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Introduction

Tutankhamun, commonly known as King Tut, was an Egyptian pharaoh who lived more than 3300 years ago. He was the last teenage ruler of a powerful royal family that had governed the Egyptian empire for centuries. Tutankhamun ruled for about nine years before his unexpected death. His tomb was discovered in 1922 by the British archaeologist Howard Carter. In recent times, the mummy was subjected to a CT scan to investigate the mystery surrounding his untimely death. Although modern technology has not yet provided a definitive answer, it has offered new directions for research and understanding.

Key Elements

- **Historical Context:** Tutankhamun was a young pharaoh from a long line of rulers in Ancient Egypt.
- **Discovery:** His tomb was found intact by Howard Carter in 1922, which was a significant archaeological event.
- **Scientific Investigation:** Modern CT scans have been used to study his mummy to uncover the cause of death.

Textual Evidence

"Tut died more than 3300 years ago. He was the last teen-aged ruler of a powerful family who had ruled Egyptian empire for centuries."

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who was Tutankhamun?
- When was his tomb discovered?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Why was the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb significant?
- What modern technology was used to study Tut's mummy?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss the importance of Howard Carter's discovery in the context of Egyptian history.
- Explain how modern technology has contributed to our understanding of Tutankhamun's death.

Answer Key

- **Who was Tutankhamun?** Tutankhamun was a teenage pharaoh of Ancient Egypt who ruled for about nine years.
- **When was his tomb discovered?** His tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter.
- **Why was the discovery significant?** Because it was a completely intact tomb, providing valuable insights into Ancient Egyptian history and culture.
- **What modern technology was used?** CT scans were used to study the mummy.
- **Importance of discovery:** It revealed much about Egyptian burial practices and royal lineage.
- **Contribution of technology:** It helped investigate the cause of death and age of Tutankhamun at death.

Quick Reference

- Tutankhamun: Young Egyptian pharaoh.
- Howard Carter: Archaeologist who discovered the tomb.
- CT Scan: Modern imaging technique used on the mummy.

Glossary

- **Pharaoh:** A ruler in ancient Egypt.
- **Mummy:** A preserved body of a dead person.
- **CT Scan:** A medical imaging technique that creates detailed images of the inside of the body.

Summary

Tutankhamun was the 11th Pharaoh of the 18th dynasty of Ancient Egypt, famous primarily because of the discovery of his completely intact tomb by British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922.

Family History

Tutankhamun was a teenage heir to the Egyptian royal throne. His family had ruled Egypt for centuries. His father or grandfather, Amenhotep III, was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for nearly 40 years. Amenhotep IV, his successor, shocked the nation by attacking the god Amun, destroying his images, and closing his temples. Tutankhamun ruled for nine years before dying unexpectedly, marking the end of his family line.

Howard Carter's Investigations

In 1920, Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb after it had been sealed for over 3300 years. Unlike the Egyptians, who feared the tomb due to superstitions about curses,

Carter was not afraid and believed these were merely to deter thieves. He proceeded to open the tomb and study its contents.

Carter Took Out the Body After Severing It

Removing Tutankhamun's body was difficult because it had hardened with resins inside the coffin. Carter and his team had to break through three gold coffins to reach the mummy. Unable to separate the body from the coffin without damage, Carter decided to cut the body into pieces to preserve it from potential theft or destruction.

Missing Bone

Years later, an X-ray revealed that one of Tutankhamun's bones was missing from the reassembled mummy. The cause of this loss remains unknown despite various studies and experiments by archaeologists and scientists.

Tut's Mummy Scanned

On January 5, 2005, Tutankhamun's mummy was scanned using a CT scanner to answer questions about his age at death and cause of death. The scan took less than three hours and confirmed that nothing had gone seriously wrong with the mummy. Tutankhamun was returned to his tomb, resting in peace in the Valley of the Kings. Although the scan did not provide a definitive cause of death, it opened new avenues for research and understanding.

Key Elements

- **Family Background:** Tutankhamun belonged to a royal family with a complex history involving religious reforms.
- **Archaeological Discovery:** Howard Carter's excavation was a landmark event in Egyptology.
- **Scientific Studies:** Use of X-rays and CT scans to study the mummy and investigate mysteries.

Textual Evidence

"Carter and his team broke the three gold coffins one after the other... finally, they broke the innermost coffin and saw the dried, hard body of Tut."

Practice Set

Level 1 – Easy

- Who was Amenhotep IV and what did he do?
- Why did Egyptians avoid Tutankhamun's tomb?

Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the difficulties faced by Howard Carter in removing Tutankhamun's body.
- What did the CT scan reveal about Tutankhamun's mummy?

Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the impact of religious changes during Tutankhamun's family reign on Egyptian society.
- Discuss the significance of modern technology in uncovering historical mysteries related to Tutankhamun.

Answer Key

- **Amenhotep IV:** He was Tutankhamun's predecessor who attacked the god Amun and closed his temples.
- **Egyptians' fear:** They believed approaching the tomb would bring a curse.
- **Difficulties in removal:** The body was hardened with resin, making it impossible to remove without damage.

- **CT scan findings:** Confirmed the mummy was intact and provided clues but no definite cause of death.
- **Religious impact:** The attack on Amun disrupted traditional beliefs and caused social unrest.
- **Technology's significance:** It allows non-invasive study of ancient remains, providing new insights.

Quick Reference

- **Amenhotep IV:** Pharaoh who challenged traditional religion.
- **Howard Carter:** Archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb.
- **CT Scan:** Imaging technique used to study the mummy.

Glossary

- **Pharaoh:** Ancient Egyptian king.
- **Resin:** Sticky substance used in mummification.
- **Valley of the Kings:** Burial site of Egyptian pharaohs.