

Queen Nefertiti

People have always been fascinated by ancient civilisations, and ancient Egypt is no exception. While modern technology and research have allowed us to solve some of the mysteries of ancient Egypt that previously seemed as hazy as a sandstorm, there are still unanswered questions. One of ancient Egypt's most enigmatic figures is Queen Nefertiti, who married Pharaoh Akhenaten.

In 1912, a German archaeologist discovered a bust* of the Queen. The bust is an exceptional example of ancient Egyptian craftsmanship, and thanks to the sculptor's depiction of the Queen, some people have heralded her as one of the most beautiful women of all time, even though the bust is missing an eye. Nefertiti also features on other artworks of the period. She is often depicted alongside her husband and children, but she also appears riding chariots, defeating enemies and leading worship.

Despite these surviving artworks, much of Nefertiti's life is shrouded in uncertainty. She is commonly believed to be the daughter of a royal advisor, and subsequent Pharaoh of Egypt, called Ay, but some historians claim she was a princess from Syria. Around the twelfth year of Akhenaten's reign, Nefertiti seemingly disappears. Her disappearance remains a highly debated topic. Some believe that she died; others believe she was outcast for religious reasons. One theory even states that Nefertiti changed her name and ruled as co-regent* of Egypt.

Nefertiti's final resting place has yet to be identified, although recent archaeological discoveries suggest she may be buried in a secret chamber of Tutankhamun's* tomb. Whatever is unearthed in the future, Nefertiti will remain one of the most recognisable faces of ancient Egypt.

* bust — sculpture of a person's head and shoulders

* co-regent — joint ruler

* Tutankhamun — a famous Egyptian pharaoh

Question 1

According to the text, which of the following words does not accurately describe how Nefertiti was depicted in ancient Egyptian artworks?

- Religious
- Mysterious
- Brave
- Powerful
- Attractive

Question 2

According to the text, which of the following statements must be true?

- Nefertiti only had one eye.
- Ay was a Syrian king.
- Nefertiti's father was a royal advisor.
- Nefertiti was a Syrian princess.
- Akhenaten reigned for more than a decade.

Question 3

Which of the following facts is given in the text?

- The date of Nefertiti's birth.
- The name of the German archaeologist who discovered the bust.
- The place where Nefertiti's remains were found.
- The name of Nefertiti's husband.
- The country in which Nefertiti was born.

Question 4

According to the text, which of the following is the most puzzling aspect of Nefertiti's life?

- Why she appears in so many artworks
- What her childhood was like
- What happened to her in later life
- Why she was buried in Tutankhamun's tomb
- How long she was married to Akhenaten

Question 5

According to the text, which of the following statements must be true?

- Nefertiti was the most beautiful woman of all time.
- Nefertiti changed her name when she became co-regent.
- Nefertiti was a mother.
- Nefertiti's bust was discovered in Germany.
- Nefertiti defeated more enemies than any other queen.

Question 6

"Nefertiti's final resting place has yet to be identified". This means that:

- Nefertiti's body was moved several times after her death.
- the place where Nefertiti was buried is a secret.
- historians do not know where Nefertiti lived in later years.
- nobody knows where Nefertiti was buried.
- Nefertiti's burial site was not recorded.

Question 7

What does the word 'unearthed' mean in this extract from the passage: "Whatever is unearthed in the future, Nefertiti will remain one of the most recognisable faces of ancient Egypt"?

- Researched
- Proved
- Discovered
- Believed
- Buried

Question 8

Which of these words is closest in meaning to 'subsequent' in this extract from the passage: "She is commonly believed to be the daughter of a royal advisor, and subsequent Pharaoh of Egypt"?

- Rumoured
- Later
- Popular
- Prior
- Powerful

Question 9

What technique is used in this extract from the passage: "the mysteries of ancient Egypt that previously seemed as hazy as a sandstorm"?

- Alliteration
- A metaphor
- Onomatopoeia
- Personification
- A simile

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Question 10

"Nefertiti will remain one of the most recognisable faces of ancient Egypt." Which of the words in this phrase is a verb?

- most
- remain
- recognisable
- Nefertiti
- of