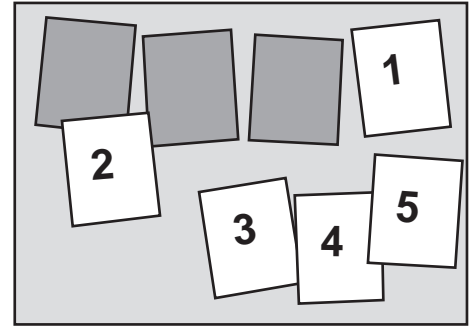


Greatest discovery of all

In November 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter made one of the greatest discoveries of all time – the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun. There were so many treasures that it took Carter and his team more than three years to record and catalogue this valuable collection. Each object was photographed, drawn, and a short description was written before it was removed from the tomb. All of the objects were then taken to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.



1 Statue of Anubis

This large black statue of the jackal god Anubis was found guarding the fourth room of Tutankhamun's tomb, called the Treasury. Carved out of wood and covered with black resin, this sacred god's ears, eyes and collar were decorated with gold leaf. When Carter found Anubis he was covered with a fine linen cloth secured with a collar of lotus and cornflowers. Anubis is sitting on a chest which originally contained funerary treasures but which had been disturbed by tomb robbers soon after Tutankhamun was buried. Fortunately, the robbers did not take much from the tomb.

2 Golden shrine

The three coffins were then put into a great carved stone sarcophagus. This, in turn, was laid inside a nest of four specially-made gilded shrines, covered with religious writings, spells and illustrations of gods and goddesses.

3 Gold pectoral

Look closely at this richly decorated necklace found in Tutankhamun's tomb and you will see many of the important symbols of ancient Egypt: the moon, the eye of Horus, a boat being pushed by a large-winged scarab beetle, cobra snakes beneath images of the sun, and the lotus flower symbol.

4 Throne of Tutankhamun

This lifelike and affectionate image shows Tutankhamun and his wife Ankesenamun at home together. The queen is offering her husband some perfumed ointment from a small jar while the sun god beams down on them, bringing warmth and light to their lives. The image, created in silver plate, blue glass and pottery, is on the back of a golden throne found in Tutankhamun's tomb.

5 Innermost coffin

The pharaoh's mummy and his exquisite golden death mask were put inside not one but three coffins. Each coffin fitted neatly inside the next. The first was made entirely from gold. The second was decorated with gold leaf and coloured glass. The third was made from gilded wood. Each coffin was adorned with a distinctive portrait mask.

Teachers' notes

Using the poster ask the children to write captions for a major Tutankhamun exhibition that will go on show around the world. They should choose one of the objects discovered by Howard Carter in Tutankhamun's tomb. The caption should include a heading (name of the object), how old the object is, its use or purpose, and when it was discovered.

