



Who was Who at Amarna

Akhenaten's predecessors

Amenhotep III: Akhenaten's father, who ruled for nearly 40 years during the peak of Egypt's New Kingdom empire. One of ancient Egypt's most prolific builders, he is also known for his interest in the solar cult and promotion of divine kingship. He was buried in WV22 at Thebes, his mummy later cached with other royal mummies in the Tomb of Amenhotep II (KV 35) in the Valley of the Kings.

Tiye: Amenhotep III's chief wife and the mother of Akhenaten. Her parents Yuya and Tjuyu were from the region of modern Akhmim in Egypt's south. She may have lived out her later years at Akhetaten and died in the 14th year of Akhenaten's reign. Funerary equipment found in the Amarna Royal Tomb suggests she was originally buried there, although her mummy was later moved to Luxor and is perhaps to be identified as the 'elder lady' from the KV35 cache.

Akhenaten and his family

Akhenaten: Son and successor of Amenhotep III, known for his belief in a single solar god, the Aten. He spent most of his reign at Akhetaten (modern Amarna), the sacred city he created for the Aten. Akhenaten died of causes now unknown in the 17th year of his reign and was buried in the Amarna Royal Tomb. His body was probably relocated to Thebes and may be the enigmatic mummy recovered in the early 20th century in tomb KV55 in the Valley of the Kings.

Nefertiti: Akhenaten's principal queen. Little is known of her background, although she may also have come from Akhmim. There is no evidence that she was of foreign origin despite modern claims. Her last known attestation as queen is an inscription dating to the 16th year of Akhenaten's reign in quarries to the north of Amarna. Shortly before or after the death of Akhenaten, Nefertiti may have ruled for a short period using the name Neferferuaten.

Meritaten: The oldest daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, with the important title King's Daughter. She is associated with such monuments as the Maru-Aten and North Palace at Akhetaten and was probably a significant figure in the royal court. Later in Akhenaten's reign she might have served in a consort-like role. Scenes in the Tomb of Meryre (II) at Amarna (North Tomb 2) show her apparently married to King Smenkhkare, with both of their names in cartouches as king and queen.

Meketaten: The second daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, who died at Akhetaten and was buried in a side chamber of Akhenaten's tomb in the Amarna Royal Wadi. Her body was probably relocated to Thebes after Akhetaten was abandoned.

Ankhesenpaaten/Ankhesenamun: The third of Akhenaten and Nefertiti's daughters was married to Tutankhaten/Tutankhamun, and after his death may have married the pharaoh Ay.

Nefernefruaten-tasherit (Neferneferuaten the younger), *Neferferura* and *Setepenra*: Little is known of the three youngest daughters of Akhenaten and Nefertiti. Setepenra disappears from the historical record in the latter part of Akhenaten's reign and may have died by this time.

Secondary royal figures

Kiya: A secondary wife of Akhenaten, who had the unique title Greatly Beloved Wife. Little is known of her or her origins. In around year 16 of Akhenaten's reign, her name and image were removed from some monuments at Akhetaten and replaced with those of Meritaten and Ankhesenpaaten. She may have died at Akhetaten and her body later moved to the Valley of the Kings, where some burial material in her name was found in tomb KV55.

Ankhesenpaaten-tasherit (Ankhesenpaaten the younger): A little known princess, daughter of Akhenaten and possibly Kiya.

Meritaten-tasherit (Meritaten the younger): A little known princess, daughter of Akhenaten and possibly Kiya.

Coregents & successors:

Smenkhkare: Ruled briefly at Amarna, probably as coregent (this means someone who rules together with someone else) to Akhenaten. He may have been Akhenaten's son from a secondary wife, or his brother. In the Tomb of Meryra (II) (North Tomb 2), he is shown as king married to Akhenaten's daughter Meritaten. His main monument is the grand hall at the southern end of the Great Palace. The mummy from tomb KV55 in the Valley of the Kings may be that of Smenkhkare, if it is not Akhenaten himself.

Neferneferuaten: The name Neferneferuaten was used by a female ruler in the latter part of Akhenaten's reign. She was perhaps Meritaten, although most scholars believe her to be Nefertiti. Details of the reign of Neferneferuaten are obscure. She was possibly coregent with Akhenaten, perhaps after the death of Smenkhkare, or took the throne alone when Akhenaten died. It is also possible that she ruled as coregent in the early years of Tutankhaten's reign. In any case, she ruled only briefly and has no known monuments.

Tutankhaten/Tutankhamun: Thought to be Akhenaten's son, either by Nefertiti or a secondary wife, perhaps Kiya. He assumed the throne, as a boy, after Smenkhkare, perhaps with Neferneferuaten as coregent for a time. In his reign, Egypt returned to religious orthodoxy and Akhetaten was abandoned. After a nine-year reign, Tutankhamun died and was interred in tomb KV62 in the Valley of the Kings, famously discovered nearly intact by Howard Carter and his team in 1922.

Ay: Short-lived king who followed Tutankhamun. He was probably part of the extended royal family, perhaps Nefertiti's father. Before becoming king, he served Akhenaten at Akhetaten using the title God's Father, and had a tomb prepared here (South Tomb 25). He was also an influential figure during the reign of the young king Tutankhamun. He was buried in tomb WV23 at Thebes (modern Luxor).

Horemheb: A military officer, likely from Memphis, who assumed the throne after the death of Ay. Prior to becoming king, he had a grand tomb carved at Saqqara. He was also an important official during the reign of Tutankhamun. He ruled for at least 13 years and was buried in tomb KV57 in the Valley of the Kings. In his reign, the dismantling of the temples and palaces of Akhetaten began.