

THE PHARAOH'S CURSE

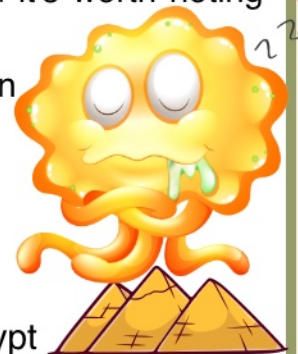
Many years ago, in the distant land of Egypt, a young pharaoh named Tutankhamun lived. Tutankhamun became pharaoh at a very young age, just a child, when he ascended to the throne of Egypt. His reign was short, but his tomb became one of the most famous and mysterious in history.

It all began in 1922 when Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's burial chamber, which had remained buried under the sand for several centuries. Thus, the tomb remained hidden from tomb raiders, and both his sarcophagus and all his treasures remained concealed.

However, excitement turned to terror when strange things started happening. It is said that a curse befell those who disturbed the rest of the old king. Several members of the excavation team and individuals associated with the discovery died under mysterious circumstances.

But was it truly a curse that caused those misfortunes, or just a series of unfortunate events? One theory points to a fungus present in the air of the chamber, which had been sealed for thousands of years. All signs point to the spores of a toxic fungus, *Aspergillus flavus*, possibly causing respiratory problems and eventually death. Therefore, the demise of those discoverers had a completely logical explanation, and it's worth noting that many other members of that team lived for many more years.

However, the story of the pharaoh's curse, which was nothing more than an exaggeration, became very popular during that time, finding its way into books and movies alike.



Comprehension Questions

1.- What was the name of the young pharaoh who lived in ancient Egypt and whose tomb became famous for its mysteries?

2.- Why did the excitement of discovering Tutankhamun's tomb turn to terror, according to the text?



3.- According to one theory mentioned in the text, what airborne element inside the burial chamber may have contributed to the mysterious deaths associated with Tutankhamun's tomb?

