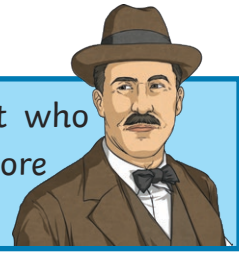


# Howard Carter

Howard Carter was a British archaeologist and Egyptologist who became famous when he uncovered an intact Egyptian tomb more than 3,000 years after it had been sealed.



## Early Life

Howard was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1874 in Kensington, London. Howard's father was an artist and taught him how to draw and paint the world around him accurately. These skills would prove to be essential in Howard's later years.

As a young child, Howard spent a lot of time with his relatives in Norfolk. It was here that his interest in Egyptology began, inspired by the nearby Didlington Hall. This manor house was home to a large collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts and it is believed that this is where Howard first decided that he wanted to become an archaeologist. When he was 17, Howard started work as an archaeological artist, creating drawings and diagrams of important Egyptian finds.



## Excavating in the Valley of the Kings

After becoming an archaeologist and working on several dig sites, Howard Carter was approached by a wealthy man named Lord Carnarvon. Lord Carnarvon had a particular interest in an Egyptian location called the Valley of the Kings – the burial place of many Egyptian pharaohs. After hearing rumours of hidden treasures in the valley, Lord Carnarvon offered to fund an excavation which was to be led by Howard Carter.



After working in harsh conditions for several years, Howard and his team had found very little. Frustrated with the lack of discovery, Lord Carnarvon told Howard that if nothing was found within the year, he would stop funding the excavation. A short while later, Howard's water boy stumbled across a piece of rock jutting out from one of the excavation sites. Howard recognised that this rock could belong to a set of buried stairs and work began at once to uncover them.

## Discovering Tutankhamun's Tomb

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1922, having received an urgent message from Howard, Lord Carnarvon arrived in Egypt. Three days later, the team were ready to discover what lay behind the door at the base of the excavated stairs. Using the chisel that his grandmother had bought him as a 17<sup>th</sup> birthday present, Howard carefully made a hole in the rock and looked through it. Famously, when Lord Carnarvon asked what he could see, he replied, "Wonderful things!"



Howard Carter had uncovered one of the most well-preserved Egyptian tombs to have ever been discovered. This was the antechamber of the pharaoh, Tutankhamun, and it was filled with hundreds of golden objects that a king would need in the afterlife.

After the discovery of the antechamber, Howard noticed a door at the back of the room and began work to open it. On 16<sup>th</sup> February 1923, the door was opened. The new room was a burial chamber and contained the golden and ornately decorated sarcophagus of Tutankhamun. News of this astonishing discovery spread quickly and, soon, journalists were arriving in Egypt. People from every country were desperate to catch a glimpse of the opened tomb and the man behind its discovery.

## After the Discovery

For the nine years following the discovery, Howard worked tirelessly to ensure that every item within the tomb was carefully documented before they were moved into a nearby museum in Cairo. Not only did Howard draw each object but he also made detailed diagrams of their location within the tomb. These drawings are still important today as they allow Egyptologists a glimpse into the life of those who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

When he finally left Egypt, Howard toured the USA giving talks about his discovery. He also published several books on Egyptology and the tomb of Tutankhamun. The discovery was so important to Howard that he had a quote from Tutankhamun's golden wishing cup inscribed upon his grave.

