

Take Part in a Royal Parade: Imaginative Writing Challenge!

Travelling the Royal Road

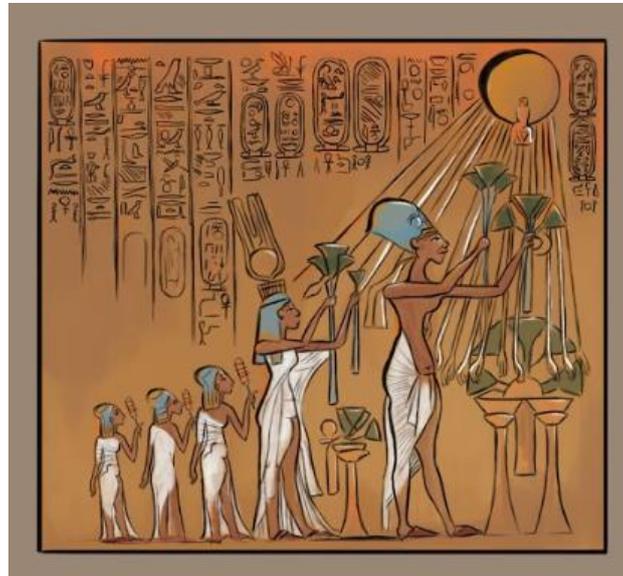
The royal road was not an ordinary road. It ran through the heart of Akhetaten, from north to south, and was lined with the city's most important buildings. Workers on foot or on donkeys, as well as officials in chariots pulled by horses, probably used the road. But the most important journeys that took place each day were those made by the King and his entourage.

Twice a day Akhenaten raced along the royal road in his golden chariot. The rest of the royal family joined him for this journey as did his royal bodyguards!



The King was believed to be a living god on earth. He represented the sun god, Aten. The King and the Aten were linked together by the royal road. As the King travelled north to south along the road under the sun's shining rays, the Aten (the sun) moved east to west in the sky. On the way, Akhenaten would stop to worship in the city's temples and perhaps take care of important business.

Inside the temples the King was met by his high officials, dancers and musicians. Cattle were brought in to be offered to the sun god. The sights, sounds and smells of all the different people and activities taking place within the temple grounds would have been quite a spectacle!



You can still walk on a section of the original royal road today! It survives best where it passes through the temples and palaces of the ruined Central City.

Imagination Challenge!

Imagine you are a worker in one of the temples when the King's procession arrives on the royal road.

Write a postcard to a friend explaining what it is like.

What's your role during the King's visit?

Are you a priest, a dancer, a musician or maybe the person in charge of the animals being offered to the sun god?

What can you see? What can you smell? What can you hear? How do you feel?

What do you think about the King and the royal family?

Draw a picture on the front of the postcard to illustrate your description.