

Center for Science Outreach



Necropolis Cold Case

How Tutankhamen (King Tut) died has been one of the world's greatest mysteries for decades. You are invited to be an independent investigator hired by a wealthy history buff to solve the case once & for all! Follow the leads. But be careful! If you fail, he promises to sabotage your career and tell the world you are a phony!

Hypotheses for King Tut's Death

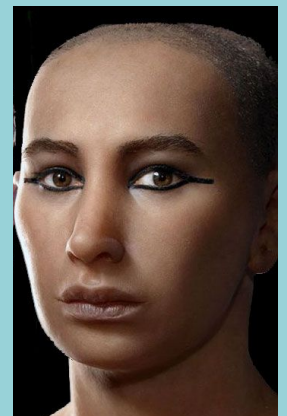
There are six main hypotheses that have been examined over the last 100 years, since the discovery of King Tut's tomb.

1. **Old Age** - King Tut died within the normal age at death for the time period
2. **Chariot Accident** - King Tut died from complications from a chariot crash
3. **Hereditary Disease** - Genetic abnormalities from inbreeding weakened the king
4. **Malaria** - The king died after contracting malaria
5. **Assassination** - A political rival ordered King Tut to be killed
6. **Hippo Attack** - King Tut's chest was crushed in a hippo attack while hunting in a marsh.

Examination of the evidence

You will be evaluating each hypothesis by examining five different types of evidence.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Genetic Analysis | D. List of Pharaohs |
| B. Archeological Index | E. Evidence of Trauma |
| C. Evidence of Murder | |



Tutankhaum

To learn more about King Tut through pictures, check out LiveScience's article [In Pictures: The Life and Death of King Tut](#)

Now see if you can crack the case!

You can access the “supercomputer” ORACLE (by clicking on the link below) to examine each line of evidence.

[ORACLE SUPERCOMPUTER](http://bit.ly/askoracle0101) (bit.ly/askoracle0101)

As you gather information, use the chart below (you can print it out, make your own copy on google spreadsheets, or draw out a copy), to record information. For each line of evidence you can record +, -, or N/A for each hypothesis.

+ : indicates that the line of evidence supports that hypothesis

- : indicates that the line of evidence does NOT support that hypothesis

N/A: indicates that that line of evidence does not apply to that hypothesis

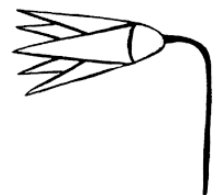
	Hypothesis 1 Old Age	Hypothesis 2 Chariot Accident	Hypothesis 3 Hereditary Disease	Hypothesis 4 Malaria	Hypothesis 5 Assassination	Hypothesis 6 Hippo Attack
Genetic Evidence						
Archeological Index						
Evidence of Murder						
List of Pharaohs						
Evidence of Trauma						



Tutankhamun

Check out this National Geographic article on King Tut to learn more about one of the most famous Egyptian Kings at the link below.

[Who Was King Tut?](#)



Nefertiti

While the death of King Tut is a fascinating mystery, it’s nothing compared to the life of his stepmother Nefertiti. Curl up with this excellent e-book from Nashville Public Library.

[Nefertiti: a novel by Michelle Moran](#)

