# TEACHER'S GUIDE Grades 5 to 12

## **Pharaoh Tutankhamen** History Happened Here Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World History, Ancient Egypt

**Synopsis**: Explores the mystery of Pharaoh Tutankhamen's death and burial. Dramatizes archaeologist Howard Carter's discovery of the forgotten Pharaoh's tomb in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Presents the theory that Tutankhamen, the boy king, was murdered and secretly buried by his advisors.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- **Objective 1)** Students will be able to discuss the excavation of Tutankhamen's tomb in 1923.
- **Objective 2)** Students will be able to recall details of Tutankhamen's life, mysterious death and burial.
- **Objective 3**) Students will be able to recognize the significance of Tutankhamen's tomb as an archaeological site.

#### Vocabulary

Pharaohs, pyramids at Giza, Valley of the Kings, tombs, resplendent, astounding, plundered, Tutankhamen, grave robbers, coronation, advisors, guardians, jackal, Anubis, high priest, heir, dynasty, intrigue, sinister, chariots, archaeology, poignant, mummified, fracture, lethal, skull cavity, culprit, ransacked, irony

#### **Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:**

- 1) Locate Luxor, Egypt on a map.
- 2) Explore students' previous knowledge of ancient Egypt. Describe Egyptian government, religious beliefs, burial customs, architecture, art, hieroglyphics, and culture.

#### Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) How old was Tutankhamen when he became Pharaoh? Who were his advisers? What is known about his life?
- 2) How is Tutankhamen's tomb different from the tombs of other Pharaohs? How is it similar to the other tombs? What do we learn about him from his tomb?
- 3) What evidence suggests that Tutankhamen was murdered? Who is suspected of committing the crime? According to this theory, why did his advisors conspire against him? Do you believe this theory?
- 4) What happened to the tombs of other Egyptian pharaohs? Why? Is looting still a problem at archaeological sites? Why is it important that artifacts remain in their original locations?
- 5) Why is Tutankhamen remembered? How is it ironic that he is so well known today? What do the tombs of the Pharaohs teach us about life in Egypt? What do we learn about Egyptian life from Tutankhamen's tomb?

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#### **Additional Activities:**

- 1) Investigate Egyptian burials, including the pyramids, embalming process, beliefs about the afterlife, etc.
- 2) Learn more about the excavation of the Tomb of Tutankhamen at <a href="http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/98/egypt/">http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/98/egypt/</a>.
- 3) Review the elements of mystery stories and assign students to write their own mysteries about the death and burial of Tutankhamen.
- 4) Discuss the items found in Tutankhamen's tomb. What do these objects reveal about Tutankhamen and Egyptian life? Create a class time capsule, including items that will tell future generations about your students' lives today.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611 800.288.4456