

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?

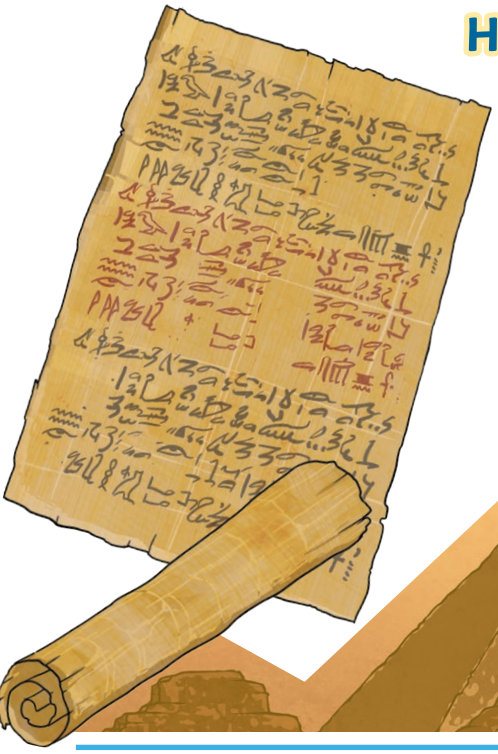
There is not much known about Nefertiti's family. Her name means 'a beautiful woman has come' and some historians believe that she may have been a princess from Mitanni. Other people believe that she was the daughter of an important Egyptian.

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.



visit twinkl.com

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?	Mysteriously, Nefertiti disappeared from history after 12 years of Akhenaten being in power.
What Did Nefertiti Believe In?	Her name means 'a beautiful woman has come'.
How Did Artwork Change?	It is thought that the old temples were closed.
What Happened to Nefertiti?	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'.

_____

visit twinkl.com

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?

_____

_____

_____

visit twinkl.com