



Mummified Animals Found in Ancient Tomb

What have archaeologists discovered?

- Archaeologists have discovered a tomb which included around 50 mummified animals.
- The animals included cats, eagles, falcons, ibex (a type of wild goat) and mice.

Everyone knows about ancient Egyptian mummies. But now a tomb has revealed the range of animals this civilisation mummified.

Archaeologists found around 50 mummified animals, such as cats, mice and falcons. The discovery was made in a town called Sohag, 242 miles south of Egypt's capital city, Cairo.

They arrived just in the nick of time last October. A group of smugglers were digging for artefacts illegally. Fortunately, the thieves were caught in time so the experts could examine the remains of the tomb.

Experts say it's one of the best tombs to be discovered. It belonged to a man called Tutu and his wife, Ta-Shirit-Iziz. He was a nobleman, one of the wealthier people in ancient Egypt.

Their tomb is beautifully decorated with images of Tutu working on the land he owned and Ta-Shirit-Iz playing a sistrum. This instrument is similar to a tambourine.

The dry, arid climate in which the tomb was found meant that the painted walls are in a near-perfect condition.

The range of animals has puzzled the team of archaeologists. It's well known that the ancient Egyptians mummified cats. They considered cats to be sacred. Bastet, an ancient Egyptian god, was a woman with a cat's head.

She protected the pharaohs in battle. Not only were they worshipped but cats were also pets.

It's thought that they were mummified so

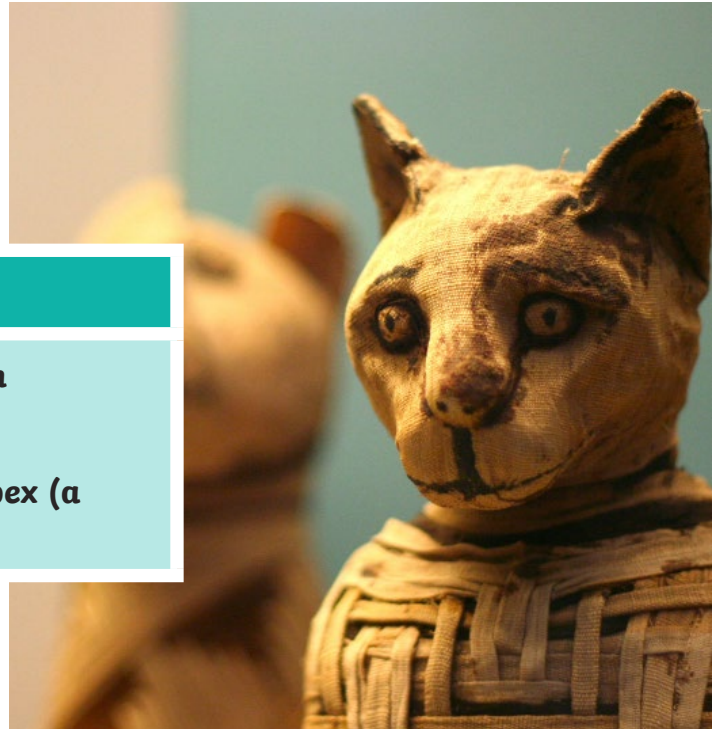


Photo: A mummified cat from ancient Egypt.

that a pet and its owner would be reunited in the afterlife, where they would live with the gods.

However, such a large collection has not been heard of before.

The government in Egypt now hope more people will come to the country to see the finds.

Glossary

archaeologists	People who study human history by looking at artefacts.
smugglers	People who move items illegally into or out of a country.
sacred	Something that is thought to be close to a god.
afterlife	Where the ancient Egyptians thought people went after they died.

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Questions

1. Find a phrase which shows that the artefacts were almost lost to the archaeologists.

2. Why do you think Tutu wanted to be painted in an image showing the land he owned? Explain your answer.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning: 'The range of animals...'
Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to 'holy'.

4. Do you think more people will visit Egypt as a result of reading this article? Explain your answer.

5. Using information in the text, put a tick or cross in the box to show whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Their tomb is beautifully decorated with images of Tutu		
They considered cats to be sacred.		
The painted walls are in a near-perfect condition.		
A group of smugglers were digging for artefacts illegally.		

6. Why were archaeologists fascinated by this discovery?

7. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

- Find a phrase which shows that the artefacts were almost lost to the archaeologists.
nick of time
- Why do you think Tutu wanted to be painted in an image showing the land he owned? Explain your answer.
Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think Tutu wanted to be painted in an image showing his land as he wanted to be remembered as a wealthy man and this would show how successful he was.
- Look at the paragraph beginning: 'The range of animals...'
Find and copy one word that is closest in meaning to 'holy'.
sacred
- Do you think more people will visit Egypt as a result of reading this article? Explain your answer.
Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think more people will visit as lots of people are interested in ancient Egypt. These people will probably be interested in seeing all the different mummified animals that were found in the tomb.
- Using information in the text, put a tick or cross in the box to show whether each statement is a

	Fact	Opinion
Their tomb is beautifully decorated with images of Tutu		✓
They considered cats to be sacred.	✓	
The walls are in a near-perfect condition.		✓
A group of smugglers were digging for artefacts illegally.	✓	
- Why were archaeologists fascinated by this discovery?
They say such a collection has never been seen before.
- Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story and is 20 words or fewer, e.g. Archaeologists have discovered a tomb that contains 50 mummified animals, which they say has never been seen before.