

The King's Things

by Carol Dombrowski

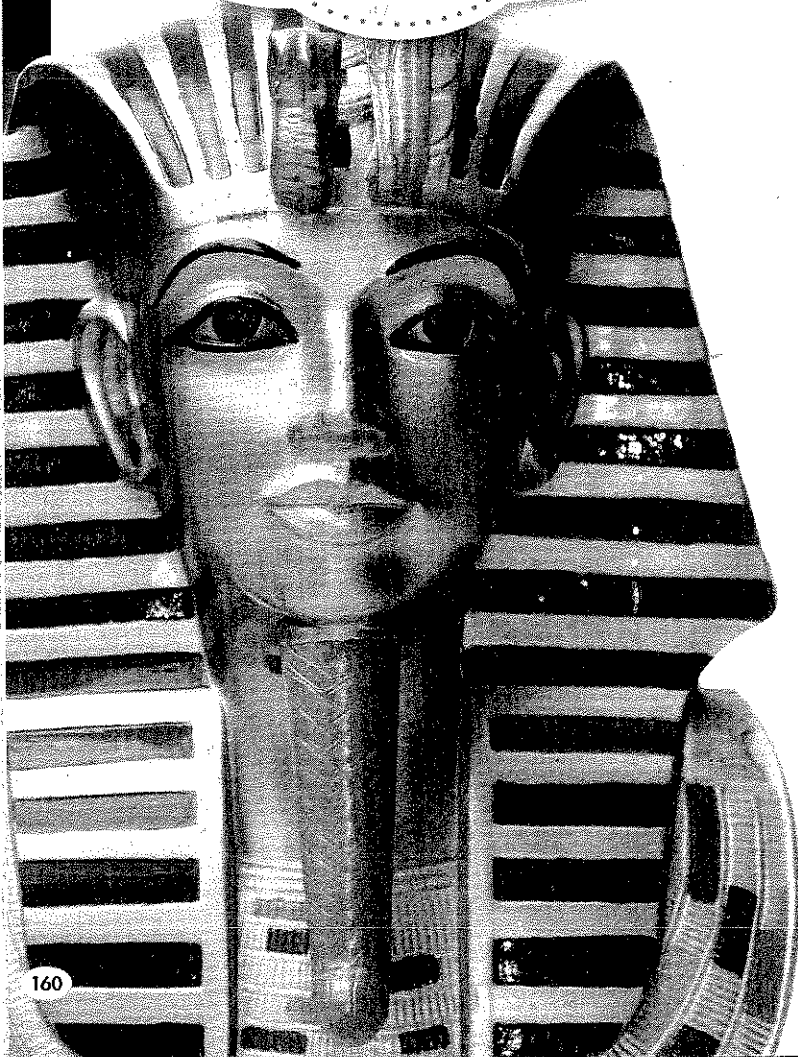
Set Your Purpose

When King Tut of Egypt died, what do you think the ancient Egyptians placed in his tomb? Read the article to find out.

King Tut was known as the “boy king.” He was just 16 when he died. Although he didn’t live long, he did live well. In fact, his **tomb** tells us he was one very rich and famous young man.

The ancient Egyptians believed that there was life after death. Wealthy Egyptians packed items they would need for this afterlife in their tombs. When Tut died, people couldn’t do enough to make him happy in the afterlife. They seemed to think of everything.

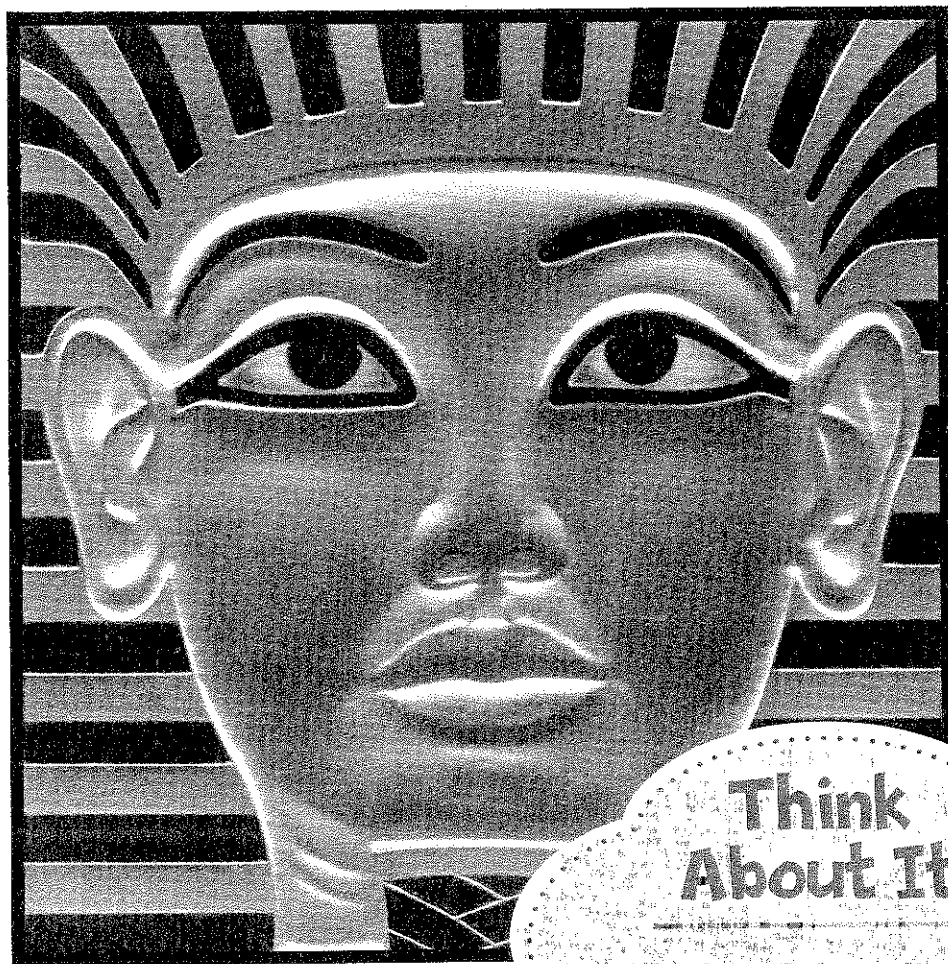
What was in Tut’s tomb? Of course, there was **dazzling** jewelry. Much of it was gold. There was plenty of food, too. Raisins, dates, goat, duck, beef, and other meat were all stored there. For those late-night snacks, there were baskets of bread, garlic, fruit, and honey. No king could be without his shaving kit in the afterlife, so one was packed. The good packers did not forget the eye makeup either. (Are you surprised?)



Tut might like to hunt in the next life, so boomerangs were placed in the tomb. There were also bows, arrows, knives, and leather **armor**. War chariots were put in, too, although they had to be taken apart in order to fit inside.

What king could be without a trumpet? And of course he also needed thrones. Three of those were packed. There were also six beds!

No great king could be seen without **fashionable** clothes. There were many pairs of sandals, shirts, caps, gloves, and more. There was even a dummy for hanging clothes on. To ward off **boredom** in the afterlife, there were game boards, model boats, paper, pens, and ink. Can you imagine what King Tut must have had when he was alive?



Think About It

Which of these items did you guess would be found in Tut's tomb? Which were surprises?

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- The items King Tut was buried with fall into all of these categories except
 - food.
 - clothing.
 - pets.
 - personal care.
- In which category does the boomerang belong?
 - clothing
 - sports
 - jewelry
 - food
- In which category does the throne belong?
 - furniture
 - games and hobbies
 - snacks
 - war
- Which of these best describes King Tut?
 - the first king of Egypt
 - the king who wore eye makeup
 - an Egyptian king who was rich
 - an Egyptian boy king with an important burial chamber
- What do the items people were buried with show about their idea of the afterlife?
 - A person's clothes did not matter in the afterlife.
 - The afterlife was much like the present.
 - People did not need food in the afterlife.
 - There was no way to plan for the afterlife.

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- King Tut's tomb tells us he was very rich.
 - photograph
 - newspaper article
 - fancy clothes
 - building for holding a body
- Inside the tomb, there was dazzling jewelry.
 - amazingly beautiful
 - heavy and expensive
 - old and dull
 - Egyptian
- The packers included leather armor.
 - wild animal found in Egypt
 - dried fruit
 - protective clothing worn during battle
 - a liquid soap
- No great king could be seen without fashionable clothes.
 - fattening
 - stylish
 - robe-like
 - fitting
- Games were packed to ward off boredom.
 - kingdom
 - dull times
 - anger
 - happiness

Word Work

A **contraction** is a word that is formed by putting two words together and replacing one or more letters with an apostrophe.

do + not = don't

Fill in the letter of the contraction formed by two words in dark type.

1. was not

- (A) weren't (C) won't
- (B) wasn't (D) wouldn't

2. could not

- (A) couldn't (C) cannot
- (B) can't (D) won't

3. did not

- (A) don't (C) doesn't
- (B) weren't (D) didn't

4. you have

- (A) you'll (C) you've
- (B) you'd (D) you're

5. are not

- (A) aren't (C) won't
- (B) you're (D) don't

6. I will

- (A) I'm (C) I'll
- (B) I've (D) I'd

Read each sentence. Write the contraction that can be formed by the two underlined words.

7. I have been reading about King Tut for hours. _____

8. No king could have been treated better. _____

9. Would not it be great to discover a tomb like that? _____

10. I know I have not ever seen anything like it. _____

Write Now

In "The King's Things," you read about what people packed inside King Tut's tomb. What do you think Egyptians would send along if King Tut were a 4th grader going to school now?

- Plan to write a paragraph about the things packed with a modern King Tut in his tomb. First, brainstorm a list. Use a chart like the one below.

toys	clothes	furniture	food

- Write your paragraph. Illustrate your paragraph if you wish.