

Amun's Ancient Egyptian Diary

Wednesday 11th June 1326 BC

Dear diary,

My name is Amun and I have decided to start writing a diary so that at some point in the future, another little boy like me might find my diary and find out all about what my life is like. I wonder what will have changed by then? Us Ancient Egyptians are very interesting; we have invented lots of things that you will probably be using! I can't wait to tell you all about my life!

I thought I'd start by giving you a guided tour of my home. Obviously you can't see it as by the time you are reading this, it will be long gone! I will try and explain though. My house is built with bricks that are made from mud and straw. What is your house made out of? We don't use wood to build our houses as trees are really **sparse** over here, with it been mainly desert land not many trees can grow! We have 3 rooms in my house, including a kitchen. Our kitchen has no roof; can you guess why? The only equipment we have in our kitchen to help us cook are a **grindstone** (to grind grain into flour so we can make bread) and a little oven to bake it in. How do you make bread?

Sorry, I've got to go! I promised my mum I would help her make fish and onion stew!

Amun x

Thursday 12th June 1326 BC

Dear diary,

Sorry I had to rush off so quickly yesterday; you'll be pleased to know the stew was delicious! I have a little bit more time now to tell you about myself.

I live in Egypt, beside the River Nile. It's pretty cool living by a river, literally! But do you know why we live by the river? It is because our crops can grow well here. The **majority** of Egypt is desert land and our crops will not grow, so we have to live by the river to survive.

Have you ever been to Egypt before? Do you know which other countries it is close to? Perhaps you could find out?

Right I'm off now! I have to help my dad. He's a **carpenter**, have you heard of a carpenter before? He makes furniture for the **Pharaoh**! It's a really important job. I'll tell you more about that another day!

Thursday 19th August 1324 BC

Dear diary,

You know from my last few entries how busy I've been, add in the hot weather from our trip today – I'm sure you'll understand why I'm feeling very **lethargic**! Do you know what happened? It was an amazing day! I travelled west of the Nile and saw my very first pyramid. Although it was **unveiled** hundreds of years ago, I have never seen one before – only heard of their wonders. I wish I could put into words how **magnificent** it is!

It was my sister's birthday today (she was the one who wanted to see the pyramids – I'm so glad she did!) so when we got home we had an amazing feast outside to celebrate. We had fish, mutton, pigeon and beer; it was delicious!

Time for me to go, I need to finish celebrating and then get to bed.

Bye for now! Amun x

Saturday 21st September 1323 BC

Dear Diary,

Today has been a really **sombre** day. We found out, sometime after lunch, that our King – Tutankhamun – has died! He was only 18 years old; just 2 years older than my sister. The whole village is in shock. You see, Tutankhamun was a very special king. Did you know he was only 9 years old when he was **crowned**? Can you imagine having the power to rule an entire Kingdom when you are still only a boy? That is his nickname, the Boy King. What do you think it would have been like being a king as a child? Would you have liked it?

Everybody is talking about how he died. His death today was very unexpected and **baffling**. My dad reckons he died of a disease but my mum is **dubious** she thinks his death was an accident. The country is in **mourning** for him. He only ruled for 9 years and lived a very short life. He is to be buried in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

Good night,

Amun xx

Questions:

1. What is Amun's father's job?
2. How old is Tutankhamun when he died?
3. What do you think it would have been like to be a Pharaoh at 9 years old?
4. Tutankhamun's death was very mysterious. Which word in the text shows that his death was mysterious?
5. Why does Amun put the date at the start of each diary entry?
6. Amun ends each entry with a kiss (x). What effect does this have?
7. Do you think we will ever find out exactly how Tutankhamun died? Why?
8. How do you think Amun felt when he found out Tutankhamun had died? What evidence is there?
9. What do we find out about Amun's life in the first diary entry?
10. Why does Amun live by the river?

Vocab 1 – Write down the meaning of these words from the text. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

1. Sparse
2. Grindstone
3. Majority
4. Carpenter
5. Pharaoh
6. Lethargic
7. Unveiled
8. Magnificent
9. Sombre
10. Crowned

Vocab 2 – How many other words can you find with a similar meaning? Use a thesaurus to help if you need to. First one has been done for you.

1. Sombre = sad, solemn, glum, grave and brooding
2. Magnificent
3. Dubious
4. Lethargic
5. Baffling

6. Sparse
7. Unveiled