

MUMMIES

Mummies are often featured in movies as being undead beings. Early science fiction novels were written about ancient mummies coming back to life, and horror films about mummies became extremely popular between the 1930s and '50s, the heyday of science fiction and horror films. Many of the mummy films made around that time promoted a belief that mummies have magical powers: if you disturb their sleep, a curse will be placed upon you!



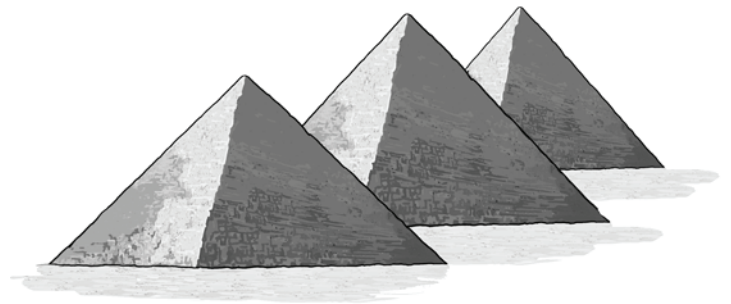
FAMOUS MUMMY:

King Tutankhamun, or "The Boy King", is possibly the most famous of ancient Egyptian royalty. King Tut took the throne at age nine or ten. History suggests he wasn't very famous when he was a king, but he is remembered in modern society because of the very public discovery of his tomb by Egyptologist Howard Carter in 1922. Legends of a "curse" are still around to this day because people that were part of Carter's excavation team had instances of bad luck shortly after. The mission's funder caught an infection, and one of the anthropologist's house burned down!

PYRAMIDS:

Though it was actually rare for Egyptian royalty to inscribe curses in their tombs, the pharaohs seemed to be trying to prevent people from breaking into their chambers and derailing their journey to the afterlife. Winding walkways to the tomb that lead deep under the pyramid were common, and doors to the tomb were often sealed shut. Even King Tut was buried in three nested sarcophagi, which were inside of five layered wooden shrines. Inside their tombs, pharaohs stocked everything they might need for the afterlife, including food, furniture and valuables.

Draw up a floor plan for your pyramid. How would you trick people into staying away from your chamber?



Name three things you'd want to have in your tomb. What do you think you'd need or want in the afterlife?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____