The Curse of Tutenkhamen

1. Who was Tutenkhamen? What was his curse?
Tutenkhamen was a pharaoh or ruler of ancient Egypt. His curse was that something terrible would happen to those who touched or opened his tomb.

2. Why was there so much excitement when Tutenkhamen's tomb was discovered?
The other royal tombs in the valley had been robbed in the ancient times itself. Nobody knew about Tutenkhamen's tomb for hundreds of years. So when his tomb was finally discovered there was so much excitement among the people to see the tomb, his mummified body and the treasures.

3.Who discovered Tutenkhamen's tomb? What else did they discover in the tomb?
Two Englishmen by named, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon, discovered Tutenkhamen's tomb after four years of excavation. They also discovered magnificent treasures and the mummified body of Tutenkhamen.

4. What was some Egyptian's belief about the discovery of Tutenkhamen's tomb?
There were some Egyptian who believed that something terrible would happen to those who touched or helped in opening the tomb.

5. What happened when the last excavator climbed out of Tutenkhamen's tomb? What did they take this to mean?
When the last excavator climbed out of Tutenkhamen's tomb a sudden sand storm blew up and the men saw a hawk flew over their heads. Some local Egyptians took this mean that the spirit of the dead king had left the tomb cursing those who had opened it.

6. The Egyptian Director of antiquities didn't want Tutenkhamen's treasures to be sent to France. Why?
The Egyptian Director of antiquities didn't want Tutenkhamen's treasures to be sent to France because he had dreamed that he would die if he allowed the treasures to go out of Egypt.

7. Why do you think there was no curse of Tutenkhamen on the people who were responsible in opening his tomb?
It is true that many people died in strange circumstances but their untimely and strange death was just co-incidence and not due to the curse. The first man into the tomb, Howard Carter's death due to natural causes, is the testimony to prove that there was no such curse.

Comprehension Passages (1 Mark questions):

Read the passages carefully and answers the questions that follow:

Passage 1:

"The discovery was made by two Englishmen. One of them, Howard Carter, was a professional archaeologist. The other, Lord Carnarvon, was a rich man interested in archaeology and who spent his money on excavations. For four years, from1917 to 1922, they had been excavating in the Valley of the Kings without finding anything new. There were actually on the point of giving up.

Now answer the following questions.

1. What did the two Englishmen discover?
2. How did Lord Carnarvon spend his money?
3. Why did they want to give up the work?

Answers:

1. The two Englishmen discovered Tutenkhamen's tomb.
2. Lord Carnarvon who was interested in archaeology spent his money on excavation.
3. They wanted to give up the work of excavation because they had not been able to find out anything new.

Passage 2:

And then, on 4 November 1922, something remarkable happened. When Carter was clearing some stones near a royal tomb, a step appeared. He excavated further and finally unearthed breathtaking collection of treasures in a tomb all buried with Tutenkhamen 3274 years previously.

Now answer the following questions.

1. What do you think happened on 4 November 1922?
2. What did he unearth?
3. Whose tomb is referred to in the above lines?

Answers:

1 Tutenkhamen's tomb was discovered.
2. Carter unearthed breathtaking collection of treasures along with Tutenkhamen's mummified body.
3. Tutenkhamen's tomb is referred to?

Passage 3:

In 1966 the government of Egypt agreed to lend the treasures to France for an important exhibition. The Director of antiquities fought against the decision.

Now answer the following questions.

1. What did Egyptian government agree to?
2. Why did France want to borrow the treasures?
3. Why do you think the Director of antiquities fought against the decision?

Answers:

1. The Egyptian government agreed to lend the treasures to France.
2. France wanted to borrow the treasures for an important exhibition.
3. The Director of antiquities had dreamed that he would die if he allowed the treasures to go out of Egypt.