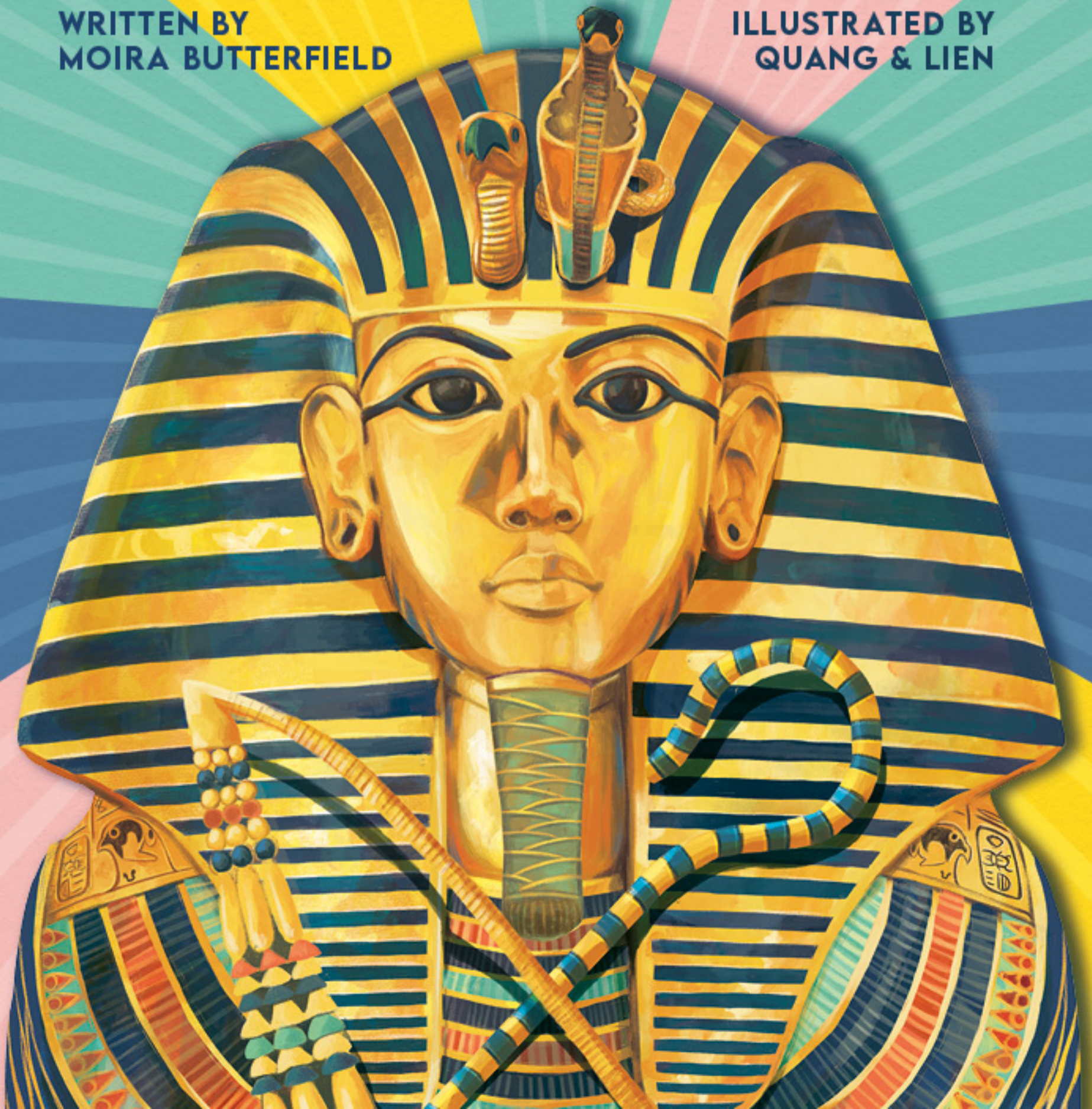


THE INCREDIBLE POP-UP MUMMY

WITH 20 FLAPS TO LIFT AND GIANT POP-UPS

WRITTEN BY
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CLOSE

click

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TOMBS

Early pharaohs were buried under rectangular structures called mastabas. Later they were buried in stone pyramids and, much later still, inside tombs cut into the rock of an area called the Valley of the Kings. Some more ordinary people were mummified after death, too, but they had much simpler burial.

The earliest pyramids were stepped instead of smooth.

WALL WRITING

THE AFTERLIFE

The Ancient Egyptians believed in lots of gods and goddesses. Some of them are shown in tomb decorations because it was thought they would help the spirit on its journey to the Afterlife. The pharaoh Osiris, for example, was a god who decided if a spirit could stay on in the Afterlife. In Egyptian legend, he was a ruler killed by his brother. His relatives wrapped his body and he was reborn in the Afterlife as a god. Mummies were wrapped in bandages just like him, to help the spirit be reborn.

Much of the writing inside tombs came from a collection of spells, later known as the Book of the Dead, that were thought to help a spirit travel safely.



Ancient Egyptians wrote in symbols called hieroglyphs. Some represent whole words and others represent letter-sounds. They can be written backwards, forwards, up or down, so reading them is hard.

LIFE AFTER DEATH

The Ancient Egyptians believed that the spirit of a dead person (called the ka) would travel to the Afterlife and it would need its body and possessions, too. So the body was mummified – preserved for the spirit to use.

The journey to the Afterlife was thought to be difficult and dangerous, with many dangers and obstacles to get past. Some tomb walls and coffins were covered with pictures and writing, thought to help the spirit overcome the difficulties and make it through the trip.



Royal mummies were laid to rest in a room called the Burial Chamber. They were placed inside coffins and box-shaped stone shrines called sarcophagi.



INSIDE A PYRAMID

Egypt's modern capital, Cairo, is one of the world's great wonders. For thousands of years ago, the pyramids were laid to rest there. The Great Pyramid was the largest building ever built. Despite its fame, many secrets... It was built by Khufu, but where is his tomb and treasures and where are the dead-end shafts?

CHAMBERS

Most pyramids would have had extra tunnels.

A room at the top of the Great Pyramid would be a passage to the Chamber for the pharaoh.

AFTERLIFE

At the positions of the pyramid should line up with the south, east and west. The pyramid inside may represent stars in the pharaoh's reborn.

GO BY BOAT

Two life-size wooden boats were taken to pieces and buried next to the pyramid to give the pharaoh a trip to the Afterlife.

WHO WENT WHERE?

The small Queen pyramids may have been for Khufu's mother and wives. The middle pyramid was built by his son Khaire and the third one for another ruler, Menkaure.

NEIGHBOURS

The Great Pyramid doesn't stand alone. It is part of a complex of pyramids built for the Royal family. Khufu built his first; then Khaire built his; then Menkaure built his. There were temples attached to the pyramids, as well as covered passageways leading up from the Nile. The world-famous sphinx statue still guards the site today. This mythical beast has the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh.

The Pyramid was once covered in highly polished white limestone. Over the years, most of the top has been lost.

Priests manned the mortuary temples, giving regular offerings of food and drink to the dead pharaohs.

STONES

To build the pyramid, the stones were brought from the top. Once this pyramid stood at 146 metres, it now it has lost its top 137 metres.

The pyramid has been found in the Great Pyramid, nor any treasures. Legend has it that a local ruler broke in to the pyramid around 800 CE and removed everything, but it's more likely it was robbed long before then. The passageways were once sealed up with stone blocks but unknown thieves seem to have broken in anyway.

MAKING A MUMMY

It took around 70 days to get a mummy ready for its resting place and during that time there were lots of different mummifying steps. It was expensive so wealthy people got the most skilful treatment to help them on their way. Pharaohs would usually have had the best treatment of all.

CLEAN THE BODY

Before mummification could begin, mummy makers carefully washed the body using palm wine and water from the Nile.

TAKE OUT THE ORGANS

First they carefully pulled out the brain through the nose using a hooked tool. The other internal organs (except for the heart) were taken out and the soul would need these in the afterlife so they

CANOPIC JARS

Canopic jars were decorated with the heads of goddesses.

The jars used to store the mummified body's organs were called canopic jars. These were sometimes decorated with the heads of gods, believed to protect the body parts. The god Hapi had a baboon head, Duamutef had a jackal head, Qebehsenuef had a falcon head and Imsety had a human head.

HAPI guarded the lungs



DUAMUTEF guarded the stomach



IMSETY guarded the liver



QEBEHSENUEF guarded the intestines



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HOW HEAVY IS YOUR HEART?

If the heart was lighter than the feather, the gods would let the spirit go on towards the Afterlife. If it was heavier, it would be eaten by a fearsome goddess called Ammut, with the face of a crocodile, the front of a leopard and the back of a rhinoceros. She was also known as 'the gobbler'. If the heart got eaten it was 'game over' for the spirit.



Ammut, the gobbler

THE HEART STAYS IN...

The Ancient Egyptians thought that a person's intelligence and strength all came from their heart. They believed the heart acted as a record of all the good or bad things a person had done.

...TO BE MEASURED

The heart played an important role in gaining entry to the Afterlife. The spirit of the dead would have to face many trials and challenges on their journey to the Afterlife. At the end of this, their heart would be weighed on a golden scale.

GODS & PRIESTS

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Mummification was done by special priests who performed rituals and prayers as they worked. This is how it is done: Anubis was in charge of mummifying the dead body and they were representing him.

They used to wrap the body for

WRAP IN BANDAGES

Hundreds of metres of linen were used to wrap the mummy in between the wrappings there would be more resins and perfumes added, along with lucky charms called amulets to help the spirit make it to the afterlife.



A ROYAL PONTAIL
 The back of the papyrus had lots of hieroglyphic writing. It's a spell that explains how Tutankhamun will join the gods when he journeys to the Afterlife.



WOOD THE BARBED

THE FACE A PRINCE

The mask was made of two sheets of gold hammered together. It weighed over 10kg.

CARTOUCHE

A cartouche was an oval surrounding the name of a god. The oval shape symbolized eternity, and pharaohs believed their name would live on forever. It was often inscribed within a cartouche.

Tutankhamun's cartouche is on the inside of his mask (dung beetle) and Dung beetles cared back to their burrows. For the Ancient Egyptians, the sun represented their sun god, and the sun across the sky each day.

CROOK AND FLAIL
 A small crook and flail were used in burials. The crook was a shepherd's crook and the flail was a whip called a flail. The crook represented the pharaoh's duty to care for his people like a shepherd with his flock. The flail represented the pharaoh's power to punish his enemies.

The crook and flail were symbols of royalty and were also carried by the god Osiris in many paintings.



OPEN

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WHY WALKING STICKS?

In fact, scans of Tutankhamun's mummy today show that he was born with a disabled foot, meaning walking would have been difficult for him. That might be the reason why he had over 130 walking sticks in his tomb, some of them worn from constant use. It might also explain why he's shown seated in the paintings of him hunting.

We know Tut liked hunting because he was buried with chariots, arrows and throwing sticks (like boomerangs) to aim at birds. Some even think he could have been killed in a chariot accident. Yet tomb paintings show him sitting, not standing, in a chariot, which was unusual...

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WHAT WERE DEATH MASKS?



OPEN

POWER BEARD

The pointed beard on Tutankhamun's mask connected him to Osiris, god of the Afterlife. On special occasions, male and female pharaohs wore fake beards like this, to show they were godlike.



OPEN

THE MUMMY'S JOURNEY

A funeral had to be carried out carefully so that the spirit of the dead had the best chance of reaching the Afterlife. After mummification, the body was laid on a kind of sledge pulled by oxen and taken in a procession towards the banks of the Nile. A pharaoh's journey would have been huge and spectacular, with many mourners.

EAST TO WEST

The mummy was taken from the eastern bank of the Nile to the west. The east was thought to be the land of the living and the west was the land of the dead.



On the eastern bank of the Nile, the body was ceremonially put onto a boat. It was accompanied by two female relatives dressed as Isis, the wife of Osiris, and his sister Nephthys.



THE STORY OF OSIRIS

It was important to get a funeral right to please the god Osiris. In Ancient Egyptian legend, he was killed by his evil brother Seth, who buried parts of his body across the land. Osiris's wife and sister gathered up the body parts so that Osiris would be reborn in the Afterlife where he stayed as the ruler and judge of souls (spirits).

Osiris was the god of the rebirth of nature as well as people, so he is often shown with a grassy-green face or a face as dark as the Nile earth. He's also shown partly wrapped in mummy bandages, with a false beard and a tall pointed crown.

followed family.

The shrine of Anubis followed the coffin. Once inside the tomb, it guarded the canopic jars.



Priests chanted prayers and spells during the procession.

PROCESSION PEOPLE

Priests went in the funeral procession along with relatives and servants carrying flowers, food and objects for the mummy to have in its grave. There would also be professional paid mourners. They were women dressed in blue-grey mourning clothes and it was their job to wail and beat themselves with their fists, encouraging everyone to show grief. The richer the dead person, the more paid mourners there would be.



The woman dressed as Isis wore a sun headdress with cowhorns. The woman dressed as Nephthys wore a tall basket headdress.

OPENING THE MOUTH

Once the mummy reached its tomb, the chief priest would perform the Opening of the Mouth Ceremony. Using special tools, he would touch the mummy's eyes, mouth and other parts so that they would work in the Afterlife and the spirit would be able to see, hear, smell, taste, talk and move.

MUMMY AFTERCARE

The mummy was put in its coffin, then into its tomb along with all the things it needed for the Afterlife. Afterwards, the relatives had to make sure that regular offerings such as food were put at the tomb entrance, to keep the spirit safe and happy. They might hire a priest to do this for them.

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THE FIELD OF REEDS

The Ancient Egyptians thought of the Afterlife as a mirror-image of life on Earth. They called it the Field of Reeds and saw it a beautiful fertile place where crops always grew. Those who lived there had all the things they loved on Earth. They would enjoy a happy eternal life, but only if their funeral was done properly.

CLOSE OPEN

OPEN CLOSE

HIL

At the place where they thought there were secret hidden rooms in the tomb, but they found there were no secret rooms.

Along with many precious items, were more practical ones, like this firelighter. The end of the spindle could be placed in one of the holes and rotated using an object like a bow. The friction would make heat to light tinder and make a fire.



A board game called Senet was found in the tomb.



It was a cross between the modern games of backgammon and chess, with a chequered board and pieces similar to chess pawns.

OPEN CLOSE

WHY SO SMALL?

The mummy was wrapped in linen and for the last 2000 years it has been kept in a heavy wooden coffin. They had to set up an elaborate pulley system to slowly raise the tons of weight without damaging anything.

MUMMIES IN TIME

OPEN CLOSE

The Ancient Egyptian civilisation disappeared thousands of years ago, but people have long been fascinated by their culture – particularly by their intricate rituals around death and mummification. Thanks to modern science, today we know more about mummies than ever before, and can use technologies such as scans to study them without disturbing the human remains inside. However, mummies haven't always been treated with such respect. Through the centuries, they've been deliberately destroyed for some surprising reasons, as well as being portrayed as scary zombie monsters!

1550s ONWARDS: STEALING FROM THE DEAD

Tomb robbing isn't a modern problem. In fact, we know it was occurring as far as 5,000 years ago, because tombs from that time were filled with rubble to try to stop thieves getting in.

The lure of vast riches was enough for Ancient Egyptian criminals to risk the idea of vengeful gods or harsh real-life punishments. If caught, they could have their hands cut off or be burnt alive! Robbers may have been helped by corrupt tomb guards who took them out of the loot.



A SPOONFUL OF MUMMY

Mummies weren't just ground up for fertiliser. From the Middle Ages onwards, they were also used to make medicine. That's because people wrongly thought that mummies were coated in mummy – black tar that was used as a medical cure (we now call it bitumen).

Mummies were shipped to Europe in their thousands and ground up to make a powder. It was sold in pots you could buy at the local pharmacy. In fact, eating it wouldn't help with any supposed cures because the bodies were covered in tree resin, not tar.



In the 1800s, 'mummy unwrapping parties' became the fashion. People gathered to watch their host reveal a mummy under 21s. Even wrappings.

1300s TO 1800s: BUY YOUR MUMMY POWDER

Human remains weren't the only thing the Ancient Egyptians mummified. They also mummified cats – in their millions – as offerings to gods and goddesses.

When big underground animal mummy stores were discovered in Egypt in the 1800s, they were sold as fertiliser and shipped to Europe. In 1890, around 180,000 cat mummies were sold at a dockyard auction in Liverpool, UK. They were crushed and spread on local fields to help plants grow.

1920s & 1930s: 'KING TUT'-STYLE

When Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, it was worldwide news. Soon there was a craze for everything Ancient Egyptian.

Songs were written about 'King Tut', he was used to advertise all sorts from soap to lemons, and people wore clothes and jewellery decorated with Egyptian symbols. They were used to decorate buildings, too. The US president 'He left his garden over a knained his dog King Tut!



THE MUMMY'S COMING!

Frightening movie mummies have been lurching out of their tombs since 1922, when the first ever mummy film was shown. The idea of a curse made people imagine that mummies might come alive like zombies and come after humans. In movie plots, the mummies are often brought to life with magic spells.

Actor Boris Karloff played the first movie mummy. In the film, the mummy returned to find his lost love after someone accidentally read a spell from a scroll. The movie was remade in 1999.



LATE 1900s TO TODAY: MUMMY SCIENCE

Now we can use the latest science to help archaeologists make new finds, and to learn more about the mummies we have already uncovered.

For instance, a computer scan of Tutankhamun's mummy suggested that he might have died from a broken leg that became infected. The scans showed that mummifying resin had seeped into the broken bone crack, so the break had not yet healed when it was sealed and he was mummified.

A CT scanner makes a 3D image of the mummy, from the wrappings all the way through to the bones.

They remote-controlled robots can now enter tombs, sending images as the robot works. Perhaps they will help us discover more long hidden secrets.

STILL TO DISCOVER

Are there still tombs full of treasure to be found in Egypt? The resting places of some powerful pharaohs have yet to be discovered. They might still be under the desert sands along with their incredible treasures! Experts using the latest equipment are busy looking, hoping to find a tomb that has so far stayed hidden from robbers!



GLOSSARY

AFTERLIFE – The idea that someone's spirit goes to another life after their body dies.

AMULET – An object or a piece of jewellery made as a good luck charm to bring magical protection to the owner.

ARCHAEOLOGIST – Someone who studies history by excavating (digging up) historical remains.

CANOPIC JAR – A small decorated jar for a body part taken from inside an Ancient Egyptian mummy. It was put into a tomb with the mummy.

CAPSTONE – A stone fixed on the very top of a building. Ancient Egyptian pyramids had pointed capstones.

COURTIER – Someone who is an advisor or a friend of a royal ruler.

GODS – Superbeings believed to have power over the world. The Ancient Egyptians believed in lots of gods and goddesses.

MUMMY – The name given to an Ancient Egyptian dead body that was mummified – treated with chemicals and wrapped up to stop it rotting away.

NILE – The River Nile is the world's longest river, running through northeastern Africa. It flows through Egypt.

PHARAOH – A ruler of Ancient Egypt.

PRIEST – Someone who performs religious tasks and ceremonies.

PYRAMID – A pointed stone building built in Ancient Egyptian times as a royal tomb.

RESIN – A substance made by a plant to protect it from insect attack. Resin was used to help mummify bodies in Ancient Egyptian times.

SARCOPHAGUS – A stone coffin. These were used in wealthy people's tombs in Ancient Egyptian times.

SHABTI – A small model of a person. Shabtis were put into Ancient Egyptian tombs, to come to life as a servant for dead people in their Afterlife.

SPHINX – A mythical monster with the head of a human and the body of a lion.

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