

# TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB

**Lord Carnarvon** was a very wealthy man. He paid for **Howard Carter**, an archaeologist, to search for **Tutankhamun's Tomb**. When **Carter** found the entrance he 'wired' **Carnarvon** to come. On 26th November 1922 the two men, with help from some others, set about entering the tomb for the first time.

**Carnarvon:** *I came as soon as I received your telegram.*

**Carter:** *I wired you as soon as we discovered the steps hidden in the sand. I knew you would want to be here when we went in.*

**Carnarvon:** *How did you find the steps?*

**Carter:** *The water carrier stumbled across them. The wind had blown the sand away from the top step.*

**Carnarvon:** *How far have you gone?*

**Carter:** *The men have removed all the sand from the steps. They lead down to a wall below the ground's surface, a bit like a man-made cave.*

**Carnarvon:** *How exciting after all these years, lead me to it!*

**Carter** led **Lord Carnarvon**, **Lord Carnarvon's daughter** and the workmen to the site where they had found the hidden steps.

**Carter:** *Look down there.*

**Lord Carnarvon** looked down at the steps that had been discovered hidden by the desert sand.

**Carnarvon:** *No wonder we took so long to find it. What now?*

**Carter:** *Hand me that hammer and chisel and then have a candle ready. I'm going in.*

**One of the workmen** handed **Carter** the tools. He carefully walked down the steps and then started to hammer away at the top left hand corner of the wall.

**Carnarvon:** *How is it going?*

**Carter:** *It's beginning to crumble.*

**Suddenly** a piece of stone falls inside the opening and warm stale air rushes out.

**Carter:** *Just a bit more, and another, and another! Quickly man, light that candle and pass it to me.*

**Lord Carnarvon** makes several attempts to light the candle. Finally it lights and he passes it to **Carter** who stretches his arm through the opening with the candle gripped tightly.

**Carnarvon:** *What can you see? What can you see? Have the grave robbers beaten us to it?*

**Carter:** *It's so bright out here in the sun I am struggling to focus. I'll just get a little closer.*

**Carnarvon:** *Can you see anything?*

**Carter:** *Yes, wonderful things!*



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## Section A

*Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.*

Lord Carnarvon paid Howard Carter to look for Tutankhamun's

1 **coffin.**      **grave.**      **tomb.**      **mask.**

When Carter found the entrance he

2 **telephoned**      **faxed**      **emailed**      **wired**

Carnarvon to come. The men removed the

3 **sack**      **sand**      **railings**      **door**

from the hidden steps. Carter used a hammer and a

4 **nail**      **spade**      **chisel**      **saw**

to knock some stones out of the wall. As the first stone fell, warm stale

5 **sand**      **water**      **oxygen**      **air**

rushed out. Carnarvon asked if Carter could see

6 **gold.**      **a coffin.**      **a chariot.**      **anything.**

"I can see wonderful things," replied Carter.

## Section B

1 What was Howard Carter's job?

2 What do you think a telegram is?

3 What do you think the term 'water carrier' refers to?

4 Why were the steps to the tomb difficult to find?

5 Carter said, "I'm going in." Where was he going?

6 Why was Lord Carnarvon concerned the grave robbers may have 'beaten us to it'?

7 What do you think Carter meant when he said he could see "wonderful things"?

## Section C

Continue this playscript telling what Carter and Carnarvon said to each other as they enter the tomb for the first time.