Name_____

King Tut

Tutankhamun, best known as King Tut, was born around 1341 B.C. The ruler of Egypt did not live a long life. In fact, he died near the age of eighteen or nineteen. Why then do so many people know about the boy who ruled Egypt?

Tutankhamun was buried in the area known as the Valley of the Kings. Because of his early death, many historians believe he was buried in a tomb that was most likely built for someone else since his own tomb would not have been completed at the time. Tut's body went through the ceremonial preservation system known as mummification. This process took many days, and certain organs were removed from the body and preserved in Canopic jars. Ironically, the brain was not considered an important organ and was removed from the body but not preserved. Seventy days after his death, King Tut's body was sealed in the Egyptian tomb.

In 1922, a remarkable discovery was made. An archeologist named Howard Carter found the tomb that had been sealed so long ago. As he and his team entered the tomb, they found the inside had been preserved and an interior chamber was painted with the story of the Egyptian leader's funeral and journey to his life after death. The tomb was filled with treasures from Tut's life. The crew would also find the final resting place of the boy ruler. His body had been preserved for more than three thousand years along with the magnificent artifacts and treasures no grave robbers had ever disturbed. Carter's find has helped make King Tut one of the most recognized and well-known ancient leaders of all time.

Text Questions

1. Using information from the text, summarize why King Tut is well-known many years after his death.

   _____

   _____

2. Why do historians believe Tutankhamun was most likely buried in someone else's tomb?
   a. The tomb was more elaborate than where he should have been buried.
   b. Because of his young age, he had to be buried in the Valley of the Kings.
   c. His own tomb would not have been completed at his death since he died at such a young age.
   d. The painted wall murals the archaeologists found explained he was buried in the wrong tomb.

3. After reading the text, what can one conclude about Tutankhamun?
   a. He was a well-loved ruler during his lifetime.
   b. He made many important political decisions during his lifetime.
   c. His young age was a benefit to his ability to rule ancient Egypt.
   d. He is known by generations today because of the discovery of his tomb.

4. List three things in sequential order that happen in the passage.
   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____

5. If someone wanted to know more about Tutankhamun, which source would be the least helpful in gathering information?
   a. an encyclopedia entry about Tutankhamun
   b. a brochure about a museum tour of artifacts from King Tut's tomb
   c. a website with original newspaper articles about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.
   d. an atlas showing the location of the Valley of the Kings

 ©Teacher Created Resources

LIVEWORKSHEETS