

Queen Nefertiti

Queen Nefertiti was queen of Egypt alongside the **pharaoh** Akhenaten from 1353 to 1336 BC. She was thought to be a powerful woman.

Where Did Nefertiti Come From?

There is not much known about Nefertiti's family. Her name means 'a beautiful woman has come' and some historians believe that she may have been a princess from Mitanni. Other people believe that she was the daughter of an important Egyptian.

It is not known when Nefertiti and Akhenaten got married. They had six daughters and two of them later became queens of Egypt.

What Did Nefertiti Believe In?

Akhenaten and Nefertiti changed the way religion was in Egypt. People used to worship many gods but Akhenaten and Nefertiti began to only worship the sun god called Aten. Many people were unhappy with Akhenaten's views on religion.

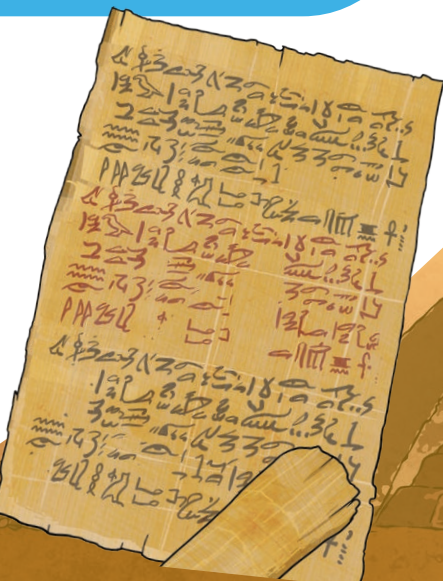
The royal family was seen as more important during this time. It was thought that the king and queen were priests and people could only gain contact with Aten through them.

How Did Artwork Change?

Artwork was very different during this time. There were many images on the walls of the temples of Nefertiti driving a chariot and worshipping Aten. These actions were normally done by a king. Some people think that this means that she was seen as his equal ruler.

Did You Know...?

- Many people thought Nefertiti may have been Tutankhamun's mother. This is now thought by some people not to be true.
- Many people saw Nefertiti as a living goddess.



What Happened to Nefertiti?

Nefertiti disappeared from history after 12 years of Akhenaten being in power. Some people believe that she may have died. Others think that she may have lived longer than her husband, changed her name and ruled alone.

What Was Discovered?

An ancient Egyptian **bust** of Nefertiti was discovered by a historian in 1912. His name was Ludwig Borchardt and he was German. It was put in a museum in Berlin in Germany and it attracts many visitors each year.

Glossary

bust: A sculpture of someone's head and shoulders.

pharaoh: A ruler in ancient Egypt.



Questions

1. Which country was the bust of Nefertiti displayed in? Tick one.

- Egypt
 Spain
 Kenya
 Germany

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- People used to worship many gods.
 There were many images on the walls of the temples of Nefertiti.
 Nefertiti disappeared from history.
 Nefertiti's name means 'a beautiful woman has come'.

3. How many daughters did Nefertiti have? Tick one.

- two
 four
 six
 eight

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

There is not much known...

as his equal ruler.

Akhenaten and
Nefertiti changed...

about Nefertiti's family.

Some people think that this
means that she was seen...

and he was German.

His name was
Ludwig Borchardt...

the way religion was in Egypt.

5. Fill in the missing word.

The royal family was seen as more _____ during this time.

6. What was the name of the sun god?

7. Why do you think the discovery of the bust of Nefertiti was important?

Answers

1. Which country was the bust of Nefertiti displayed in? Tick one.

Germany

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

2 People used to worship many gods.

3 There were many images on the walls of the temples of Nefertiti.

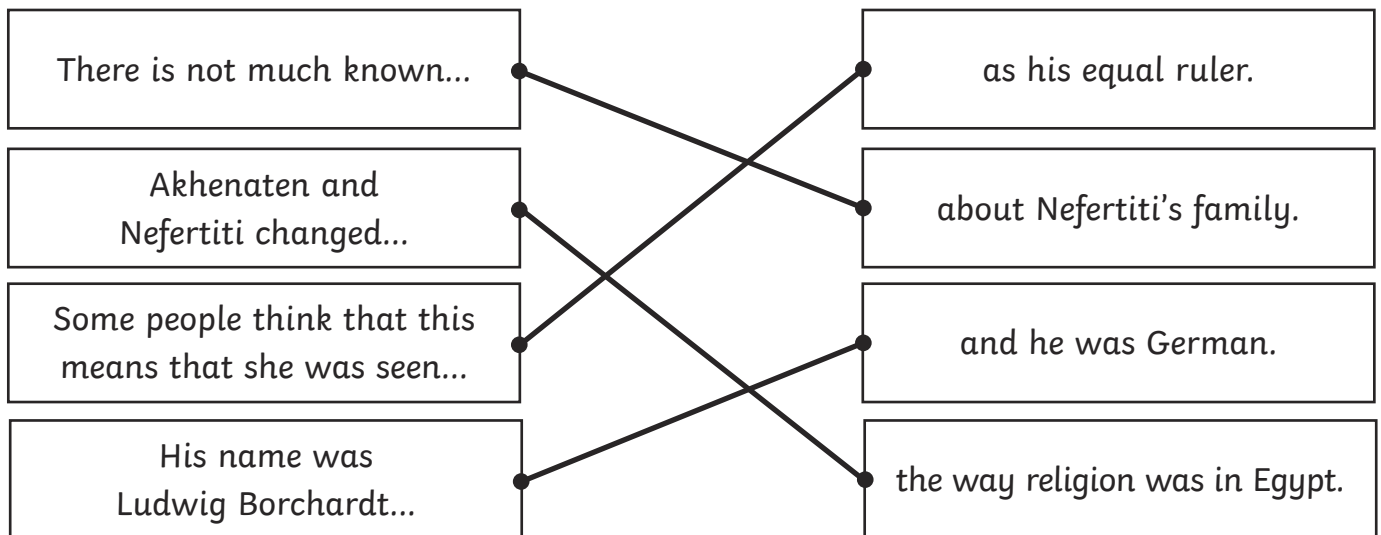
4 Nefertiti disappeared from history.

1 Nefertiti's name means 'a beautiful woman has come'.

3. How many daughters did Nefertiti have? Tick one.

six

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



5. Fill in the missing word.

The royal family was seen as more **important** during this time.

6. What was the name of the sun god?

The name of the sun god was Aten.

7. Why do you think the discovery of the bust of Nefertiti was important?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the discovery of the bust of Nefertiti was important because people can see what type of artwork was made in that time and it suggests what Nefertiti may have looked like.



Queen Nefertiti

Queen Nefertiti was queen of Egypt alongside the **pharaoh** Akhenaten from 1353 to 1336 BC. She was considered a powerful woman. However, there are many things that are not known for sure about her life.

Where Did Nefertiti Come From?

There is not much known about Nefertiti's family. Her name means 'a beautiful woman has come' and some historians believe that she may have been a princess from Mitanni. Other people believe that she was the daughter of an important Egyptian.

It is not known when Nefertiti and Akhenaten got married. They had six daughters and two of them later became queens of Egypt. In the past, many people believed that Nefertiti may have been Tutankhamun's mother. However, this is now thought by some not to be true.

What Did Nefertiti Believe In?

Akhenaten and Nefertiti changed the way religion was in ancient Egypt. Egyptian people used to worship many gods but Akhenaten and Nefertiti began to only worship one god called Aten. Aten was the sun god. It is thought that the old temples were closed before a new capital city was built near the Nile. Many people were unhappy with Akhenaten's views on religion.

The royal family was seen as more important during this time. It was believed that the king and queen were priests and people could only gain contact with Aten through them. Many people saw Nefertiti as a living goddess.

How Did Artwork Change?

Artwork created during this time was very different. There were many images of Nefertiti on the walls of tombs and temples which were built when Akhenaten was in power. She was pictured driving a chariot and worshipping Aten. These actions were normally done by a king. Some historians think that this suggests that she was seen as his equal ruler.





What Happened to Nefertiti?

Mysteriously, Nefertiti disappeared from history after 12 years of Akhenaten being in power. Some people think that she may have died. Others believe that she may have lived longer than her husband, changed her name and ruled alone.

What Was Discovered?

In 1912, an Egyptian **bust** of Nefertiti was discovered by a historian. His name was Ludwig Borchardt and he was from Germany. It was displayed in the 1920s at a museum in Berlin in Germany. It is a very popular item and it is thought that it still attracts around half a million visitors each year.

Glossary

bust: A sculpture of someone's head and shoulders.

pharaoh: A ruler in ancient Egypt.



Questions

1. What was Aten the god of? Tick one.

- the winter
 kings
 animals
 the sun

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- Artwork created during this time was very different.
 It is not known when Nefertiti and Akhenaten got married.
 Queen Nefertiti was queen of Egypt from 1353 to 1336 BC.
 Many people saw Nefertiti as a living goddess.

3. Look at the section **What Was Discovered?**

Which word is closest in meaning to 'presented'? Tick one.

- discovered
 displayed
 popular
 visitors

4. Draw **four** lines to match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence.

Where Did Nefertiti
Come From?

What Did Nefertiti
Believe In?

How Did
Artwork Change?

What Happened to
Nefertiti?

Mysteriously, Nefertiti disappeared
from history after 12 years of
Akhenaten being in power.

Her name means 'a beautiful
woman has come'.

It is thought that the old temples
were closed.

She was pictured driving a chariot
and worshipping Aten.

5. Look at the section **What Did Nefertiti Believe In?**

Find and copy a word which means the same as 'pray to'.

6. Fill in the missing word.

They had six _____ and two of them later became queens of Egypt.

7. Why do you think artwork was important during ancient Egyptian times?

8. **These actions were normally done by a king.**

Why do you think the author chose to include this sentence?

Answers

1. What was Aten the god of? Tick one.

the sun

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

4 Artwork created during this time was very different.

2 It is not known when Nefertiti and Akhenaten got married.

1 Queen Nefertiti was queen of Egypt from 1353 to 1336 BC.

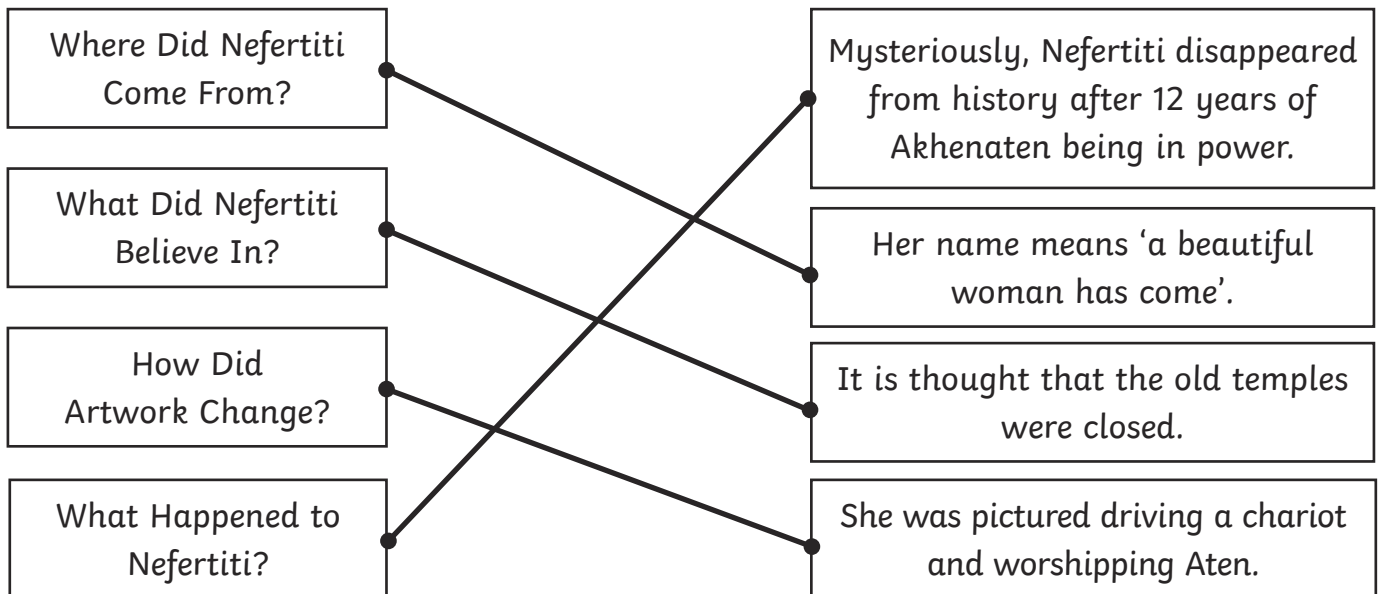
3 Many people saw Nefertiti as a living goddess.

3. Look at the section **What Was Discovered?**

Which word is closest in meaning to 'presented'? Tick one.

displayed

4. Draw **four** lines to match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence.



5. Look at the section **What Did Nefertiti Believe In?**

Find and copy a word which means the same as 'pray to'.

worship

6. Fill in the missing word.

They had six **daughters** and two of them later became queens of Egypt.

7. Why do you think artwork was important during ancient Egyptian times?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think artwork was important during ancient Egyptian times because it was used to honour gods and rulers.

8. **These actions were normally done by a king.**

Why do you think the author chose to include this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include this sentence because it shows that Nefertiti was different to other queens and it suggests that she may have been an equal ruler with her husband.

Queen Nefertiti

Queen Nefertiti was queen of Egypt alongside the **pharaoh** Akhenaten from 1353 to 1336 BC. She was considered a powerful woman in ancient history. However, there are many things that are not known for certain about her life.

Where Did Nefertiti Come From?

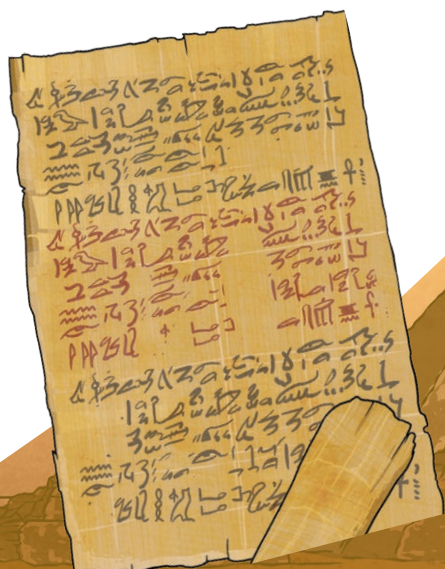
There is little known about Nefertiti's background. Her name means 'a beautiful woman has come' and because of this, some historians believe that she may have been a princess from Mitanni. Other research suggests that she was the daughter of an Egyptian adviser.

The date of Nefertiti and Akhenaten's marriage is not known. They had six daughters together and two of them later became queens of Egypt. In the past, many people believed that Nefertiti may have been Tutankhamun's mother. However, this is now thought by some not to be true.

What Did Nefertiti Believe In?

Akhenaten and Nefertiti changed the way religion was in ancient Egypt. Egyptian people used to worship a number of different gods but Akhenaten and Nefertiti began to only worship one called Aten. Aten was the sun god and he became Egypt's national god. It is thought that the old temples were closed before a new capital city was built on the bank of the Nile. Many people were unhappy with Akhenaten's views on religion.

The royal family was seen as more important during this time. It was believed that the king and queen were priests and people could only gain contact with Aten through them. Many people viewed Nefertiti as a living goddess.





How Did Artwork Change?

Artwork created during this time was very different to other Egyptian art. There were many images of Nefertiti on the walls of tombs and temples which were built when Akhenaten was in power. She was portrayed as driving a chariot and worshipping Aten. These actions were normally done by a king. Some historians believe that this suggests that she was seen as his equal ruler.

What Happened to Nefertiti?

Mysteriously, Nefertiti disappeared from history after 12 years of Akhenaten being in power. Historians have different thoughts about what happened. Some people think that this suggests that she may have died. However, there is no evidence that she was ever buried in the royal tomb. Others believe that she may have lived longer than her husband, changed her name and ruled alone. Records show that there were two pharaohs who briefly ruled under the names of Neferneferuaten and Smenkhkare. Some people wonder if either of these rulers was Nefertiti.

What Was Discovered?

In 1912, an ancient Egyptian **bust** of Nefertiti was discovered by German **Egyptologist**, Ludwig Borchardt. It was displayed in the 1920s at a museum in Berlin in Germany. It is believed that the valuable item still attracts around half a million visitors each year.

Glossary

bust: A sculpture of someone's head and shoulders.

Egyptologist: A person who studies the history of ancient Egypt.

pharaoh: A ruler in ancient Egypt.



Questions

1. **It is believed that the valuable item still attracts around half a million visitors each year.**

Which word is closest in meaning to the word 'valuable'? Tick one.

- precious
 old
 colourful
 beautiful

2. Draw **four** lines to match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence.

Where Did Nefertiti
Come From?

Many people were unhappy with
Akhenaten's views on religion.

What Did Nefertiti
Believe In?

Mysteriously, Nefertiti disappeared
from history after 12 years of
Akhenaten being in power.

What Happened to
Nefertiti?

Some historians believe that
she may have been a princess
from Mitanni.

What Was
Discovered?

It was displayed in the 1920s at a
museum in Berlin in Germany.

3. What does Nefertiti's name mean?

4. Look at the section **How Did Artwork Change?**

Find and copy a word which means the same as 'represented' or 'pictured'.

5. Fill in the missing word.

The date of Nefertiti and Akhenaten's _____ is not known.

6. Why do you think historians believe in different theories about Nefertiti's life?

7. Summarise what you have learnt about religion in ancient Egypt.

8. **Many people viewed Nefertiti as a living goddess.**

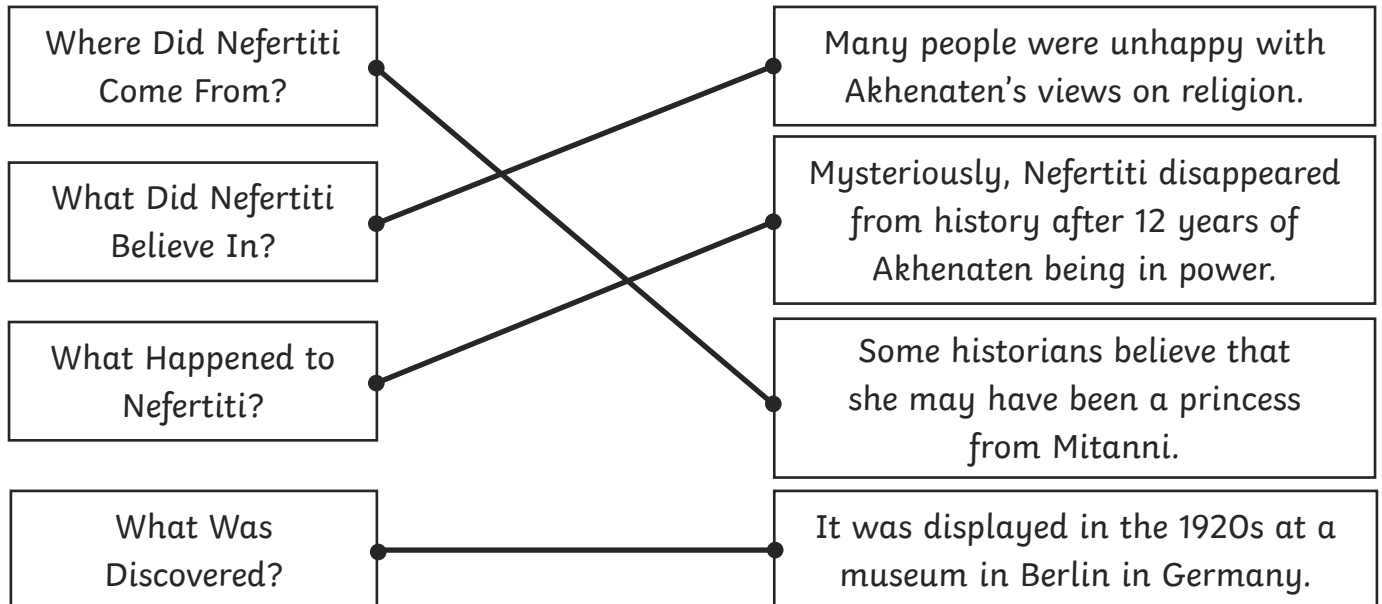
What impression does the phrase 'living goddess' give the reader about Nefertiti?

Answers

1. **It is believed that the valuable item still attracts around half a million visitors each year.**
Which word is closest in meaning to the word 'valuable'? Tick one.

precious

2. Draw **four** lines to match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence.



3. What does Nefertiti's name mean?

Nefertiti's name means 'a beautiful woman has come'.

4. Look at the section **How Did Artwork Change?**

Find and copy a word which means the same as 'represented' or 'pictured'.

portrayed

5. Fill in the missing word.

The date of Nefertiti and Akhenaten's **marriage** is not known.

6. Why do you think historians believe in different theories about Nefertiti's life?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think historians believe in different theories about Nefertiti's life because the ancient Egyptian era was so long ago. There are not many historical records so people interpret things differently.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about religion in ancient Egypt.

Pupils' own responses, such as: People used to worship many gods in ancient Egypt but when Akenhaten and Nefertiti were king and queen, they only worshipped the sun god called Aten and he became Egypt's national god.

8. Many people viewed Nefertiti as a living goddess.

What impression does the phrase 'living goddess' give the reader about Nefertiti?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the phrase living goddess gives the reader the impression that Nefertiti was very special and different from other Egyptian people. It suggests that people would have honoured her and looked up to her.