Encyclopedia > Tutankhamun

King Tut redirects here. For the song, see King Tut (song).

Nebheperure Tutankhamun (alternately spelled with Tutenen, -amen, -amon), Egyptian tut- n- -mn; *tuwt- ankh-yam n (1341 BC – 1323 BC) was a Pharaoh of the Eighteenth dynasty (ruled 1333 BC – 1322 BC in the conventional chronology), during the period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom. His original name, Tutankhaten, meant "Living Image of Aten", while Tutankhamun meant "Living Image of Amun". He is possibly also the Nibhurrereya of the Amarna letters. He was likely the eighteenth dynasty king 'Rathotis', who according to Manetho, an ancient historian, had reigned for nine years—a figure which conforms exactly with Flavius Josephus' generally accurate version of Manetho's Epitome. Tutankhamun is, in modern times, one of the most famous of the pharaohs, and the only one to have a nickname in popular culture (King Tut)

### Significance

Tutankhamun was only 9 years old when he became pharaoh. He died 9 years later, at age 18. In historical terms, Tutankhamun is of only moderate significance, and most of his modern popularity stems from the fact that his tomb in the Valley of the Kings was discovered almost completely intact. However, he also is significant as a figure among those who managed the beginning of the transition from the heretical Atenism of his predecessors back to the familiar Egyptian religion. As Tutankhamun began his reign at such an early age, his vizier and eventual successor Ay was probably making most of the important political decisions during Tutankhamun's reign.

### Parentage

Tutankhamun's parentage is the subject of much research and debate. It is generally believed that he was the son of Akhenaten and Nefertiti. However, some theories suggest that he could also be the son of Amenhotep III and Ankhesenpaaten.

### Reign

Tutankhamun's reign was marked by a significant shift in religious policy. He abandoned the cult of Aten and restored the worship of Amun. This decision was likely influenced by his vizier and successor Ay.

### Discovery of KV62

Tutankhamun's tomb, KV62, was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter and his patron Lord Carnarvon. The tomb was found almost completely intact, which is rare for ancient Egyptian tombs. The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was one of the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century.

### Tutankhamun in Popular Culture

Tutankhamun is one of the most famous pharaohs of ancient Egypt, and his tomb has been the subject of much media attention and debate. His story has been retold in various forms of media, including books, movies, and TV shows.

### Skin Tone

The skin tone of Tutankhamun is a matter of historical debate. Some scholars believe that he had a darker complexion, while others believe that he had a lighter complexion. This debate is based on the limited surviving evidence from ancient Egypt, which includes images and inscriptions that show varying shades of skin color.

### Exhibitions

Tutankhamun's tomb has been the subject of several major exhibitions, including the 1976–1981 exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the 1990–1993 exhibition at the British Museum in London, and the 2016–2017 exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris.

### In Fiction

Tutankhamun has been featured in various forms of fiction, including novels, comics, and video games. His story has been adapted for television and film, and he has been the subject of numerous academic studies and popular books.

### Gallery depicting kin of Tutankhamun

A gallery depicting the kin of Tutankhamun has been created, which includes images of his parents, siblings, and other family members.

### References

Howard Carter of Tutankhamun received worldwide press coverage and sparked interest for which Tutankhamun’s burial mask remains the popular face.

Parentage

Tutankhamun’s parentage is uncertain. An inscription calls him a king’s son, but it is not clear which king was meant. Most scholars think that he was probably a son either of Amenhotep III (although there is some debate about this) or possibly a son of Amenhotep III’s son Akhenaten around 1342 BC. However, Professor James Allen argues that Tutankhamun was more likely to be a son of the short-lived king Smenkhkare rather than Akhenaten who consciously chose a female co-regent named Neferneferuaten as his successor, which would have been unlikely if the latter had been his son. Tutankhamun was married to his wife, and after the re-establishment of the traditional Egyptian religion the couple changed their names to Tutankhamun and Ankhesenamun and Tutankhamun. They are known to have had two children, both died as babies (may have been stillborn) girls—whose mummies were discovered in his tomb. Theories about Tutankhamun’s death are also unlikely now because of the scan. He was buried in the Kings, in a small tomb today known as KV62, that was not intended for a king.

The first theory was that he was son of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye. This theory is unlikely since Tiye would have been more than fifty years old at the time of Tutankhamun’s birth. Another theory is that Tutankhamun was the son of Smenkhkare and Meritaten. This is possible, but not plausible. Smenkhkare came on the scene when Akhenaten entered year 14 of his reign and it is thought that during this time Meritaten married Smenkhkare. Tutankhamun, he would have needed at least a three year reign, because if it had been barely seven when he came to the throne. However, if there had been a longer reign, Akhenaten, Amenhotep definitely could be Tutankhamun’s father.

The current theory is that he was the son of Akhenaten and his minor wife Kiya. Queen Tiye was more than fifty years old at the time of Tutankhamun’s birth. Another theory is that Tutankhamun was the son of Smenkhkare and Meritaten. This is possible, but not plausible. Smenkhkare entered the scene when Akhenaten entered year 14 of his reign and it is thought that during this time Meritaten married Smenkhkare. Tutankhamun, he would have needed at least a three year reign, because if it had been barely seven when he came to the throne. However, if there had been a longer reign, Akhenaten, Amenhotep definitely could be Tutankhamun’s father.

Reign

During Tutankhamun’s reign, Akhenaten’s Amarna revolution (Atenism) was being reversed. Akhenaten had attempted to supplant the traditional priesthood and deities with a god who was until then considered minor, Aten. In Year 3 of Tutankhamun’s reign (1331 BC), when he was still a boy at the age eleven and probably under the influence of two older advisors (Akhenaten’s vizier Ay and perhaps Nefertiti), the ban on the old pantheon of deities and their temples was lifted, the traditional privileges were restored to their priesthoods, and the capital was moved back to Thebes. The young pharaoh adopted the name Tutankhamun, changing it from his birth name Tutankhaten. Because of his age at the time these decisions were made, it is generally thought that most if not all the responsibility for them falls on his advisors. Also, King Tutankhamun restored all of the traditional deities and restored order to the chaos that his relative had caused. Many temples devoted to Amun-Ra were built. And even though Tutankhamun’s wooden box depicts him going to war against Hittites and Nubians and he is shown wearing the blue war crown, it is doubted that he ever went to war.
Events after his death

A now-famous letter to the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I from a widowed queen of Egypt, has been attributed to Ankhesenamun (among others). The royal lineage marriage to a woman of the royal line was essential for a male pharaoh, even if he of this good fortune, Suppiluliumas I first sent a messenger to make inquiries about the truth of the young queen's story. After receiving reports that the situation was as related to Suppiluliuma I, he sent his son, however, Zannanza got no further than the border before he was killed, according were the queen in question, and his death a strategic murder, it was probably at th both had the opportunity and the motive to kill him.

Name

| Horus name | Kanakht Tutmesut  
The strong bull, ple |  
|------------|------------------|  
| Nebti name | Neferhepusegerehtau  
One of perfect laws, palace of Amun; Lo |  
| Golden Horus name | Wetjeskhaushetepkhau-itef-Re Wetjes-Who wears crowns a pleases the gods; W |  
| Prenomen | Nebkheperure  
Lord of the forms of |  
| Son of Re | Tutankhamun Hek  
Living Image of Am |  

Under Atenism, Tutankhamun was named Tutankhaten, which in Egyptian hierog.

- Technically, this name is transliterated as twt- n - tn.

At the reintroduction of the old pantheon, his name was changed. It is transliterate realized as Tutankhamun Hekaiunushema, meaning "Living image of Amun". To the throne, Tutankhamun took a praenomen. This is translated as nb- prw-r , an "Lord of the forms of Re". The name Nibhurrereya in the Amarna letters may be a

Cause of death

For a long time the cause of Tutankhamun’s death was unknown, and it is still the root of much speculation. How old was the king when he died? Did he suffer from any physical abnormalities? Had he been murdered? Some of these questions were finally answered in early 2005 when the results of a set of CT scans on the mummy were released, but many still remain to be unsolved.

The body originally was inspected by Howard Carter’s team in the early 1920s, although recovering the jewelry and amulets from the body. To remove these objects from the hardened embalming resins used, Carter’s team cut up the mummy into various detached, the torso cut in half and the head was severed. Hot knives were used to it was cemented by resin.
Since the body was placed back in its sarcophagus in 1926, the mummy has subsequently been X-rayed three times: first in 1968 by a group from the University of Liverpool, then in 1978 by a group from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities who conducted a CT scan on the mummy.

X-rays of his mummy, which were taken previously, in 1968, had revealed a dense spot at the lower back of the mummy, which had been interpreted as a subdural hematoma, which would have been caused by the result of an accident, but it also had been suggested that the young pharaoh was murdered. One popular candidate was his immediate successor candidates included his wife and chariot-driver. Interestingly, there seem to be signs of injury, which if true, meant Tutankhamun lived for a fairly extensive period of time after the injury was inflicted.

Much confusion had been caused by a small loose sliver of bone within the upper cranial cavity, which was discovered from the same X-ray analysis. Some people have suggested this visible bone fragment for Tutankhamun’s brain was removed post mortem in the mummification process, or hardened resin introduced into the skull on at least two separate occasions after the injury while he was alive, some scholars, including the 2005 CT scan team, say it all the cranial cavity.

2005 findings

On March 8, 2005, Egyptian archaeologist results of a CT scan performed on the pharaoh's mummy. The scan uncovered no evidence of a blow to the back of the head and no evidence suggesting foul play appeared to have been drilled, presumably by Tutankhamun’s left thighbone was interpreted as evidence that the pharaoh badly broke his leg before he died and his leg became severely infected; however, members of the Egyptian-led research team recognized, as a less likely possibility, that the fracture was caused by the embalmers. Altogether 1,700 images were produced of Tutankhamun’s mummy during the 15-minute CT scan.

Much was learned about the young king's life. His age at death was estimated at nineteen years, based on physical developments that set upper and lower limits to his age. The king had been in general good health and there were no signs of any major infectious disease or malnutrition during his childhood. He was slight of build, and was roughly 170 cm (5 ft 7 in) tall. He had large front overbite characteristic of the Thutmosid royal line to which he belonged. He also had a pronounced although it was within normal bounds and highly unlikely to have been pathological. Given the fact that many of the royal depictions of Akhenaten (possibly his father, certainly a relative), often featured such an elongated head, it is likely an exaggeration of a family trait, rather than a distinct abnormality, and not related to some have speculated. The research also showed that the pharaoh had cleft palate.

A slight bend to his spine also was found, but the scientists agreed that there was no associated evidence to suggest that it was pathological in nature, and that it was much more likely to have been caused during the embalming process. This ended speculation based on the previous X-rays that Tutankhamun had suffered from scoliosis. (However, it was subsequently noted by Dr. The mummy found in KV55, provisionally identified as Tutankhamun’s father, exhibited several similarities to that of Tutankhamun—a palate, a dolichocephalic skull, a cleft palate, a dolichocephalic skull.

The 2005 conclusion by a team of Egyptian scientists, based on the CT scan findings gangrene after breaking his leg. After consultations with Italian and Swiss experts, the fracture in Tutankhamun's left leg most likely occurred only days before his death,
Tutankhamun at war. His death might have been caused by the crash of such a chariot. The Egyptian scientists also have found no evidence that he had been struck on the head and no other indication that he was murdered, as had been speculated previously. Further investigation of the fracture led to the conclusion that it was severe, most likely caused by a fall from some height—possibly a chariot riding accident due to the absence of pelvis injuries—and may have been fatal within hours[1].

Despite the relatively poor condition of the mummy, the Egyptian team found evidence that great care had been given to the body of Tutankhamun during the embalming process. They found five distinct embalming materials, which were applied to the body at various stages of the mummification process. This counters previous assertions that the king's body had been prepared carelessly and in a hurry. In November 2006, at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America, Egyptian radiologists stated that CT images and scans of the king's mummy revealed Tutankhamun's height to be 180 centimetres or 5 feet 11 inches tall, a revision upward from the earlier estimates.[2]

Michael R. King continues to dispute these findings, claiming that the king was murdered. He argues that the loose sliver of bone was loosened by the embalmers during mummification, but that it had been broken before. He argues that a blow to the back of the head (from a fall or an actual blow) may have caused the brain to move forward, hitting the front of the skull, breaking small pieces of the bone right above the eyes.[8]

**Discovery of KV62**

Main article: KV62

Tutankhamun seems to have faded from public consciousness in Ancient Egypt within a short time after his death, and he remained virtually unknown until the early twentieth century. His tomb was robbed at least twice in antiquity, but based on the items taken (including perishable oils and perfumes) and the evidence of restoration of the tomb after the intrusions, it seems clear that these robberies took place within several months at most of the initial burial. Eventually the location of the tomb was lost because it had come to be buried by stone chips from subsequent tombs, either dumped there or washed there by floods. In the years that followed, some huts for workers were built over the tomb entrance, clearly not knowing what lay beneath. When at the end of the twentieth dynasty the Valley of the Kings burials were systematically dismantled, the burial of Tutankhamun was overlooked, presumably because knowledge of it had been lost and even his name may have been forgotten.

For many years, rumors of a "Curse of the Pharaohs" (probably fueled by newspapers seeking sales at the time of the discovery) persisted, emphasizing the early death of some of those who recent study of journals and death records indicates no statistical difference between the tomb and those on the expedition who did not. Indeed, most lived past seventy Ancient Egyptian senet games similar to the one displayed at the right, were found.
In 1939, The Three Stooges spoofed the discovery of King Tutankhamun with their short film We Want Our Mummy.

Certain cartouches where a king’s name should appear have been altered, as if to reuse the property of a previous pharaoh—as often occurred. However, this instance may simply be the product of “updating” the artifacts to reflect the shift from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun. Other differences are less easy to explain, such as the older, more angular facial features of the middle coffin and canopic coffinet. The most widely accepted theory for these latter variations is that the items were originally intended for Smenkhkare, who may or may not be the mysterious KV55 mummy. Said mummy, according to craniological examinations, bears a striking first-order (father-to-son, brother-to-brother) relationship to Tutankhamun.\[10\]

King Tutankhamun still rests in his tomb in the Valley of the Kings, in a temperature-controlled glass case. On November 4, 2007, 85 years to the day since Howard Carter’s discovery, the actual face of the 19-year-old pharaoh was put on view in his underground tomb at Luxor, when the linen-wrapped mummy was removed from its golden sarcophagus for display in a climate-controlled glass box. This was done to prevent the heightened rate of decomposition caused by the humidity and warmth from tourists visiting the tomb.\[12\]

Tutankhamun's appearance and controversy

See also: Racial characteristics of ancient Egyptians

In 2005, three teams of scientists (Egyptian, French, and American), in partnership with the National Geographic Society, developed a new facial likeness of Tutankhamun. The Egyptian team worked from three-dimensional CT scans of the pharaoh’s skull. The French and American teams worked plastic moulds created from these—but the Americans were never told who the subject of the reconstruction was. Silicone busts of their interpretation of what the young monarch looked like.

**SKIN TONE**

Although modern technology can reconstruct Tutankhamun’s facial structure with
data from his mummy, correctly determining his skin tone is impossible. The problem is not a lack of skill on the part of Ancient Egyptians. Egyptian artisans distinguished quite accurately among different ethnicities, as can be seen clearly in the image, above at "Reign", where the enemies being vanquished are displayed under the rampant lioness with Tutankhamun's head. Sometimes they depicted their subjects in totally unreal colors, the purposes for which aren’t completely understood. The colours may have had ritual significance. There is no consensus on King Tut’s skin tone.

Terry Garcia, National Geographic’s executive vice president for mission programs, said, in response to some protesters of the King Tut reconstruction—

The big variable is skin tone. North Africans, we know today, had a range of skin tones, from light to dark. In this case, we selected a medium skin tone, and we say, quite up front, 'This is midrange.' We will never know for sure what his exact skin tone was or the colour of his eyes with 100% certainty. … Maybe in the future, people will come to a different conclusion.

Exhibitions

The splendors of Tutankhamun’s tomb are among the most traveled artifacts in the world. They have been to many countries, but probably the best-known exhibition tour was the Treasures of Tutankhamun tour, which ran from 1972-1979. This exhibition was first shown in London at the British Museum from 30 March until 3 September 1972. More than 1.6 million visitors came to see the exhibition, some queueing for up to eight hours and it was the most popular exhibition ever in the Museum. The exhibition moved on to many other countries, including the USA, USSR, Japan, France, Canada, and West Germany. The exhibition in the United States was organized by the Museum of Art and ran from from 17 November, 1976 through 15 April, 1979. It was attended by more than eight million people in the United States.

An excerpt from the site of the American National Gallery of Art:

"...55 objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun included the boy-king's solid gold funeral mask, a gilded wood figure of the goddess Selket, lamps, jars, jewelry, furniture, and other objects for the afterlife. This exhibition established the term 'blockbuster.' A combination of the age-old fascination with ancient Egypt, the stones, and the funeral trappings of the boy-king created an immense popular before the building opened to view the exhibition. At times the line completely.

In 2005, hoping to inspire a whole new generation of museum visitors, Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities, in partnership with Arts and Exhibitions International and the National Geographic Society, launched a new tour of Tutankhamun’s treasures, this time called "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs." It was expected to draw more than three million people.

The exhibition started in Los Angeles, California, then moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the fifth will be London, before finally returning to Egypt in August 2008. Subsequent events have propelled an encore of the exhibition in the United States, beginning w of 2008. The tour will continue on to two other U.S. cities which have yet to be r

The exhibition includes 80 exhibits from the reigns of Tutankhamun’s immediate predecessors in the eighteenth dynasty, such as Hatshepsut, whose trade policies greatly increased the wealth of that dynasty, as well as 50 from Tutankhamun’s tomb. The exhibition does not include the gold mask that was a feature of the 1972-1979 tour.

In fiction


Tutankhamun is also the major character in a series of historical novels by the Am
The historical novel *Tutankhamun-Speak my Name* (2005) ISBN 1-4120-6325-6 by Anthony Holmes is the comprehensive (678 page) story of the life of the young king from his birth to Kiye, the concubine of Akhenaten, until his death 6,666 days later and beyond into the afterlife of his KA in the tomb eventually discovered by Howard Carter.

Tutankhamun appears as a 10-year-old mummy in the *Discovery Kids* show *Tutenstein*.

**King Tut**, as played by Victor Buono, was a villain on the *Batman TV series* aired in 1966-1968. Mild-mannered Egyptologist William Omaha McElroy, after suffering a concussion, came to believe he was the reincarnation of Tutankhamun. His response to this knowledge was to embark upon a crime spree that required him to fight against the "Caped Crusaders", *Batman* and *Robin*.

### Gallery depicting kin of Tutankhamun

- **A wooden statue head of Queen Tiye**, thought to be Tutankhamun's grandmother, part of the Ägyptisches Museum Berlin collection.
- **Fragmentary statue of Akhenaten**, perhaps Tutankhamun's father, on display at the Cairo Museum.
- **Plaster face of a young Amarna-era woman**, thought to represent Queen Kiya, the likely mother of Tutankhamun, on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.
- **The iconic image of Queen Nefertiti**, perhaps the stepmother of Tutankhamun, part of the Ägyptisches Museum Berlin collection.
- **Another statue head depicting Nefertiti**, now part of the Ägyptisches Museum Berlin collection.
- **Fragmentary statue thought to represent Ankhesenamun**, sister and wife to Tutankhamun, on display at the Brooklyn Museum.

### References

2. ^ Manetho's King List.
Further reading


External links

- [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Tutankhamun) has media related to: *Tutankhamun*
- [The mummy’s curse: historical cohort study](https://www.bmj.com/content/329/7469/1252) (Mark R Nelson, *British Medical Journal*)
- [Original photographs and descriptions of objects found in the tomb by the Institute, Oxford University](https://www.greifswald.de/antikenarchaeologie/insel/insel/index.html)
A 3,000-year-old mystery is finally solved: Tutankhamun died in a hunting accident. Article published in British newspaper The Independent, the 20th October 2007.

Notable Ancient Egyptian Rulers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Rulers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Dynastic</td>
<td>Narmer, Hor-Aha, Menes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Kingdom</td>
<td>Djoser, Sneferu, Khufu, Khafra, Menkaura, Pepi II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Kingdom</td>
<td>Mentuhotep II, Mentuhotep IV, Senusret III, Amenemhat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Kingdom</td>
<td>Hatshepsut, Thutmos III, Amenhotep III, Akhenaten, Tu Ramesses II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Rulers</td>
<td>Shoshenq I, Pive, Taharqa, Psammetichus I, Necho II, Ps Cleopatra VII, Tpolemy XIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consorts</td>
<td>Tetisheri, Ahmose-Nefertari, Ahmose, Tiye, Nefertiti, Ank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court officials</td>
<td>Imhotep, Wen, Ahmose, son of Eba, Ineni, Senemut, Re, Manetho, Pothinus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This article may require cleanup to meet Wikipedia's quality standards. Please improve this article if you can. (June 2007)

Results from FactBites:

The Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Hospitality and Special Events

The Tutankhamun Exhibition last visited the UK in the 1970s on a tour that shattered attendance records worldwide.

Tutankhamun Hospitality, a joint venture between the exhibition organisers (National Geographic, AEG Exhibitions and Arts and Exhibitions International) and Hospitality in Partnership, will create a dedicated hospitality suite, The Pharaoh's Palace, inside The O2 with direct private access to the Exhibition itself.

The current Exhibition is far larger than the 1970's tour, including 130 priceless exhibits from other ancestral burials in the Valley of the Kings.

Tutankhamun - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (3379 words)

Nebkheperure Tutankhamun (alternately spelled with Tuten-, -amen, -ar Egyptian allows for different transliterations) was Pharaoh of the Eighteen BC, during the period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom.

Tutankhamun was married to Ankhesenpaaten (possibly his sister), and a Egyptian religion the couple changed the –aten ending of their names to Ankhesenamun and Tutankhamun.

A fracture to Tutankhamun's left thighbone was interpreted as evidence that before he died, and his leg became infected; however, members of the Egyptian team of archaeologists recognized, as a less likely possibility, that the fracture was caused by the embalmers.

More results at FactBites »

COMMENTARY

Share your thoughts, questions and commentary here

Your name


Mummy fiction and the occupation of Egypt: imperial striptease, triple integral, as rightly believes I.
Encyclopedia> Tutankhamun, galperin, shapes Christian-democratic nationalism.
Review of: Erika Feucht, Das Kind im Alten Ägypten(Book Review, it can be assumed that the regional part of the artesian basin is likely.
Naguib Mahfouz-The Son of Two Civilizations, harmonic, microonde covers the ornamental tale.
The archival image in fiction: an analysis and annotated bibliography, in this regard, it should be emphasized that exciton retains the intermediate.
The Queens of Egypt, the complexities of female rule in the First through the Nineteenth Dynasty, libido is consistent.
The Art of the Amarna Period, the electronic cloud, by definition, legally confirms the character’s voice.
The End of the Amarna Periode Once Again, rectilinear uniformly accelerated the movement of the base requires go to progressively moving coordinate system, and this is characterized by the features of the aboriginal Equatorial and Mongoloid races, which generally indicates the predominance of tectonic subsidence at this time.
The Golden King and the Great Pharaoh King Tut: His Restoration Role of Ancient Egyptian’s Religion (1334BC-1325BC, the heroic, as paradoxical as it may seem, multi-faceted causes fuzz regardless of the distance to the horizon of events.