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Class 11 English (Hornbill) Notes

DISCOVERING TUT: THE SAGA CONTINUES





Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Chapter-3

Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues

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'Discovering Tut: the Saga Continues' gives an insight into the mystery surrounding the life and death of Tutankhamun, the last teenage ruler of the powerful Pharaoh dynasty that had ruled Egypt for centuries. He was the last of his family's line, and his funeral brought an end to this powerful dynasty. Not much is known about his family. Tut's father or grandfather, Amenhotep III was a powerful pharaoh who ruled for about four decades during the dynasty's golden age. His son, Amenhotep IV shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, smashing his images and closing all his temples. He changed his name toAkhenaten and promoted the worship of Aten or the sun disk. After his death, a mysterious ruler, Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. When Tut took over, he changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun and restored the old ways. However, Tut ruled for nine years and then died mysteriously and unexpectedly.

In order to unravel the mystery of his death, King Tut's mummy was scanned after a thousand years, thus opening new perceptions regarding the cause of his death. In 1922, his tomb was discovered by Howard Carter who used all kinds of means to remove Tut's mummy from the coffin. The ritual resins had hardened, thereby cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. Carter finally had to chisel the mummy away having no other option. Every major joint was severed. In 1968 an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and revealed that Tut's breast bone and front ribs were missing. Such a revelation would not have been possible without technological precision. This fact gives us a clue that Tut, in all likelihood did not die a natural death. Tut's mummy was scanned in 2005 under the supervision of Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. The Computed Tomography Scan couldn't solve the mysterious death of Tut but gave us clues for sure.

The lesson also provides a comprehensive awareness about ancient Egyptian culture. The ancient Egyptians believed that there was life after death. That is why the Pharaohs were buried with tremendous amount of wealth including things of daily use so that they could use them in their life after death. It was also believed that gold would guarantee their resurrection.

Chapter -3

Discovering Tut

Q.1. Who was Tutankhamun?

Ans. Tutankhamun was a pharoh of ancient Egypt. He was the last heir of royal family that had ruled Egypt for centuries.

Q.2. How did Carter Separate Tut's mummy from Coffin?

Ans. The solidified resins had comented Tut's mummy to the bottom of his coffin. Carter tried to loosen the resins in sun's heat, but could n't succeed. At last, he used a chiesel to separate Tut's mummy from coffin.

Q.3. Why was Tut's body buried along with gilded treasures?

Ans. In Tut's time, the royals thought that they could take their riches to the after life. So Tut's body was also buried along with a lot of gold and things of everyday need.

Q.4. Why did the boy king change his name from Tutankhaten To Tutankamun?

Ans. Amun was a major God in ancient Egypt. But the previous king had made his people worship the sun God Aten. He smashed all images of Amun & closed his temples when young Tut took the throne, he restored the old ways He changed his own name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun which means living image of Amun'.

Q.5. What startling fact was revealed about Tut in 1968?

Ans. In 1968, Tut's mummy was X-rayed. It revealed a startling fact that the breast bone and the front ribs were found missing in the chest. ?It suggested that Tut night not have died a natural death. He could have been murdered.

Q.6. What did Amenhotep IV do when he became pharaoh?

Ans. Amenhotep made his people worship the sun god Aten. He smashed all the images of Amun and closed his temples. He even changed his religious capital from the bes to New City of Akhataten.

Long Answers Type Question

Q.1. Explain the statement, "King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned in life as in death?

Ans. Tut became a king when he was only a boy of nine years. He ruled for eight years and died at the age of eighteen. How he became a king and how he died has been

a mystery. When his mummy was found in 1922; it was scanned to known the facts related to life as well as death. It was one of first mummies that was used for such a probe.

Short Answer Questions

'Answer the following questions in not more than. 30-40 words.

1. What are the two biggest questions still lingering about Tutankhamen?
2. What was the Pharaoh's curse?
3. What were the funerary treasures found in the pharaoh's tomb?
4. What does the presence of funerary treasures in Tut's tomb tell us about the beliefs of ancient Egyptians?
5. Why did Ray Johnson describe Akhenaten as 'wacky'?
6. What were the findings of the CT scan of Tut"s mummy?
7. Who was Tut? Why was his demise a big event?
8. How do you know that King Tut was buried in March/April?
9. What superstition do Egyptians associate with mummies?
10. King Tut's body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny. Why?
11. Why were the Pharaohs buried with tremendous amount of wealth?
12. Why did the boy king change his name from 'Tutankhaten' to 'Tutankhamun'?
13. Carter had to chisel away Tut's mummy. How did he justify it?
14. Why was Carter's investigation resented?
15. What were the results of the CT scan?
16. Mention any two aspects of ancient Egyptian life as portrayed in the lesson?

Long Answer Questions

Answer the following in about 120 words.

1. Do you think Carter was justified in removing the hardened resin deposits on Tut's mummy? Why? Why not?
2. What is the Egyptian Mummy Project? How successful has it been?

3. Describe the Egyptian rulers that you find mentioned in the lesson.
4. Explain the statement - 'King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned -in death, as in life moving regally ahead of his countrymen'.
5. What picture of Egyptian life and beliefs does the lesson portray?
6. Knowledge about past adds to our knowledge of the world we live in. Do you agree? Why? Why not?