archaeological artist, creating drawings and diagrams of important Egyptian finds.



## Excavating in the Valley of the Kings

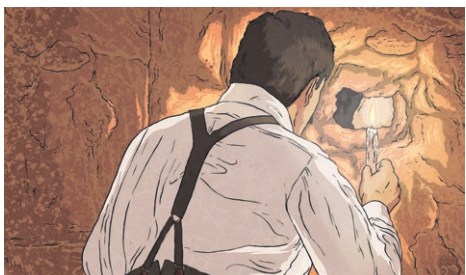
After becoming an archaeologist and working on several dig sites, Howard Carter was approached by a wealthy man named Lord Carnarvon. Lord Carnarvon had a particular interest in an Egyptian location called the Valley of the Kings – the burial place of many Egyptian pharaohs. After hearing rumours of hidden treasures in the valley, Lord Carnarvon offered to fund an excavation which was to be led by Howard Carter.



After working in harsh conditions for several years, Howard and his team had found very little. Frustrated with the lack of discovery, Lord Carnarvon told Howard that if nothing was found within the year, he would stop funding the excavation. A short while later, Howard's water boy stumbled across a piece of rock jutting out from one of the excavation sites. Howard recognised that this rock could belong to a set of buried stairs and work began at once to uncover them.

## Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1922, having received an urgent message from Howard, Lord Carnarvon arrived in Egypt. Three days later, the team were ready to discover what lay behind the door at the base of the excavated stairs. Using the chisel that his grandmother had bought him as a 17<sup>th</sup> birthday present, Howard carefully made a hole in the rock and looked through it. Famously, when Lord Carnarvon asked what he could see, he replied, "Wonderful things!"



Howard Carter had uncovered one of the most well-preserved Egyptian tombs to have ever been discovered. This was the antechamber of the pharaoh, Tutankhamun, and it was filled with hundreds of golden objects that a king would need in the afterlife.

After the discovery of the antechamber, Howard noticed a door at the back of the room and began work to open it. On 16<sup>th</sup> February 1923, the door was opened. The new room was a burial chamber and contained the golden and ornately decorated sarcophagus of Tutankhamun. News of this astonishing discovery spread quickly and, soon, journalists were arriving in Egypt. People from every country were desperate to catch a glimpse of the opened tomb and the man behind its discovery.

## After the Discovery

For the nine years following the discovery, Howard worked tirelessly to ensure that every item within the tomb was carefully documented before they were moved into a nearby museum in Cairo. Not only did Howard draw each object but he also made detailed diagrams of their location within the tomb. These drawings are still important today as they allow Egyptologists a glimpse into the life of those who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

When he finally left Egypt, Howard toured the USA giving talks about his discovery. He also published several books on Egyptology and the tomb of Tutankhamun. The discovery was so important to Howard that he had a quote from Tutankhamun's golden wishing cup inscribed upon his grave.





# Questions

1. Who discovered the first step on the flight of stairs that led to the antechamber? Tick one.

- Howard Carter  
 Howard Carter's water boy  
 Howard Carter's grandmother  
 Lord Carnarvon

2. Draw four lines to match each action to the person who carried it out.

funded the excavation	Howard Carter
taught Howard how to draw	Howard Carter's grandmother
opened the tomb of Tutankhamun	Lord Carnarvon
gave Howard a chisel	Howard Carter's father

3. Find and copy one word which shows that Lord Carnarvon's information wasn't completely believable.

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4. What was Tutankhamun's antechamber filled with?

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5. Look at the paragraph beginning **For the nine years following...**

Find and copy **two** different words that show how Howard Carter worked within the tomb.

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6. How do you think that Howard Carter and his team felt when Lord Carnarvon threatened to stop funding the excavation?

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7. Before Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb, many people believed that all of the tombs had already been found.  
Do you think that there could still be hidden tombs in the Valley of the Kings? Explain your answer.

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8. Would you like to have listened to a talk by Howard Carter?

Yes       No

Fully explain your answer.

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9. Howard Carter spent nine years documenting all of the artefacts within the tomb.

Do you think that this was a good idea? Explain your answer.

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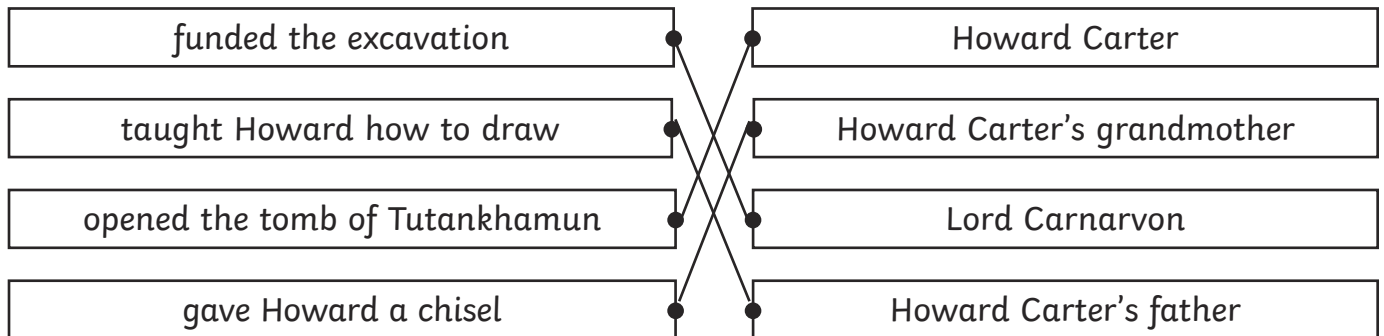
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# Answers

1. Who discovered the first step on the flight of stairs that led to the antechamber? Tick one.

- Howard Carter  
 **Howard Carter's water boy**  
 Howard Carter's grandmother  
 Lord Carnarvon

2. Draw four lines to match each action to the person who carried it out.



3. Find and copy one word which shows that Lord Carnarvon's information wasn't completely believable.

**rumours**

4. What was Tutankhamun's antechamber filled with?

**Tutankhamun's antechamber was filled with golden objects that a king would need in the afterlife.**

5. Look at the paragraph beginning **For the nine years following...**

Find and copy **two** different words that show how Howard Carter worked within the tomb.

**tirelessly**

**carefully**

6. How do you think that Howard Carter and his team felt when Lord Carnarvon threatened to stop funding the excavation?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Howard Carter and his team would have felt very disappointed and upset because they had been working really hard and now they might never find anything.**

7. Before Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb, many people believed that all of the tombs had already been found.

Do you think that there could still be hidden tombs in the Valley of the Kings? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that there are still tombs because Howard Carter was an experienced archaeologist but it still took him a really long time to discover the tomb so they are probably really well hidden.**

8. Would you like to have listened to a talk by Howard Carter?

**Accept either 'yes' or 'no', provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: Yes, I would really enjoy listening to Howard Carter because he made an incredible discovery and has actually been inside the tomb of Tutankhamun so I will be able to ask him lots of questions.**

9. Howard Carter spent nine years documenting all of the artefacts within the tomb.

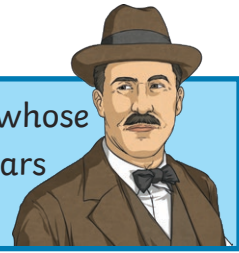
Do you think that this was a good idea? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it was a good idea because all of the artefacts were moved to a museum and, if they ever wanted to put the tomb back to the way it was when it was first sealed, they will be able to using Howard's drawings.**



# Howard Carter

Howard Carter was a British archaeologist and Egyptologist whose excavation of an intact Egyptian tomb – more than 3,000 years after it had been sealed – led to worldwide recognition.



## Early Life

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 1874 in Kensington, London, Howard Carter was born to parents Samuel John Carter and Martha Joyce Carter. Howard's father was an artist and taught Howard how to use pencils and paint to depict the world around him accurately – skills which were to be essential in his later years.

As a young child, Howard would often spend time with his relatives in Norfolk. It was here that his interest in Egyptology was piqued by the nearby Diddington Hall. This manor house was home to a large collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts and it is believed that this is where Howard Carter first decided that he wanted to become an archaeologist. At the age of 17, using the skills his father had taught him, he started work as an archaeological artist. He creating drawings and diagrams for important Egyptian finds.



## Excavating in the Valley of the Kings

After working as an archaeologist on several excavations, Howard Carter was approached by a wealthy man named Lord Carnarvon. Lord Carnarvon had a particular interest in an Egyptian location named the Valley of the Kings – so named because of the large number of pharaohs buried there. Inspired by rumours of hidden treasures, Lord Carnarvon offered to fund an excavation which was to be led by Howard Carter.



After working in the harsh desert conditions for several years, Howard and his team had found very little. Frustrated with the lack of discovery, Lord Carnarvon told Howard that he would cease all funding after a year if nothing had been found. A short while later, Howard's water boy stumbled across a piece of rock jutting out from a nearby excavation site. Howard recognised this rock as potentially belonging to a set of buried stairs and work began at once to uncover the remaining stonework.

## Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1922, after being summoned by Howard Carter, Lord Carnarvon arrived in Egypt. Three days later, the team were ready to discover what lay behind the door at the base of the excavated stairs. A small crowd of onlookers gathered, including Lord Carnarvon and Howard's daughter. Using the same chisel that his grandmother had given to him as a 17<sup>th</sup> birthday present, Howard carefully made a hole in the wall. Famously, when he first caught a glimpse of the other side and was asked by Lord Carnarvon what he could see, Howard replied, "Wonderful things." Howard Carter had uncovered one of the most well-preserved tombs of an Egyptian pharaoh ever to be found. Filled to the brim with golden objects that an Egyptian king would need in the afterlife, the antechamber of Tutankhamun was an exceptional discovery.



After the discovery of Tutankhamun's antechamber, Howard pressed on with the excavation and, on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1923, the door leading from the antechamber was opened. This room was a burial chamber and contained the sarcophagus and mummified remains of the pharaoh, Tutankhamun. News of this astonishing discovery spread quickly and, soon, journalists were arriving in Egypt; they were desperate to catch a glimpse of the opened tomb and the man behind its discovery.

## After the Discovery

For the nine years following the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, Howard worked tirelessly to ensure that every artefact was diligently documented before they were moved into a nearby museum in Cairo. Not only did Howard draw each object but he also made detailed diagrams of their location within the tomb. These drawings have proved invaluable to those studying Egyptology; they allow a glimpse into the life of those who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

Howard Carter published works on the tomb of Tutankhamun and toured the USA giving talks about his discovery. On Howard Carter's grave can be found words from the wishing cup of Tutankhamun:

**'May your spirit live, may you spend millions of years, you who love Thebes, sitting with your face to the north wind, your eyes beholding happiness.'**

# Questions

1. Draw four lines to match each action to the date it occurred.

The antechamber was opened.	Over 3,000 years ago
Lord Carnarvon arrived in Egypt.	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 1922
Tutankhamun's tomb was created.	26 <sup>th</sup> November 1922
The burial chamber was opened.	16 <sup>th</sup> February 1923

2. Look at the section titled **Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb**.

Which words tell you that this discovery was amazing? Tick **two**.

- exceptional
- onlookers
- astonishing
- glimpse

3. Look at the section titled **After the Discovery**.

Find and copy one word that shows how important Howard Carter's drawings are.

4. Name **two** things that Howard Carter did after opening the burial chamber.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did Lord Carnarvon want to fund an excavation in the Valley of the Kings?

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6. Do you think that Lord Carnarvon was fair to give Howard and his team one year to find something before he ceased all funding? Explain your answer.

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7. Who do you think was responsible for the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb? Tick one.

- Howard Carter
- Lord Carnarvon
- the water boy

Fully explain your answer.

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8. Imagine that you are Howard Carter. The first reporter has arrived in Egypt and has asked you what you have discovered. Write down your answer using the text to support you.

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9. Based on the text, would you like to become an archaeologist?

- Yes
- No

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10. Compare the contributions made by both Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon towards the success of the excavation.

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# Answers

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Which words tell you that this discovery was amazing? Tick **two**.

- exceptional**
- onlookers
- astonishing**
- glimpse

3. Look at the section titled **After the Discovery**.

Find and copy one word that shows how important Howard Carter's drawings are.

**invaluable**

4. Name **two** things that Howard Carter did after opening the burial chamber.

**Accept any two of the following: drew each object; made diagrams of the chamber; toured the USA; published works on the tomb of Tutankhamun.**

5. Why did Lord Carnarvon want to fund an excavation in the Valley of the Kings?

**Lord Carnarvon wanted to fund an excavation in the Valley of the Kings because he was inspired by rumours of hidden treasure.**

6. Do you think that Lord Carnarvon was fair to give Howard and his team one year to find something before he ceased all funding? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it was fair because they didn't know for definite that they were ever going to find anything as it was only rumours that Lord Carnarvon had heard.**

7. Who do you think was responsible for the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb? Tick one.

**Accept any single answer provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: I think that Howard Carter was responsible because he recognised the stone as being from a flight of stairs and started the work to uncover them which led to the discovery of the tomb.**

8. Imagine that you are Howard Carter. The first reporter has arrived in Egypt and has asked you what you have discovered. Write down your answer using the text to support you.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I have discovered the antechamber and the burial chamber of the pharaoh Tutankhamun. The chambers are filled with golden objects and the mummified remains of the king.**

9. Based on the text, would you like to become an archaeologist?

**Accept either 'yes' or 'no', provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: Yes, I would like to become an archaeologist because Howard Carter made an amazing discovery that he remembered for the rest of his life. The discovery also made him famous worldwide and I would like to be famous worldwide.**

10. Compare the contributions made by both Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon towards the success of the excavation.

**Pupils' own responses provided that a comparison between the two men has been made, such as: Howard Carter put in a lot of hard work and led the excavation. He also recognised the stone steps which led to the tomb. Lord Carnarvon did not work on the excavation like Howard did but he did pay for the excavation and without his money it may never have happened. Without them both, the tomb may never have been discovered.**