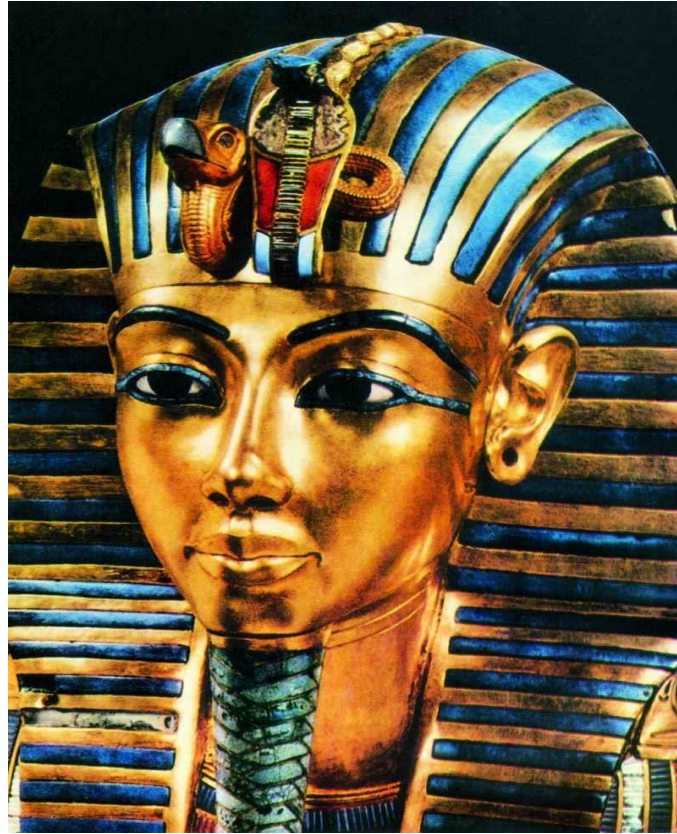


## HOWARD CARTER – THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMUN

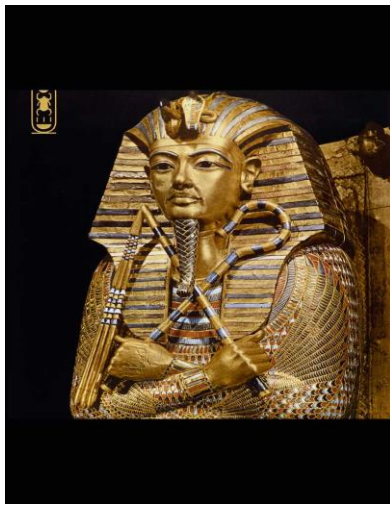


At the beginning of the 20th century, many people thought that all the tombs of pharaohs were found and there were no more undiscovered tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, but Howard Carter had a hunch that there was still more to find.

Howard Carter was born on 9 May 1874 in Kensington, London. He was the youngest of a family of ten sons and one daughter. His father was a well-known artist and Howard also showed a natural talent for drawing and painting. At the age of 17, Carter found a job working for an archaeologist who needed an artist to draw his findings in Egypt. This was an important job before colour photography. Over the next few years, he gradually turned from art to archaeology.

Some years later, Carter was introduced to Lord Carnarvon, who was willing to sponsor Carter's work in Egypt. Lord Carnarvon financed Carter's search for the tomb of a previously unknown Pharaoh, Tutankhamun. They searched for Tutankhamun's tomb for five years without finding anything. Lord Carnarvon, after spending a million pounds, wanted to stop the search, but Carter persuaded him to fund one last season. And on November 4, 1922, after years of searching, Carter found a stairway that led to the unopened tomb of Tutankhamun. Although he was anxious to enter the tomb, he

decided to wait for Lord Carnarvon, so that he too could witness the opening of the tomb. It was the only almost intact tomb of a Pharaoh yet found in the Valley of the Kings.



In February 1923, Carter opened the burial chamber and first saw the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun. Tutankhamun became a pharaoh at the age of nine in 1337 BC and he reigned for about 10 years. Although he only spent a decade on the throne, Tutankhamun was buried with over 5,000 treasures to help him in his afterlife. The ancient Egyptians thought that those gold treasures would help provide eternal life for the pharaoh. His tomb was discovered more than 3,000 years after his death and it made him the world's most famous pharaoh.

Legend has it, anyone who dares to open the tomb will suffer the wrath of the mummy. It's so-called mummy's curse or pharaoh's curse. This curse supposedly killed 9 people after entering the young King's tomb. The first of the mysterious deaths was that of Lord Carnarvon. He died a few months after the discovery, from an infected mosquito bite. Yet, either the mummy's curse is just a myth or the pharaoh wanted to spare Carter from his curse because he died in 1939, sixteen years after the discovery. Scientists say there is no evidence for the existence of the mummy's curse but the legend of the curse will live on thanks to mummy horror films.



**A1 Put the sentences in chronological order (i.e. in the order that things really happened).**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Carter opened the burial chamber of Tutankhamun.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carter worked as an artist in Egypt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Howard Carter was born in London.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lord Carnarvon financed Carter's search for the tomb of Tutankhamun.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tutankhamun became a pharaoh at the age of nine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carter found a stairway to the tomb of Tutankhamun.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tutankhamun was buried with over 5,000 treasures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Carter died in 1939.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lord Carnarvon died from an infected mosquito bite.

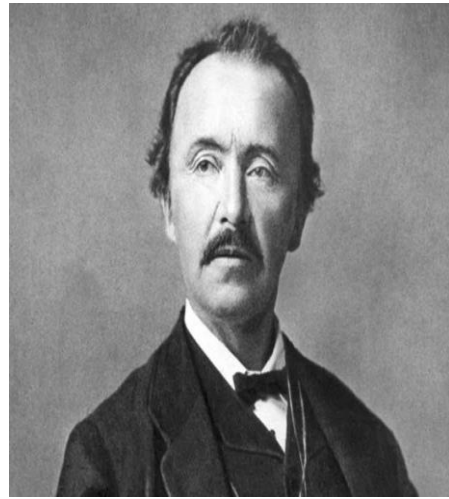
**A2 Find the following words in the text.**

- 1 strong anger                      wrath
- 2 a place where a dead person is buried                      \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 a preserved dead body, esp. in ancient Egypt                      \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 something bad that happens to someone as if by a magical power  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 valuable objects such as gold, silver, jewels, etc.                      \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 untouched                      \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 a period of ten years                      \_\_\_\_\_

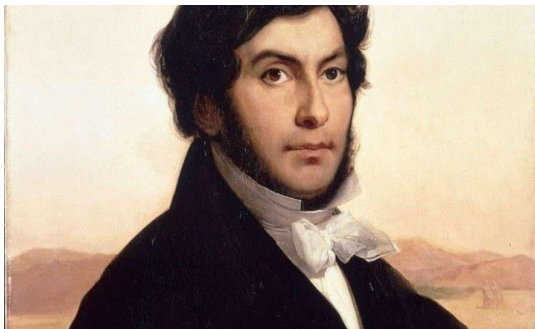
**B Test your knowledge. Here are four great men and their achievements. Do you know who did what?**



**1 Hiram Bingham**



**2 Heinrich Schliemann**



**3 Jean-Francois Champollion**



**4 Thor Heyerdahl**

a) \_\_\_\_ He is famous for his Kon-Tiki expedition in 1947, in which he sailed 8,000 km across the Pacific Ocean in a hand-built raft. He proved that long-distance ocean voyages in ancient boat designs were possible.

b) \_\_\_\_ He was a French historian and linguist who founded scientific Egyptology and played a major role in deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs.

c) \_\_\_\_ He is most famous for discovering and bringing to the attention of the Western world the ancient Incan site of Machu Picchu. It was built in the mid 15th century on a mountain top in Peru.

d) \_\_\_\_ He was the first, with Frank Calvert, to identify the likely site of Homer's Troy, which was then widely still considered just a myth.

**C1 Archaeology was popularized by films such as the Indiana Jones series and a lot of young archaeologists confessed that their first interest in archaeology began when they saw Indiana Jones. Have you seen any Indiana Jones films? If yes, choose one and say what the film is about.**

**C2 Here are four incorrect Indiana Jones film titles. Can you find the mistakes and correct them?**

- 1 Raiders of the Found Ark
- 2 Indiana Jones and the Tower of Doom
- 3 Indiana Jones and the First Crusade
- 4 Indiana Jones and the Empire of the Crystal Skull