

TUTANKHAMUN

Teacher Resource

TREASURES OF THE GOLDEN PHARAOH

SAATCHI GALLERY | 2 November 2019 – 3 May 2020

Presented by



VIKING



Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh



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Overview of the Exhibition: Tutankhamun



The exhibition “Tutankhamun, the Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh” celebrates the centenary of the discovery of the royal tomb by presenting a collection of exceptional masterpieces.

The legend of Tutankhamun captured imaginations globally when, in 1922 his tomb was unearthed by British explorer Howard Carter and financier Lord Carnarvon. Presented by the Ministry of Egyptian Antiquities, in commemoration of the centennial of that discovery 'Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh' will unveil more than 150 original objects from the tomb with more than 50 pieces travelling out of Egypt for the first and last time.

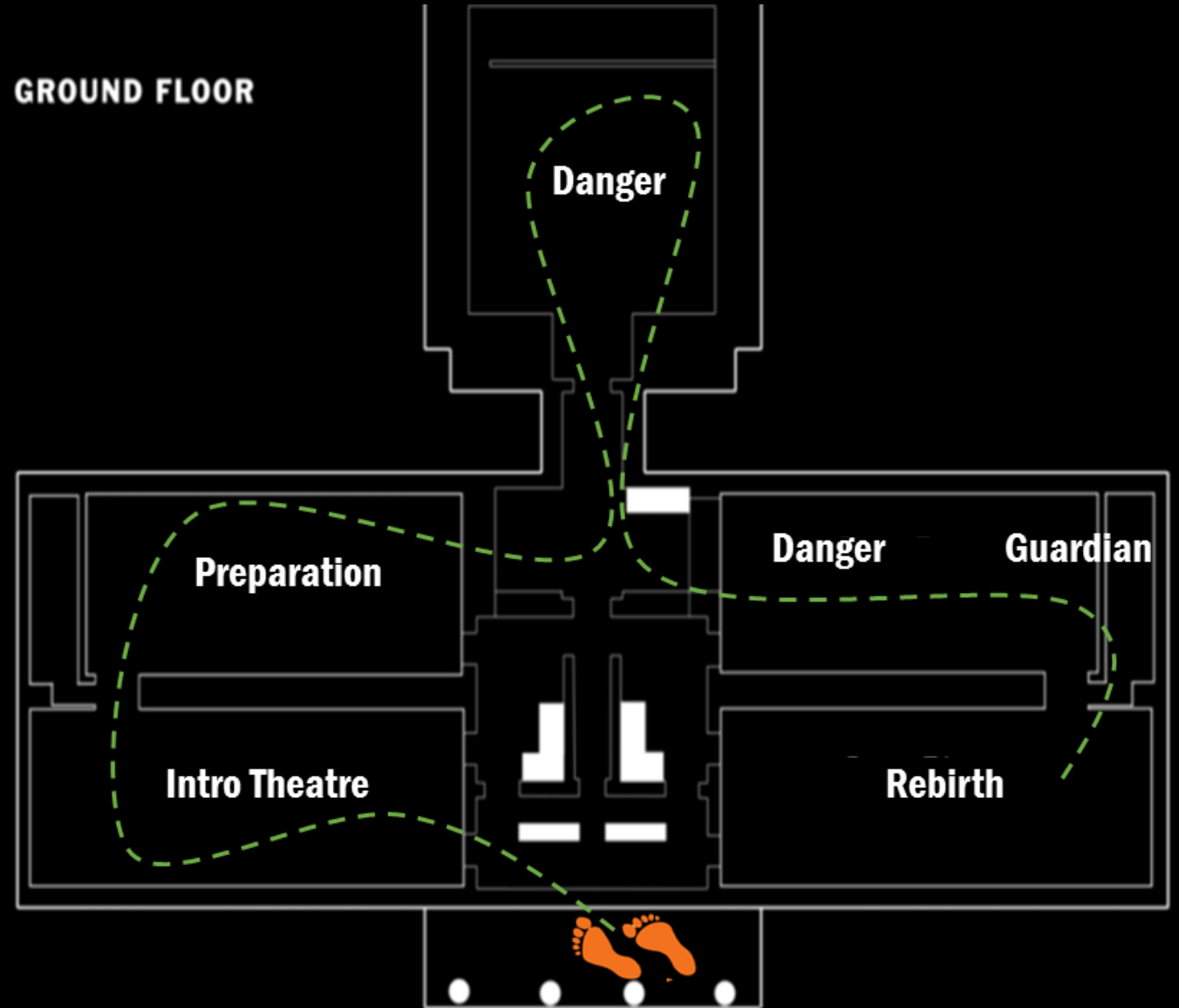
You will discover the most famous of the Pharaohs and the young sovereign's personal belongings as you are transported to Ancient Egypt where you'll accompany King Tut on his journey to the afterlife on his quest for immortality.

Exhibition Floorplan

GROUND FLOOR:

- Introduction
- Lighting the Way
- Preparation
- The Dangerous Journey
- Guardian
- Rebirth

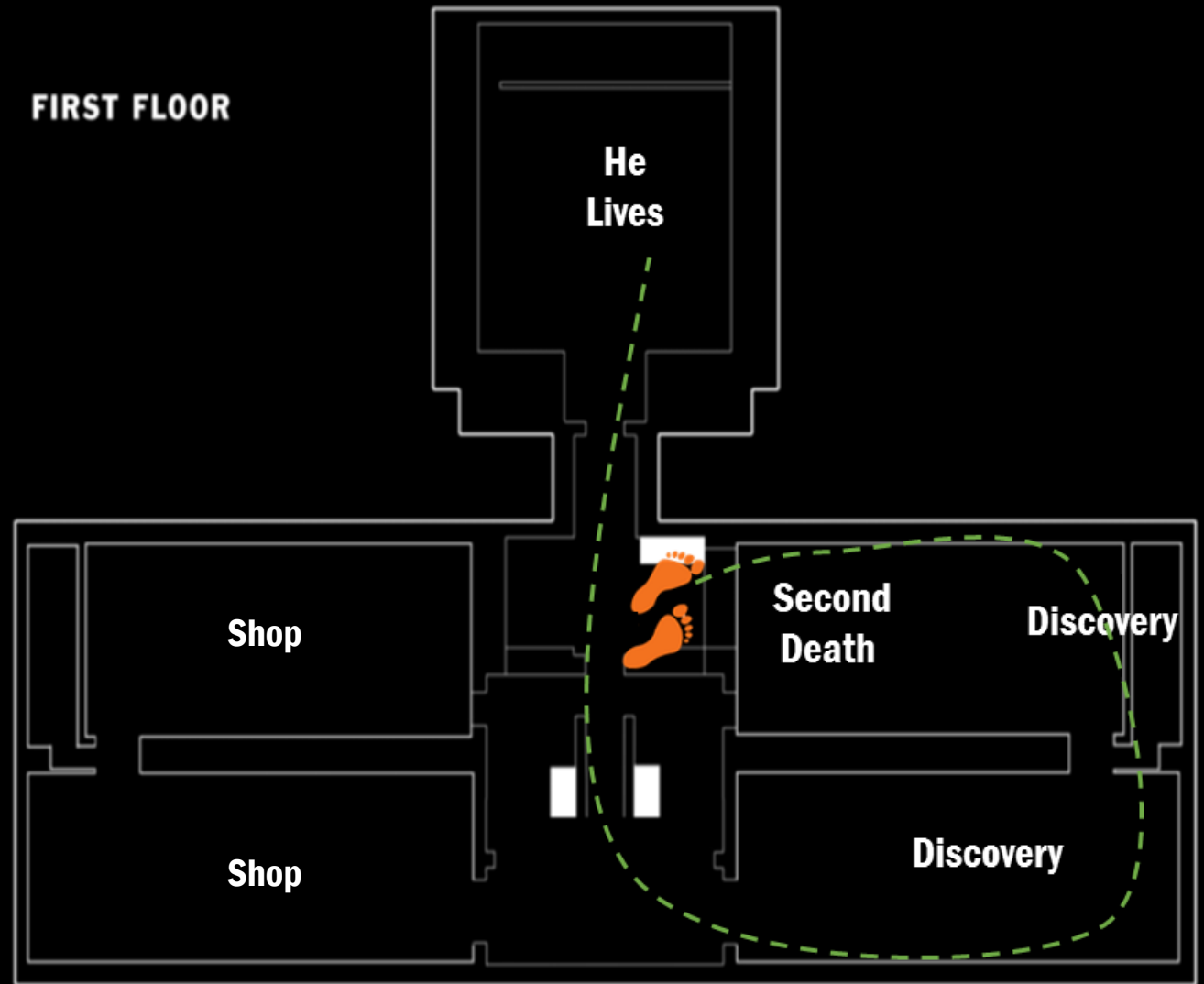
GROUND FLOOR



Exhibition Floorplan

FIRST FLOOR:

- A Second Death
- Discovery
- He Lives



Introduction

The exhibition experience begins in a wide screen intro theatre, where a film is projected on a curved wall to set the scene and provide context



Scene 1: In the Valley of the Kings, a narrator sets the scene introducing himself as Howard Carter, an English Egyptologist. It's 1922 and Carter describes the many years he spent excavating the tombs of Egyptian monarchs, and how he learned of new finds in the Valley of the Kings that caught his attention: a faience cup inscribed with the name of an obscure pharaoh, *Tutankhamun*, and fragments of gold foil containing the names of the king and his queen. Carter became convinced that Tutankhamun's tomb was somewhere in the Valley but after eight years of fruitless searching Carter's patron, wealthy aristocrat Lord Carnarvon, is ready to pull the plug. Carter has one more chance to find the tomb.

Scene 2: An animation depicts Ra making his daily voyage across the sky. After night fall Ra travels through the underworld and is reborn each morning where he again begins his journey across the sky. The sun god fades to a giant image of Tutankhamun, and an re-enactment of the king's life recounting the few known facts: the son of the controversial Akhenaten, ascended to the throne when only 9 or 10, re-established the other deities banned by his father, married to his half-sister Ankhesenamun, then died unexpectedly at the age of 19.

Introduction

Scene 3: The Priest explains that before Tutankhamun's Ba, or soul can begin the journey to eternity, his body must be prepared according to protocols set down since ancient times. Following the deceased final voyage down the Nile from Luxor to the preparation tent in the Valley of the Kings. Priests are carrying out the final preparations and performing the ritual *Opening of the Mouth* ceremony.

As the priest's words ring out, the video fades, the scrim retracts to reveal large golden doors that slowly slide open to reveal soft glimmering lights at the end of a dimly glowing pathway.

Lighting the Way

I know the spells

for ascending to the Sky


The echo of the high priest's voice mixes with mysterious chants. Walls on both sides of the path are decorated with puzzling spells and indecipherable hieroglyphs. Behind, in the indefinable distance flickering reed torches emit ethereal twinkling light. You're entering the underworld, a place populated by demons, where sudden threats and dangers lurk and which the spirit must navigate in order to reach eternity. The experience of walking through is unsettling; you feel uneasy but excited to see what awaits as you make your way towards the light.

Preparation



The light radiates from glowing, semi-transparent calcite and alabaster vessels that frame the gallery space. As you enter, the voices behind you stop and the combination of silence with otherworldly light that dances off the walls creates a space that exudes calm and reverence. The objects displayed here were packed by priests for the journey through the underworld to eternity undertaken by the Pharaoh's Ba. Like everything included in the tomb, these objects are imbued with magical, religious power; magnificent chests, a silver trumpet, an ebony and ivory armchair and footrest, a gilded wooden bed, and ivory game pieces.

A Dangerous Journey



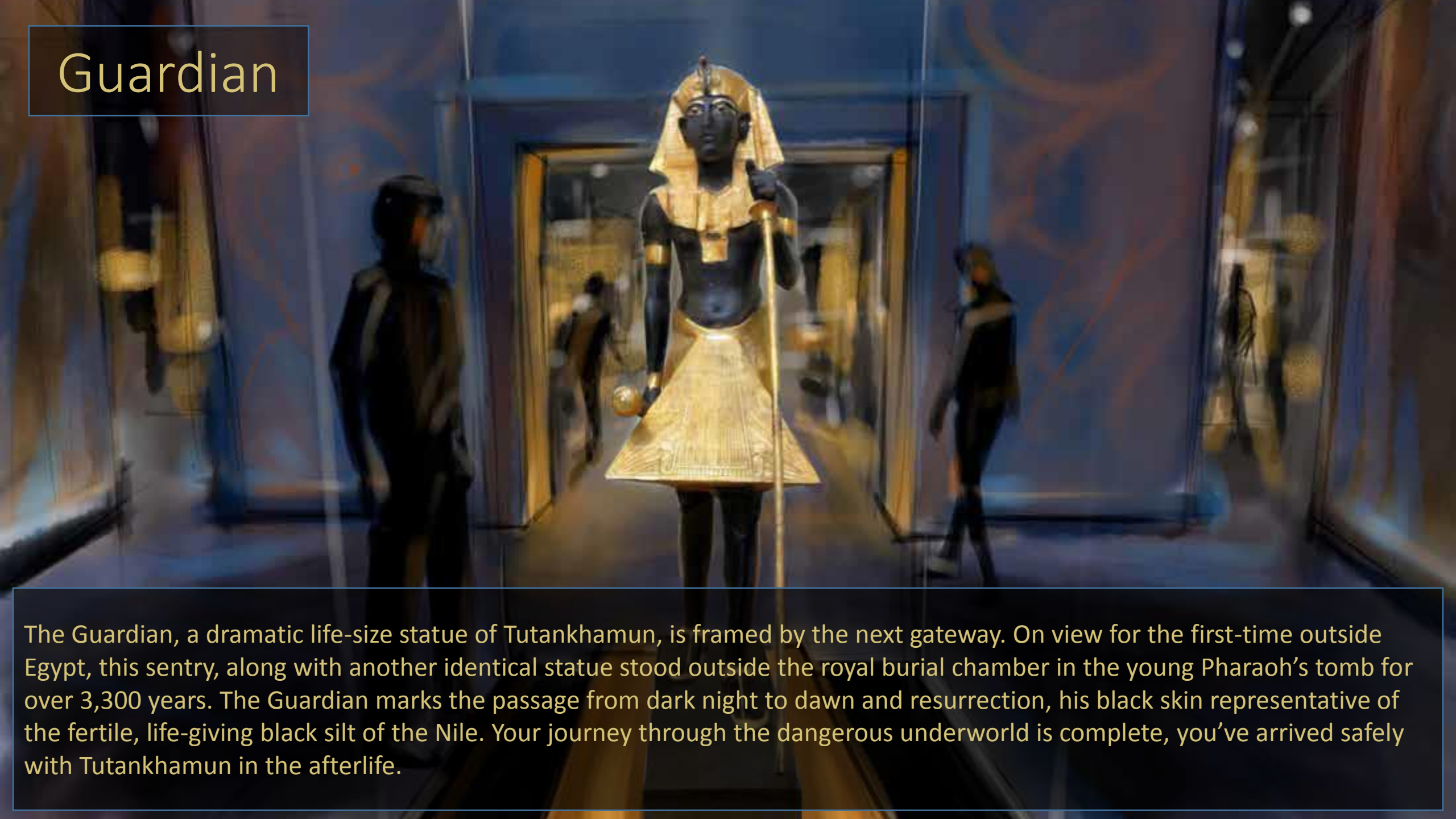
An ancient funerary text, *The Book of Gates*, tells how in order to enter paradise, the deceased must successfully pass thorough twelve gates each guarded by snakes, vultures, crocodiles, or other supernatural creatures. The deceased must know the names of the predators and be equipped with the correct spells and weaponry in order to fend off danger. In this gallery weapons and armor from Tutankhamun's tomb are displayed from decorative shields, gilded bows and arrows, ornate boomerangs, and scimitars. The king is a warrior, armed with everything he needs in order to protect himself.

A Dangerous Journey

The background image shows a museum exhibit. On the left, a large, ornate golden shrine is visible, covered in hieroglyphs and featuring a central figure, possibly a deity. To the right, a smaller, more modern-looking display case contains a statue of a person, likely a deity or a pharaoh. The scene is dimly lit, with spotlights highlighting the exhibits. A person is visible in the background, looking at the displays.

A magnificent, double-doored golden shrine is displayed in a transition area just before you reach the next gateway. One of the most elegant objects found in Tutankhamun's tomb, the shrine is made of wood covered in thick gold with silver bolts. As you enter the gallery, text projected at the top of the gateway stresses the king's dependence on the support and protection of gods and goddesses as he made his way through the underworld. Statues of some of the gods who accompanied Tutankhamun - Ptah, Sened, Tata, and Horus - are on display. You learn about the weighing of the heart, the final judgement overseen by Osiris, king of the underworld. To the Ancient Egyptians, the heart was the most important organ, the seat of the intellect and the emotions. A pure heart full of good deeds was as light as an ostrich feather, and if the heart and feather was in perfect balance when placed on a scale, the deceased left the underworld to enter paradise.

Guardian



The Guardian, a dramatic life-size statue of Tutankhamun, is framed by the next gateway. On view for the first-time outside Egypt, this sentry, along with another identical statue stood outside the royal burial chamber in the young Pharaoh's tomb for over 3,300 years. The Guardian marks the passage from dark night to dawn and resurrection, his black skin representative of the fertile, life-giving black silt of the Nile. Your journey through the dangerous underworld is complete, you've arrived safely with Tutankhamun in the afterlife.

Resurrection



In this gallery fabulous treasures found in the burial chamber smoulders and shines with the warm glow of gold. It's filled with lavish, shimmering objects fit to accompany a king in paradise. Gleaming jewellery is arranged in display cases: exquisite amulets and other gold, silver, and bronze objects embedded with rare stones and minerals. Light throws life-size shadows of striking decorated wooden shabtis against a wall, the doll-like figures which were intended to come to life ready to work for the king, once the reborn pharaoh uttered the correct magic spell. The centrepieces of the gallery are the sumptuous gold inlaid canopic coffin of Tutankhamun that once contained the Pharaoh's mummified stomach and the superb translucent calcite canopic jar stopper. His likeness on these objects guaranteed that the Ba would recognise its body for the moment of rebirth.

A Second Death

You exit into a darkened space. A narrator explains that the ancient pharaohs erected massive temples, monuments, and statues, all inscribed with their names. After a pharaoh died, priests conducted daily rituals in his mortuary temple. Everyday, they spoke his name and performed the opening of the mouth ceremony on his statue, essential magic through which the dead pharaoh would defy death and ensure his immortality. But when Tutankhamun died, his name was erased from his surviving monuments and replaced with the names of his successors. Tutankhamun was written out of history, his name forgotten. In this way, he died a second death.

Discovery

*....may your eyes see
Wonderful Things*

As the image fades, you hear muffled voices, scraping shovels, and a faint tapping. The sounds pull you around the next corner. On a screen, a shaft of light appears through a crack in a dark wall. The beam picks out a delicate calcite vessel. Howard Carter's voice describes how, in early November 1922, Hussein, a young water-boy on his team, discovered a stair carved in the bedrock of the Valley of the Kings. Excited voices cry out as the onscreen crack spreads quickly and the wall collapses. Light floods in, bathing the vessel and illuminating the entire space. The wall on the screen is now replaced with an image of the stairwell that leads up from Tutankhamun's tomb to the valley outside. The beautiful, translucent vessel is revealed to be the wishing cup, the first object Carter saw when he peered into the tomb.

Discovery



Within this gallery is objects, audio, film and still projections, including Harry Burton's 1920s photographs, to tell the story of the impact of the discovery; from the uniqueness of the find, through the full decade of work involved in removing, documenting, and conserving the 5,000 objects found in the tomb. The story gripped the imagination of the entire world, including the rumours of a mummy's curse with the sudden death of Lord Carnarvon before he could visit the burial chamber, a vital part of the Tutankhamun legend that continues today. Objects on view include a spectacular pectoral, modelled by the young Hussein in a photo, as well as Carter's writings, drawings, and personal items, and vintage and modern Tutankhamun memorabilia.

He Lives!

TO
SPEAK
THE
NAME
OF THE
DEAD

IS TO
MAKE HIM
LIVE
AGAIN

In the final gallery an entry portal mimics the entrance to a magnificent mortuary temple. It frames a colossal 10-foot-tall quartzite statue of Tutankhamun flanked by four Egyptian columns. The colossal portrays the boy king as a strong and powerful leader, perhaps exactly the way he would have wanted to be remembered. A montage of images projected on the columns and statue transforms the space and brings it to life. This celebration of Tutankhamun reinforces the idea that, far from forgotten, he is as well-known today as he was 100 years ago. The words, “To speak the name of the dead is to make him live again” are projected and the statue is dramatically restored to its original colours using light projections. Over 3,300 years after his death, King Tutankhamun is a household name, a legend, and the most famous of all the Egyptian pharaohs.

Education Resources

To support your students learning we have designed age appropriate activity trails to heighten their engagement with the Tutankhamun exhibition, and add on workshops to further their exploration of Ancient Egyptian culture.

Activity trails:

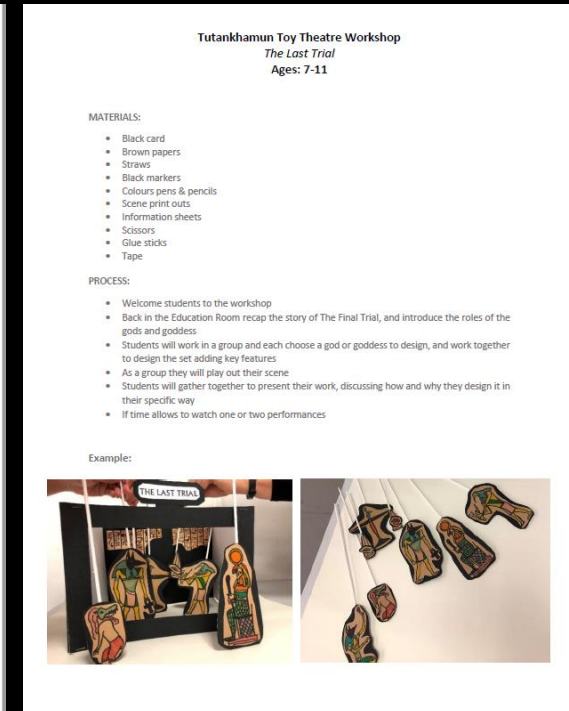
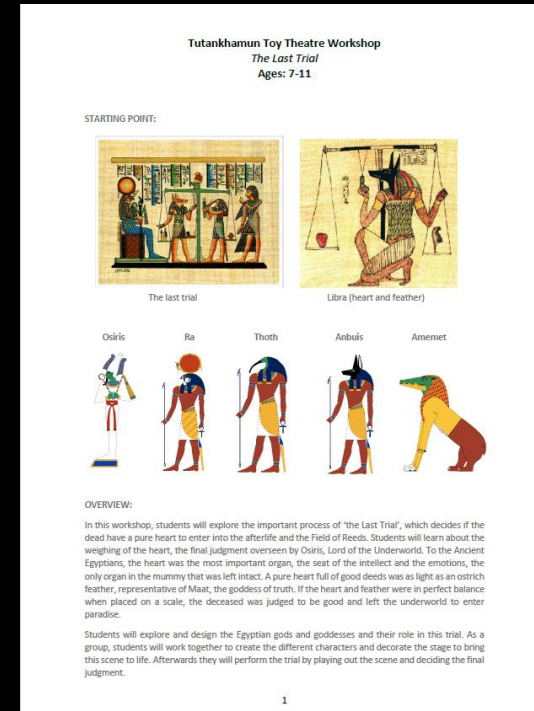
Two activity trails have been created for ages 4-7 and 8-11 years old. These provide information and activities for each part of the exhibition. You can download and print these activity trails via the Saatchi Education webpage:

www.saatchigallery.com/schools/talks_workshops.htm

Workshops:

The workshops respond to the themes of the exhibition and range from designing sacred objects to storytelling via toy theatres. Workshop are an additional activity and are not essential to your visit. They can be booked via Ticketmaster during booking, although spaces are limited. To view the workshop overviews please visit the Saatchi Education webpage:

www.saatchigallery.com/schools/talks_workshops.htm



Trip Information

Contact details:

- For any amendments to your booking prior to your visit please contact the Ticketmaster Education team via email at education@ticketmaster.co.uk
- For contact on the day please contact the Saatchi Education team on 020 7811 3087 or via email at education@saatchigallery.com

Saatchi Gallery Address:

- Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY

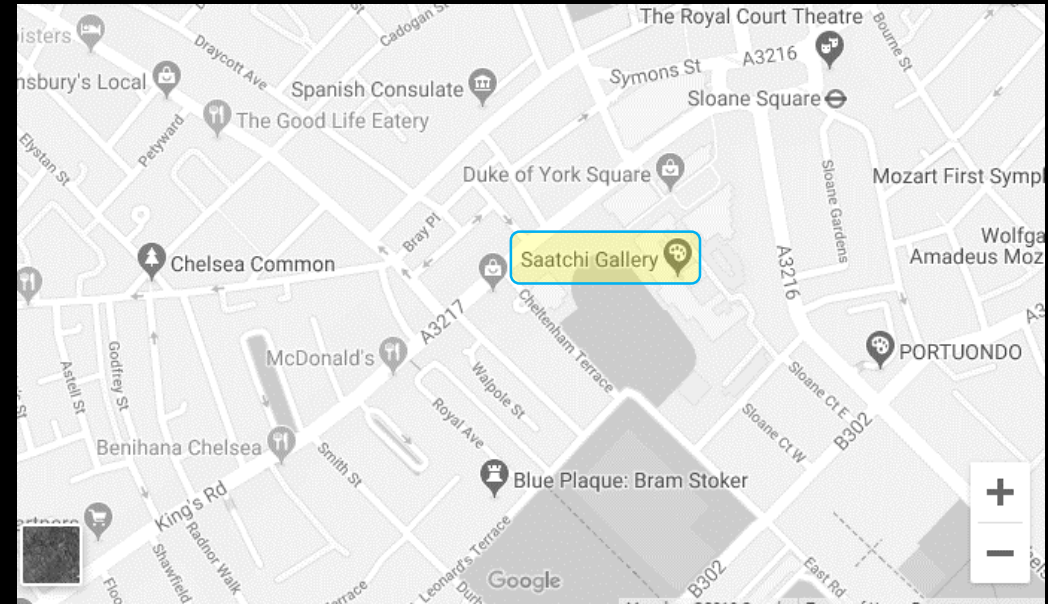
Transport:

- **Nearest Underground:** Sloane Square (Circle and District Lines)
- **Buses:** C1, 11, 19, 22, 137, 219
- **Drop on point:** King's Road

Arrival time:

- As this will be a popular exhibition please arrive at the gallery approximately 30 minutes before your entry time

Workshops: Are situated on the second floor, please arrive at your allocated time



Glossary of terms

- **Afterlife** = The place where ancient Egyptians believed they would go after death once they had successfully passed through the Netherworld.
- **Amulet** = A piece of jewelry worn as a protection against injury or evil.
- **Ankh** - A hieroglyph symbol carried by the pharaohs and gods that meant "life."
- **Anubis** = God of embalming and an important god of the Netherworld, shown with the head of a jackal.
- **Ba** = The soul or spiritual part of a deceased person that can act and move outside the body
- **Book of the Dead** = A text with magic spells that were supposed to guide a person through the Netherworld to reach the afterlife.
- **Canopic jars** = Special jars that held the lungs, intestines, liver, and stomach of a mummy.
- **Cartouche** = Oval frame which surrounded the written name of a pharaoh.
- **Crook and flail** = Symbols of power often carried by the pharaoh.
- **Egyptologist** = An archeologist who specializes in Ancient Egypt.
- **Eye of Horus** = A good luck sign associated with the Sun or Moon that the Egyptians believed protected one from evil and guaranteed good health.
- **Faience** = Glazed ceramics, often blue or green.
- **Funerary books** = A series of writings that aid the deceased in a safe journey through the Netherworld.
- **Hieroglyphics** = Writing used by the ancient Egyptians with a combination of pictures and signs, some having phonetic value.
- **Horus** = God of Kingship, son of Osiris.
- **Isis** = Goddess of magical powers and healing, wife of Osiris.
- **Ka** = A person's life force or spiritual double that required sustenance by providing it with food offerings.
- **Lotus** = A type of flower that grew in Egypt. There are two kinds, blue and white.
- **Maat** = Goddess of justice and truth who weighs the deceased's heart during the journey through the Netherworld after death. Anubis oversaw the weighing of the deceased's heart which set on one side of a scale and the feather of Maat on the other. If the deceased was without sin, the two sides were in balance.
- **Mummy** = A dead body that has been specially preserved by embalming.
- **Netherworld** = The dangerous world through which a boat carrying the sun god and his companions, including the deceased, must travel every night.
- **Obelisk** = A tall pillar monument that Egyptians generally built in pairs at the entrances to their temples.
- **Osiris** = Egyptian god of the Netherworld.
- **Papyrus** = A plant that grew on the banks of the Nile; used it to make paper, boats, sandals, baskets, and rope.
- **Pharaoh** = The supreme ruler of ancient Egypt. He or she was considered a god upon earth.
- **Pyramid** = A giant tomb built for the early pharaohs of Egypt. It was made from stone and had four sides that came to a point at the top.
- **Re** = God of the sun.
- **Sarcophagus** = A large stone box that protected a mummy's coffin.
- **Scribe** = Educated Egyptians who could read and write and worked as civil employee.
- **Senet** = A popular board game played by the ancient Egyptians and a metaphor for the journey through the Netherworld.
- **Shabti** = Servant statues that served the deceased in the afterlife by performing manual labor and acting as a substitute for the deceased.
- **Valley of the Kings** = Location west of the Nile River with tombs of New Kingdom pharaohs.