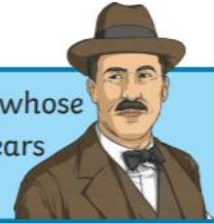


## Class 10 Reading

Read this text and answer the questions at the end. You will also use this text for your writing lesson.

# 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 Didlington 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

When answering the questions, remember to underline key words and read around them. Read the sentences the words are in and the sentences before and after if you need to. Think carefully about what the questions are asking you to do. Where there is a choice of answers, check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. Match each action to the date that it occurred.

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) The antechamber was opened.      | I. Over 3,000 years ago             |
| b) Lord Carnarvon arrived in Egypt. | II. 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 1922  |
| c) Tutankhamun's tomb was created.  | III. 26 <sup>th</sup> November 1922 |
| d) The burial chamber was opened.   | IV. 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**.

- a) Exceptional
- b) Onlookers
- c) Astonishing
- d) Glimpse

3. Look at the section title **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.

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

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.

7. Why do you think was responsible for the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb? Choose one answer.

- a. Howard Carter
- b. Lord Carnarvon
- c. the water boy

Fully explain your answer.

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.

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

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

You can also use the following website and login details to read different books. You could also talk to somebody at home about what you have read or write about them as a book review.



## Class Sign In Instructions

### Laptop or Chromebook

Have your students open their web browser and

1. Go to **[www.getepic.com/students](http://www.getepic.com/students)**

2. Sign in with your class code **pqr4175**

3. Select their name and they're in!

### iOS/Android

Have your students open the Epic! app and

1. Click on **"Have an account? Sign In"** then click on **"Students & Educators"**

2. Sign in with your class code **pqr4175**

3. Select their name and they're in!