

# Archaeologists Reveal King Tut's Mummy



More than 3,000 years after King Tut of Egypt died, his mummy is on public display for the first time. Archaeologists have unwrapped the cloth from Tut's head so visitors can see his face. The face seems to have a smile on it, one scientist said.

Tut's body was preserved, or *mummified*, at the time of his death. Back then, Egyptians often mummified the bodies of important people. They used oils, salts, minerals, and spices to preserve the bodies. That explains why the skin on Tut's face appears to look like hard black clay.

King Tut's mummy has been removed from its gold coffin, which was buried inside a second coffin made of stone. Over time, the mummy has been broken into 18 pieces. Visitors to the tomb can see only Tut's face and feet. The rest of his body is covered by a cloth.

Tut is displayed in a glass case inside a tomb. The glass case will help to save the mummy from further harm. If Tut is not protected in this way, the heat and moisture from people who visit the tomb could cause him to turn to dust.

## NEWS WORD BOX

public coffin display  
tomb moisture infection  
preserve minerals

Why are people so interested in King Tut? One reason might be that he became king of all of Egypt when he was about ten years old. He died at age 19.

Scientists started working to preserve Tut's mummy about two years ago. They also hoped to learn why he died so young. Some scientists now think he may have died from an infection caused by a broken bone.

## **MORE FACTS ABOUT KING TUT**

- King Tut's tomb was first discovered by scientist Howard Carter 85 years ago.
- Only about 50 people had viewed Tut's mummy before it was put on public display.

## THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Some people think Tut should not be put on public display.  
They say he should have been "left in peace."  
What do you think?