Tutankhamun's chariots had wheels with tires and spokes of flexible wood that absorbed shocks on rough surfaces.

Tutankhamun, which means “living image of Amun,” is not the king’s original name. He changed it from Tutankhaten, meaning “living image of Aten.”

Tutankhamun’s tomb measured only 1,184 square feet (110 sq m). That’s about half the size of a tennis court.

In 2017, a large statue was unearthed along the Nile. Experts believe it depicts Queen Tiye—Tutankhamun’s grandmother.

The cause of the king’s death remains a mystery. Some theories include a chariot crash, an accident, or a disease.

The mummy and three coffins were sealed inside a large stone structure called a sarcophagus.

A scan of Tutankhamun’s body shows that he suffered a fractured thigh bone shortly before he died.

Scientists have found no cavities in Tutankhamun’s teeth.

A dagger in the king’s tomb was probably made from a meteorite, a rock that fell from space.

Six chariots were discovered inside the tomb. Some were large and likely used during ceremonies, while others were small and intended for everyday use.

The tomb contained wooden chests filled with clothing—including 100 pairs of sandals.

Tutankhamun believed his spirit would survive death, so he was buried with 365 statues that would act as servants in the afterlife.

The mummy and three coffins were sealed inside a large stone structure called a sarcophagus.

The burial mask’s headdress features a vulture, representing Tutankhamun’s rule over Upper Egypt, and a cobra, representing his rule over Lower Egypt.

A gold burial mask was placed over Tutankhamun’s head. The face formed on the mask may show what the king looked like.

Tutankhamun grew up in a palace located in a city called Amarna, where he was likely cared for by royal nurses.

Tutankhamun drew up in a palace located in a city called Tell el-Amarna, where he was likely cared for by royal nurses.

A painting on the tomb wall depicts Tutankhamun as Osiris, a god who died and was reborn.

During ceremonies, Tutankhamun likely carried a crook, a stick often used by shepherds, and a flail, a type of whip.

A painting on the tomb wall depicts Tutankhamun as Osiris, a god who died and was reborn.

In 2017, a large statue was unearthed along the Nile. Experts believe it depicts Queen Tiye—Tutankhamun’s grandmother.

Tutankhamun’s organs—including his lungs, liver, and intestines—were removed when he died and sealed in separate containers.

A gold burial mask was placed over Tutankhamun’s head. The face formed on the mask may show what the king looked like.

Tutankhamun became famous in 1922, when British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the Egyptian ruler’s tomb.

Tutankhamun was nicknamed the “Boy King” because he was only nine years old when he became the ruler of Egypt.

King Tutankhamun ruled for only 10 years and died at the age of 19.

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Tutankhamun’s tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings, a burial ground where other pharaohs were also entombed.

Rumors of a mummy’s curse spread after Lord Carnarvon, an amateur Egyptologist involved in Howard Carter’s expedition, died from a mosquito-borne disease after entering the tomb.

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TEST YOUR SMARST!

1/ Why did King Tutankhamun change his name? How do you think his father reacted and why? Based on the meaning of his name, what might be your Egyptian name? If you were a king or queen, what would you name your royal child?

2/ Tut became king when he was only about your age, or even younger. From what you’ve read, what do you think his life was like? How was it similar to and different from yours?

3/ Why were royal tombs filled with artwork, treasure, and everyday objects? Do you think all ancient Egyptians were buried with objects? (Hint: Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death.)

4/ More than 95 percent of ancient Egyptians (and modern Egyptians) lived along the Nile River. Can you think of several good reasons for this?

DID YOU KNOW?

1/ Ancient Egyptians sometimes called their homeland Kemet, meaning “black land.” The term refers to the dark mud from the Nile River. The land of Egypt is mostly desert, but the rich soil of the life-giving Nile allowed early settlers to grow grain and other crops. The Nile is the longest river in the world and runs from south to north.

2/ Along with many innovations in architecture, science, medicine, and mathematics, the Egyptians developed a complex writing system comprising hundreds of hieroglyphic signs that remained in use for more than 3,000 years. Try it: Ask a parent’s permission to look up “Egyptian hieroglyphic alphabet” on the internet and try writing a message.

3/ The Great Pyramid at Giza is made from more than 2 million stone blocks and weighs at least 6 million tons—that’s about the weight of 18,309 Boeing 747 jets.

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