



Directions: First, skim and scan for each key word in the passage and highlight. Next, read the passage twice and colour a smiley face each time you read. An adult may listen to you read and they will colour the larger face. Finally, answer all the questions on the sheet.

We can learn about the past in a variety of ways. Photographs, paintings, books, writing, talking and objects provide us with evidence. We use these sources of evidence in order to build up a picture of the past. One important consideration for all who want to learn more about the past is that we must preserve as much evidence as possible. This has not always been the case.

Thieves have always been ready to steal ancient treasures and either sell them or melt them down into precious metals. Many great treasures were lost to grave-robbers over the centuries. During the nineteenth century, Europeans visited Egypt in order to find ancient objects and send them to their own countries.

One of the most famous European adventurers in Egypt was an Italian called Giovanni Belzoni. He was over two metres tall and worked as a fairground strongman in England before travelling to Egypt to sell machinery. Once there he realised that sending objects to Europe could make him rich.

He is remembered for moving the giant head of Ramesses II across the desert to the Nile from where it could be shipped to England. It still stands in the British Museum today.

Belzoni was not well educated man, he was an amateur archaeologist. As an explorer, he was motivated by finding hidden treasure so that he could sell the artefacts to collectors. His methods were often destructive and quite unusual but his discoveries laid the foundation for the scientific study of Egyptology. From this point of view, Howard Carter summed up Belzoni as "one of the most remarkable men in the entire history of Archaeology."



Key words:

Add these
words to your
glossary

- evidence
- ancient
- amateur
- discoveries
- archaeology

Retrieval questions:

1. What sources of evidence can be used to learn about the past?

2. Why were many great treasures lost?

3. What is Belzoni famous for?

4. How does the author describe Belzoni's methods?

5.	True	False
Belzoni was born in France.		
Belzoni was two metres tall.		
Belzoni was a professional archaeologist		
Howard Carter admired Belzoni		



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Answers

We can learn about the past in a variety of ways. **Photographs, paintings, books, writing, talking and objects provide us with evidence.**

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Howard Carter was searching for an undiscovered tomb of a Pharaoh. His work was paid for by Lord Carnarvon, who announced that this was the last year he could afford to support the search.

"With trembling hands I made a tiny breach in the upper left hand corner... widening the hole a little I inserted the candle and peered in... at first I could see nothing, the hot air escaping from the chamber causing the candle flame to flicker, presently details of the room emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues and gold – everywhere the glint of gold"

Carter's diary:

1st November 1922

I enrolled my workmen and was ready to begin.

4th November 1922

Something out of the ordinary happened. A step cut in the rock had been discovered.

5th November 1922.

Step succeeded step: towards sunset there was disclosed the upper part of a doorway.

6th November 1922

Cable to Lord Carnarvon in England: "A magnificent tomb with seal intact!"

23rd November 1922

Lord Carnarvon arrives.

24th November 1922

The whole staircase was clear. We made out the name of Tutankhamun.

25th November 1922

We unblocked the door and found a descending passage filled with stone and pebble.

26th November 1922

The day of days. We came upon a second sealed doorway.

27th November 1922

Careful inspection of the Antechamber and discovery of the Annex.

29th November 1922

Official opening.

3rd December 1922

Tomb sealed against thieves.

25th December 1922

The first objects removed from the tomb.

Key words:

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glossary

- tomb
- chamber
- disclosed
- intact
- descending

Retrieval questions:

1. Who funded Howard Carter's expedition?

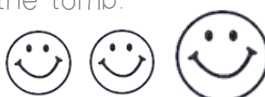
2. What date was the 'day of days'?

3. What date was the tomb officially opened?

Inference questions:

4. How do you know that Howard Carter's expedition had gone on for some time (support your answer with evidence from the text)?

5. Why do you think Howard Carter had 'trembling hands' ?





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Answers

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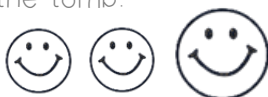
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1. Who funded Howard Carter's expedition?

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2. What date was the 'day of days'?

26th November 1922 was the day of days.

3. What date was the tomb officially opened?

29th November 1922 was the official opening.

Inference questions:

4. How do you know that Howard Carter's expedition had gone on for some time (support your answer with evidence from the text)?

I know that the expedition had gone on for some time because in the first paragraph it says it is the 'last year' he could afford to support the search. Suggesting it had gone on for a number of years.

5. Why do you think Howard Carter had 'trembling hands'?

I think he had trembling hands because he may have been nervous and also excited.



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Tutankhamun Revealed...

Thieves had raided the ante-chamber soon after burial. They had taken only small, valuable, easily carried objects. Other larger items had been thrown around the chamber and were piled up in heaps when Carter first saw them.

There were more than 2000 separate objects in the four rooms of the tomb. Many were covered in gold. Carter had photographs taken before they began to remove the objects from the tomb.

Carter described what he saw:

"... exquisitely painted and inlaid caskets; alabaster vases; bouquets of flowers or leaves; beds; chairs beautifully carved; a golden inlaid throne; a heap of curious white oviform boxes; on the left a confused pile of overturned chariots, glistening with gold and inlay."

Carter began work on the coffins of Tutankhamun in October. There was a wooden outer coffin. A second coffin covered in gold and a third coffin made of *solid* gold. Inside the coffin lay the body of the pharaoh, the head and shoulders covered with what Carter called "*a brilliant, magnificent, burnished gold mask.*"

Tutankhamun is the only pharaoh who has been discovered in the wrapping, coffins and sarcophagus in which he was buried. It was decided to examine the body in the tomb.

Most of the treasures found in the tomb are now in the Cairo Museum. The body has been reburied in the tomb.

Key words:

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- chariots
- inlaid
- curious
- pharaoh
- sarcophagus

Retrieval questions:

1. What did Carter do before removing the objects from the tomb?

2. How did Carter describe Tutankhamun's death mask?

3. Where are many of the treasures from the tomb kept nowadays?

Choice questions:

4. How did the author describe the boxes found in the tomb?

5. Why do you think the word '*solid*' in an italic font?





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5. Why do you think the word '*solid*' in an italic font?

Often words are put in italics to draw the readers attention to it or to emphasise the word. In this case '*solid*' is in italics for emphasis – to show just how valuable the coffin was.



Use your dictionary to find the meaning of the words on your reading sheet and add to the glossary below.

Glossary

[illegible]