A scientist thinks he’s figured out what killed Egypt’s famous boy ruler, King Tut.

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A Heroic Life

South African civil rights leader Nelson Mandela is remembered worldwide as a champion of equality.

People around the world are still mourning the death of Nelson Mandela. The civil rights hero and former President of South Africa died last month at age 95. For years, Mandela had fought to end segregation in his country.

“I am one of the countless millions who drew inspiration from Nelson Mandela’s life,” said President Barack Obama.

Word to Know

segregation (seg-ruh-GAY-shun) noun. the practice of keeping groups apart, often because of race

Fighting for Fairness

Mandela was a leader in the fight to end apartheid. That was a brutal system in South Africa that kept black people and white people segregated. In a country that was mostly black, only whites were allowed to vote. Blacks couldn’t socialize with whites or even leave their own neighborhoods without the government’s permission.

By fighting to end apartheid, Mandela became a target of the government. In 1964, after being accused of trying to help overthrow the government, he was sentenced to life in prison.

But even from his prison cell on Robben Island, Mandela fought for justice. He wrote repeatedly to South Africa’s President F.W. de Klerk. Mandela convinced de Klerk to secretly meet with him and other black leaders to discuss how to solve South Africa’s problems.

Finally, in 1990, de Klerk began taking steps toward ending apartheid. After 27 years in prison, Mandela, then 71 years old, was a free man.

In 1993, Mandela, de Klerk, and other leaders wrote a new constitution that guaranteed equal rights for all South Africans. Mandela was elected President the following year, when black South Africans were allowed to vote for the first time. He served as South Africa’s first black President from 1994 to 1999.

After he left office, Mandela continued to speak out against injustice in his own country and abroad. To many, he will always be a symbol of peace and equality.
Giant African land snails are no ordinary snails. They’re the size of rats, and they leave behind a thick layer of slime as they move. But the gross-out factor isn’t the reason officials in Miami, Florida, don’t want the species around. The snails eat more than 500 types of native plants, including farmers’ crops. They can also carry diseases in their slime that can be harmful to humans. Now, wildlife officials are training dogs to help them sniff out the pests.

Dogs are the newest weapon in Florida’s fight against a giant snail

Giant African snails are an invasive species—an animal or a plant that moves into an area and harms native species. The snails were first spotted in Florida about two years ago. Experts say they were probably brought there illegally from Africa as pets. Some snails likely escaped and quickly multiplied. Thousands of these slow-moving creatures are now loose in and around Miami.

Luckily, the snails leave a smelly trail with their slime. That makes it easy for dogs like Labrador retrievers to help Florida officials by sniffing the snails out. Since 2011, Florida has spent about $6 million to get rid of the pests. State officials think they now have the giant snails confined to the Miami area. They also say the snails’ numbers are dropping.

“We are confident we will win this fight,” says Florida wildlife official Adam Putnam.
Death of a Boy King

A scientist thinks he’s solved one of history’s greatest mysteries

King Tut was just 9 years old when he became the ruler of Egypt about 3,300 years ago. The boy king, whose full name was Tutankhamen (TOO-tahn-KAH-men), died just 10 years later.

British archaeologist Howard Carter stumbled upon King Tut’s tomb in 1922. Scientists have since learned a lot about the teen pharaoh, or ancient Egyptian king. But one thing has remained a mystery: How did he die?

Now Chris Naunton, director of the Egypt Exploration Society, says he may have finally solved the puzzle. After studying nearly 100 years’ worth of evidence, he has come up with his answer: The boy king was killed in a chariot accident.

A Golden Discovery

Not much was known about King Tut before his tomb was discovered about 90 years ago. It was the most well-preserved ancient Egyptian tomb ever found. At the center was a gold coffin containing Tut’s mummy. The ancient Egyptians preserved people as mummies because they believed they would need their bodies in the afterlife.

Over the years, history buffs and scientists have come up with many theories about the cause of Tut’s death, including an infection and a blood disease. But Naunton wasn’t convinced that the answer had been found.

In 2012, Naunton decided to try to crack the case. He began...
Boy King

by looking back at Carter’s notes. “We [wanted] to see if there was anything in there that might be worth following up,” Naunton says.

Mummy Mystery
Carter’s notes show that Tut’s mummy wasn’t prepared like most other mummies. For one thing, his chest had been stuffed with linen—to keep it from collapsing. The question was: What could have caused that much damage?

Case Closed?
Ancient Egyptian rulers often rode in horse-drawn chariots while hunting or during battles. In the past, some experts suggested Tut may have died in a chariot crash. Naunton had the same idea. To test his theory, he asked a group of car-crash investigators to use computers to simulate a series of chariot accidents. They determined that if a chariot had struck Tut in a certain way, it would have crushed his ribs and heart. Naunton believed he had his answer.

However, many archaeologists don’t agree. Some say Tut’s ribs weren’t crushed. They think Carter’s team removed the ribs to make it easier to carry Tut’s mummy out of the tomb. They also point out that Tut wasn’t the only pharaoh to be buried without a heart.

Still, Naunton stands by his claim. But, he adds, “I wouldn’t want to think that this discussion is completely over.” —by Joe Bubar

How to Make a Mummy

The ancient Egyptians took about 70 days to prepare a body as a mummy. Only rulers and wealthy people got the full treatment. Here are the basics.

1. **Remove the organs.** The Egyptians usually left in the heart, believing that a pharaoh would need it in the afterlife.

2. **Add salt.** Workers used a type of salt called natron to fill and completely cover the body.

3. **Wrap it up.** After 40 days, workers rubbed scented oils on the body to keep the skin soft. Finally, they wrapped the body in strips of linen and placed it inside a sarcophagus (a coffin).
Record-Setting Relay

The 2014 Olympic torch relay has been a wild one.

The 2014 Winter Olympics are set to kick off next month in Sochi (SO-chee), Russia. The Olympic torch is on its way there now. The torch relay is an Olympic tradition, and this year’s is the longest in the history of the Winter Games. About 14,000 torchbearers are taking turns carrying the flame across Russia, the world’s biggest country. The torch’s journey has also included its first visit to the North Pole and a trip into outer space! On February 7, the final torchbearer will light the Olympic cauldron in Sochi, signaling the start of this year’s Games.

Here’s a look at some of the monumental moments of the torch relay so far.

Word to Know

monumental (mon-yoo-MENT-uhl) adjective. of great importance, extent, or size

September 29
The relay starts when the torch is lit in Olympia, Greece. That was the site of the first Olympics nearly 2,800 years ago.

October 6
The torch arrives by plane in Moscow, Russia’s capital. (The torch isn’t lit during air travel.)

November 9
Astronauts on the International Space Station take the torch on its first-ever space walk.

MAP QUIZ

Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. The torch will travel the most miles in Russia by ____.
   A car  B boat  C plane  D train

2. The torch left from ____ to head to the North Pole.
   A Magadan  B Khabarovsk  C Novosibirsk  D Murmansk

3. The torch traveled ____ after it left Olympia, Greece.
   A northeast  B southeast  C northwest  D southwest
YOUR TURN

DEBATE

Should Everyone Get a Trophy?

A youth football league in Keller, Texas, stopped giving trophies to all of its players this season. Instead, only the league champions were rewarded. League officials say that in the real world, people aren’t rewarded just for participating. But many people argue that trophies for participation boost kids’ self-esteem and encourage them to keep playing. Here’s what two of our readers think.

Cedric Moxey, Nebraska

Everyone should get a trophy for playing a sport. It is important to reward kids for doing their best and being part of a team. Plus, getting trophies makes kids feel good. Kids should be rewarded for meeting their own goals and showing good sportsmanship, not just for winning games.

Aiesha Abdulla, California

Not everyone who plays a sport should get a trophy. If kids get trophies just for participating, they won’t learn that sometimes they have to do more than just show up to succeed in life. Also, if everyone gets a trophy, the kids on winning teams may think their trophies are less special.

BOOK REVIEW

Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently

Have you ever used an iPhone, an iPad, or any other Apple product? Have you ever wondered how those gadgets were created? Then you should read Steve Jobs: Thinking Differently by Patricia Lakin.

It’s a biography about Steve Jobs, the man who helped create the Apple computer. He was also a co-founder and chairman of the Apple company.

But Jobs didn’t start out on top. In fact, he was fired from one of his first jobs. This book is full of facts about his childhood, company, and inventions, and how he turned his failures into success.

— Skye L., New York

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STICKY SITUATION

Cole is in math class the day before a big exam. His teacher asks if anyone has any last-minute questions about the equations. None of the students raise their hands. Cole doesn’t understand some of the material, but he is too embarrassed to ask for help.

What should Cole do?

Send us your response! We’ll publish some of our favorite entries online. For details, visit www.scholastic.com/sn4.
1. Which of the following events in Nelson Mandela’s life occurred first?
   A. He was elected President of South Africa.
   B. He was sentenced to life in prison.
   C. He helped write a new constitution for South Africa.
   D. He convinced South Africa’s president to meet with him and other black leaders.

2. Which words from the article best help you understand what apartheid was?
   A. segregation, injustice
   B. segregation, overthrow
   C. civil rights, equality
   D. government, free

3. “Sniffing for Slime” is mainly about ___.
   A. how dogs are being used to help get rid of African snails in Florida
   B. how African snails can carry harmful diseases
   C. the amount of money Florida has spent to remove African snails
   D. how African snails ended up in Florida

4. What does Chris Naunton believe was the cause of King Tut’s death?
   A. a kick from a horse
   B. a chariot accident
   C. an infection
   D. a blood disease

5. The author writes that Naunton wanted to “crack the case.” He means that Naunton wanted to ___.
   A. break open King Tut’s coffin
   B. work with car-crash investigators
   C. solve the mystery of King Tut’s death
   D. accept an assignment to study Tut’s mummy

6. According to the article, how did King Tut’s mummy differ from other Egyptian mummies?
   A. Tut’s chest was stuffed with linen.
   B. None of Tut’s organs were removed.
   C. Tut’s body was covered with salt.
   D. Tut’s body was placed in a sarcophagus.

7. Study the map. Tut’s tomb is closest to which place?
   A. Alexandria
   B. the Sinai Peninsula
   C. Luxor
   D. Cairo

8. The 2014 Olympic torch relay is the longest in the history of the Winter Games. Some Summer Olympic relays were even longer, however. Here’s how the torch’s trip to Sochi stacks up against other recent torch relays.

**Recent Olympic Torch Relays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Distance of Torch Relay</th>
<th>Number of Torchbearers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Sochi, Russia</td>
<td>40,000 miles</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>London, England</td>
<td>8,000 miles</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Vancouver, Canada</td>
<td>28,000 miles</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
<td>85,000 miles</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Torino, Italy</td>
<td>7,000 miles</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Athens, Greece</td>
<td>48,000 miles</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Olympic.org
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