

Howard Carter

The moment of discovery

Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun has made him the most famous archaeologist in the world.

The real hero of the discovery was not Carter, however, but a young water boy.

Suddenly his stick hit something hard and when he brushed the sand away, he uncovered a stone step.

He ran to tell Carter, who quickly started digging and found lots more steps which led down to a small blocked-up door.

The water boy had fetched water for everyone and was sitting playing with a stick in the sand.

The boy was working with Carter's team of archaeologists as they searched among the rock and sand for a royal tomb.

There had been many rumours of a royal tomb in the area and Carter was determined to find it.

When he was asked if he could see anything as he peered into the antechamber, Carter replied: 'Yes. Wonderful things! Strange animals, statues and gold – gold everywhere.'

Through the door was a passage filled with rubble and stones, and then another door which led into the antechamber – the first of the tomb's four rooms.

Teachers' notes

Cut out the boxes above, jumble them up and give them to the children, working in either groups or pairs, to sort the discovery into the right order. They should display their story on a large piece of coloured card and illustrate it with their own drawings or images, or with photographs or pictures they have collected.