



Meet the Characters

Hello! I'm *Nofret* and this is my twin brother. His name is *Rahotep*. We live in the King's huge new city of Akhetaten.

We moved here from Thebes, several days' travel by boat from the south. Other families came from Memphis in the north or from other smaller towns.

We came following the King, Akhenaten, who wanted to create a new home for the sun god Aten.

When people first arrived here they built their houses close to their family and friends. Everyone tries to help each other out by sharing food, making mudbricks for their houses and collecting water from wells or the river.

Amarna
Life Under
the Sun

Hi! I'm *Amira* and this is my cousin *Omar*. I live in the town of El-Till and he lives close by in El-Hagg Qandil. Our towns are like big families and we come together to help each other when we can.

Grandad says this is because many families have lived in the area for **generations**, perhaps more than 150 years.

Some of our family members worked on the first ever dig at Amarna with British archaeologist Flinders Petrie in the 1890s. Howard Carter was also on Petrie's team. He's the guy who excavated the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings in 1922!

Did you know Tutankhamun lived at Amarna when he was a boy?



The Landscape

Akhenaten brought everyone here because the Aten told him to come.

The land is special because it is the home of the sun god who shines down from above and provides everything we need.

We are near the river Nile, which floods every year and is the giver of life.

We take water from the river using a shaduf, a kind of hoist – it's a fairly new invention!

We use the water to **irrigate** the rich farmland where we grow crops and animal feed. Much of our food comes from the west bank of the river where the fields stretch as far as the eye can see!

We make mudbricks from the Nile mud and get stone from the royal **quarries** in the cliffs nearby. The cliffs are also the perfect place to make tombs for the royal family and the King's friends.

Our towns are special because they are close to the river Nile.

We like to meet our friends and play by the river as it is so beautiful. The Nile is also really important for crops and animals, as well as fish.

The river doesn't flood anymore. Grandad says this is because a huge **dam** controls the water in Aswan in the south of Egypt.

Instead, we have lots of special ways of lifting water from the Nile. There are canals which take water to fields far away from the river and mechanical pumps to get the water where we need it most.

