

6th Grade

English WEEK 1: Fall Semester

Before Reading

Would you like to be king or queen of an entire empire? If so, what would your goals and dreams be? If not, why not? Explain your ideas in a thoughtful paragraph.

Read

- Read “Where Did King Tut Get His Eyebrows?”
- Highlight the text as you read for main ideas and important details.

After Reading

Answer questions 1-10. Your answer to question #10 must be in DEER format (see attached).

More Reading

Read “Mummy Murder Mystery Solved? Take notes on the graphic organizer that is provided in the packet.

Writing

The following prompt relates to both the reading passages. After reviewing the prompt, re-read both articles as well as your notes. Brainstorm ideas for your paragraph before you write. Your paragraph should be as clearly focused, detailed, and carefully written as you can make it.

Both reading passages give information about the famous boy pharaoh of Egypt, King Tut. King Tut ruled Egypt between the ages of 10 and 19. If you were king or queen of your own country, what would you want to accomplish? Write a paragraph in which you speculate on two or three goals you would like to accomplish as a young ruler and what you would like to be known for after you die. You may choose to compare and/or contrast yourself to King Tut of Egypt when appropriate. Begin with a topic sentence, include well-chosen reasons and details followed by explanations, and end with a concluding sentence that summarizes the ideas in your paragraph.

Where Did King Tut Get His Eyebrows?

W.M. Akers

In 1922, English archaeologist Howard Carter discovered something spectacular. In Egypt's Valley of the Kings, an underground passage led to an empty room, long ago looted by grave robbers. But searching along the walls of the room, Carter's team found something strange: a secret panel that opened a hidden chamber. Inside was an array of ancient objects, but the most spectacular treasure was farther inside.

Working carefully, Carter and his team spent three weeks excavating the tomb. When they were finally ready, Carter opened the door to the burial chamber inside the tomb. He became the first person in 3,000 years to look upon the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen, an Egyptian pharaoh popularly known as King Tut.

Inside Tutankhamen's tomb were hundreds of artifacts. These included sculptures, gold, and four chariots. There were flowers that had been picked five centuries before the founding of Rome. When the air touched them, Carter watched them disintegrate. But of all the marvels inside Tutankhamen's tomb, none would become more famous than the mask of the pharaoh himself.

Tutankhamen was very young when he became king—only eight or nine years old. He spent his reign living as a child while his advisors made the decisions that affected the kingdom. After about a decade of rule, during a war with the neighboring kingdom of the Hittites, Tutankhamen died suddenly. No one knows how he died, but researchers have speculated that it could have been because of an inherited disease or because of an accidental fall, perhaps from a chariot.

Tutankhamen was mummified in the traditional fashion and buried in a sarcophagus

inside his tomb. On top of the sarcophagus sits a mask made of 24 pounds of solid gold. It shows the boy king wearing an elaborate ceremonial headdress with a long fake beard attached to his chin. It is a beautiful piece of craftsmanship, and must have astonished Howard Carter and the other archaeologists when they discovered it.

Never had a pharaoh's tomb been so well-preserved. By inspecting all of the objects they found, the archaeologists were able to learn an incredible amount about a king who had been largely forgotten. The news of the discovery sparked a worldwide interest in Egyptian culture that affected fashion, architecture, and popular culture all over the Western world. And King Tut's mask was the symbol of the revival.

Of all the features of the mask, perhaps the most interesting are the pharaoh's eyebrows. These thick arches are bright blue, matching the stripes on the headdress, and are made of one of the rarest substances in the ancient world: a stone called "lapis lazuli," which has a history just as interesting as King Tut's tomb itself.

The Ancient Egyptians were talented traders, sending caravans across the desert and boats over the sea. Although the area around the Nile River was rich in some materials, there were many that could not be found there and had to be sent for from far-off lands. Egyptian merchants traded for wood with Lebanon, copper with Cyprus, and incense with the kingdom of Punt. In return, they sent materials that Egypt had in abundance, such as papyrus (an early form of paper) and grain.

But of all the rare goods coveted by the Egyptian ruling classes, few were rarer, or came from farther away, than the stunning blue stone known as lapis lazuli. Its color was rich blue—so blue that the stone's name means "sky stone"—flecked with what appeared to be bits of gold. Across the ancient world, its beauty was prized. Unfortunately, it was very hard to get.

The stunning substance was found only in one place on earth: the mines of Badakhshan,

in what today is northeast Afghanistan. A rugged, mountainous country, it was difficult to extract the rocks, and once they had been mined, it was difficult to send them away. But the stone was valuable enough that traders would risk anything to bring it to market.

Two trade routes led from Badakhshan westward toward the Middle East and Egypt. One, the "northern route," led across the treacherous landscape on the upper border of what is today Iran. The second, the "southern route," began on the Helmand River, proceeding through ancient settlements into the lush land of Mesopotamia. From there, traders continued by land to Egypt, or made their way to the Red Sea to complete their journey by boat. In all, the trip took longer than 2,000 miles—a difficult journey today, but an unfathomable one in 1100 B.C.

Lapis lazuli had many uses for the Egyptians. It was considered a sacred symbol of several gods and goddesses and would be given as an offering to them by those who sought their favor. Judges wore it as a pendant around their neck to symbolize that their power came from Maat, the goddess of truth and balance. And most famously, it was ground into a powder to use as eye shadow and to draw the sacred Eye of Horus. This may be the reason that, when it came time to craft a death mask for Tutankhamen, lapis lazuli was used around the eyes.

The material was so rare that when it came time to make the blue stripes on Tutankhamen's headdress, less-expensive imitation lapis lazuli was used. But for the eyebrows, nothing else would do. Today, you can see the mask on display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt. The eyebrows are as vibrantly blue as they were when Howard Carter discovered them in 1922—and most likely as blue as they were when they were pulled from the earth in Afghanistan, more than 3,000 years ago.

Written Response Success!

DEER



To produce a quality written answer to a question, memorize the acronym "DEER".

D – DEFINE term and state a topic sentence from the question

E – EXAMPLE(S) from the text/lab results/etc.

E – EXPLAIN the example(s)

R – REFER back to the question

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are the eyebrows on King Tut's mask made of?

- A) copper from Cyprus
- B) lapis lazuli
- C) papyrus
- D) solid gold

2. What does the author describe in the first half of the passage?

- A) the ancient trade routes that led from Badakhshan toward the Middle East and Egypt
- B) different uses of lapis lazuli by the Ancient Egyptian ruling class
- C) the discovery and importance of King Tut's tomb and the mask from his sarcophagus
- D) the similarities between the founding of Ancient Egypt and the founding of Ancient Rome

3. Read the evidence below and answer the following question.

(1) Although it was very difficult to extract lapis lazuli and transport it to Egypt, traders would risk anything to bring the stone to market. (2) The people who made King Tut's golden mask used real lapis lazuli for the eyebrows but used cheaper, fake lapis lazuli for the headdress.

Based on these two pieces of evidence, what can you infer about lapis lazuli in Ancient Egypt?

- A) Ancient Egyptians preferred using imitation lapis lazuli to using real lapis lazuli.
- B) Ancient Egyptians were unable to get as much lapis lazuli as they desired.
- C) Ancient Egyptians were able to get as much lapis lazuli as they desired.
- D) Ancient Egyptians did not want to use lapis lazuli.

4. Based on the passage, what can be concluded about the value of lapis lazuli in Ancient Egypt?

- A) Lapis lazuli was not very valuable in Ancient Egypt.
- B) Lapis lazuli was less valuable than copper in Ancient Egypt.
- C) Lapis lazuli was valuable only to pharaohs in Ancient Egypt.
- D) Lapis lazuli was very valuable in Ancient Egypt.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A) the story of King Tut's life and the impact of his death on Egyptian culture, trade, and crafts
- B) the importance of the eyes and eyebrows to Ancient Egyptian culture and mythology
- C) the ways in which the discovery of King Tut's tomb and golden mask affected Western culture
- D) the discovery of King Tut's tomb and golden mask, and the history behind the mask's lapis lazuli eyebrows

6. The passage ends with these two sentences: "Today, you can see the mask on display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt. The eyebrows are as vibrantly blue as they were when Howard Carter discovered them in 1922—and most likely as blue as they were when they were pulled from the earth in Afghanistan, more than 3,000 years ago."

Why might the author compare the blueness of the eyebrows today to their blueness when Howard Carter discovered them and when they were pulled from the earth?

- A) to demonstrate the durability of lapis lazuli and reinforce its value in Ancient Egyptian and present-day Western cultures
- B) to direct the reader to visit Egypt in person to learn more about the history of King Tut, his mask, and the lapis lazuli eyebrows
- C) to connect the present-day reader to the two main historical settings in the passage, Howard Carter's discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922 and the time of the Ancient Egyptians
- D) to emphasize the importance of properly preserving historic objects

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

King Tut's tomb was filled with hundreds of beautiful and impressive artifacts; _____, it contained his death mask.

- A) in particular
- B) on the contrary
- C) as a result
- D) although

8. Lapis lazuli was used to make the eyebrows for the mask of King Tut, but it also has a number of other uses in Ancient Egypt. Name two other ways that Ancient Egyptians used lapis lazuli mentioned in the text.

9. Lapis lazuli was valued by Ancient Egyptians both because it is stunningly beautiful and because it was extremely rare. Explain in your own words two specific examples from the passage that demonstrate just how much Egyptians valued the stone.

10. Based on information from the passage, what can you infer about how pharaohs were viewed and valued in Ancient Egyptian culture? Support your inference with examples from the text. Explain how your examples (also known as evidence) support your claim.





The feet of King Tut's mummy are shown here in a photo taken during an examination of Tut's remains in his underground tomb in Luxor, Egypt, on November 4, 2007. (Photo: Ben Curtis/AP Images)

Mummy Murder Mystery Solved?



Scientists unveil what they believe to be the real cause of death for King Tut, the famous boy pharaoh

By [Laura Leigh Davidson](#) | March 8, 2010



The gold covered-coffin of ancient

What killed King Tut? Historians and scientists have long believed that ancient Egypt's most famous king was probably murdered. But a recent scientific study claims to have found a different solution to this more than 3,300-year-old mystery.

A team of researchers now say that King Tut, the boy ruler, died of complications from a broken leg and not as a result of foul play. The team released their findings in the *Journal of the American*

Egyptian King Tutankhamen is seen in this undated photo released by the Museum Of Antiquities, Basel, Switzerland. (Photo: Andreas F. Voegelin/Museum Of Antiquities Basel/AP Images)

Medical Association (JAMA) in February.

A Boy King

Tut's full name was Tutankhamen (too-tahng-KAH-mun). He was just 9 years old when he became **pharaoh**, or ruler, of Egypt in 1348 B.C. His treasure-packed tomb was revealed to the world almost a century ago. It made him one of the best-known Egyptian kings of all time. Tut's burial chamber was filled with royal riches, including a solid-gold coffin, a gold mask, and piles of jewelry.

But Tut did not have much time to enjoy his vast wealth. His reign was cut short at the age of 19. Many experts have thought that Tut was killed by one of his advisers, named Ay, who wanted the throne for himself.

But thanks to a major modern science project, it seems Ay is off the hook.

Science Solves History Mystery

Researchers set out to solve the mystery of King Tut's death by using the tools of science. They began their investigation of Tut's well-preserved mummy by conducting an **autopsy**, which is an in-depth medical examination to determine how someone died. The king's autopsy included DNA tests and electronic scans of his remains.

Scientist Carsten Pusch conducted the tests on Tut for the new study. He thinks a broken leg contributed to the young king's death.

A scan of Tut's mummy showed an unhealed fracture in his thigh bone. This confirms that the Egyptian leader broke his leg sometime close to his death. The DNA also indicates that the pharaoh had an illness that causes bones to become frail and brittle.

More than 100 walking sticks were found in King Tut's tomb. This supports the autopsy findings. Many of the sticks were well-worn, showing regular use.

"It is very likely that a bone [disease] required King Tut to use canes," Pusch told *Discovery News*. "Maybe he just fell and broke his leg."

But how could a person die from a simple broken leg?

Pusch also found DNA evidence in Tut's remains that indicates he had **malaria** (muh-LAIR-ee-uh), a disease carried by mosquitoes. Malaria severely weakens the

immune system.

Pusch and his fellow researchers believe the malaria and the bone disease together caused the king's fracture to become life-threatening. Ultimately, the young pharaoh was just too weak to heal. So the effects of disease combined with the bad luck of a broken bone—not a jealous adviser—are likely the real culprits in King Tut's death.

Mummies Tell Us More

Dr. Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan, says the study does more than solve a history mystery. The information gained by studying these mummies could give us valuable insight into the diseases they had.

"This is very exciting that we can take modern technology and learn more about Egyptian history," Markel told CNN. "Mummies are very powerful tools. We can learn a lot from the dead, [like] how illnesses evolve."

"Mummy Murder Mystery Solved?"

<p>Theories behind King Tut's death up until now</p>	
<p>New evidence behind the mystery of King Tut's death</p>	
<p>Thoughts? What do YOU believe about King Tut's death based on the evidence?</p>	
<p>New learning Why does any of this matter?</p>	

