

# TIME *for* KIDS

King Tut ruled ancient Egypt nearly 3,400 years ago. His mummy was sealed in a golden case.

## KING TUT

One hundred years ago, King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.



# TFK EXPLAINS: THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS



**VOTING EARLY** Voters in Atlanta, Georgia, cast their ballots on October 17.

**On November 8, Americans will vote in midterm elections. Here's why these elections are important, and why voters are eager to head to the polls.**

## What is a midterm election?

Midterms are held almost halfway through a president's four-year term, in order to elect members of the United States Congress. This year, there are 470 congressional seats up for election. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are on the ballot, as well as 35 of 100 Senate seats. There are also numerous state and local elections. Governors will be chosen in 36 states.

## What's at stake in this election?

Midterm elections decide which political party has the majority in Congress. In the elections of 2020, Democrats held the majority in the House of Representatives.

They split the Senate 50–50 with Republicans. But with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tiebreaking vote, Democrats have had the advantage.

Most forecasts say Republicans could win a House majority this year. The balance in Congress will determine the extent to which Republicans are able to block new policies that President Joe Biden, who is a Democrat, tries to pass.

## How many people will vote?

Many observers expect a record number of voters. Some polls suggest that more than 50% of registered voters will cast a ballot in these elections. That's in line with recent trends. In the 2018 midterms, voter turnout was more than 53%. It reached more than 66% in the 2020 presidential election.

## What is early voting?

Election Day is November 8. In most states, people can vote before then, either in person or by mail.

## What are the big issues in the 2022 midterm elections?

According to recent polls, the biggest issues are the economy and inflation. Prices on everything from food to energy have been rising. This could be bad news for Democrats. In a recent *New York Times*/Siena poll, 44% of likely voters said the economy was a top concern. Most of those voters favor Republicans in this election.

## What about the local races?

Governors' races are important to watch. These races don't affect the balance of power in Congress. But a governor runs a state's government, and can enact certain state laws that are different from what the majority of congressmembers want.

## Stop and Think!

**WHAT** numbers do you see in this article? How do numbers help us understand elections? Which other numbers would you like to see?





# What Matters to You?

When getting ready to cast a ballot, voters consider the issues that matter most to them. Then they find out how the candidates feel about those issues. The issues can be local, such as how a community should manage its schools or maintain its roads. They can be statewide or national, such as how a state or country should manage its finances. Or they can be global, such as how countries should work together to fight climate change.

**Junior Journalists, we want to know: What matters to you? If you were old enough to vote, which issue would be most important to you when deciding whom to support, and why? Ask a teacher, parent, or guardian to share your answer with us at [timeforkids.com/tfkpressclub](http://timeforkids.com/tfkpressclub) or to send it to [tfkpressclub@time.com](mailto:tfkpressclub@time.com).**



## SNAPSHOT

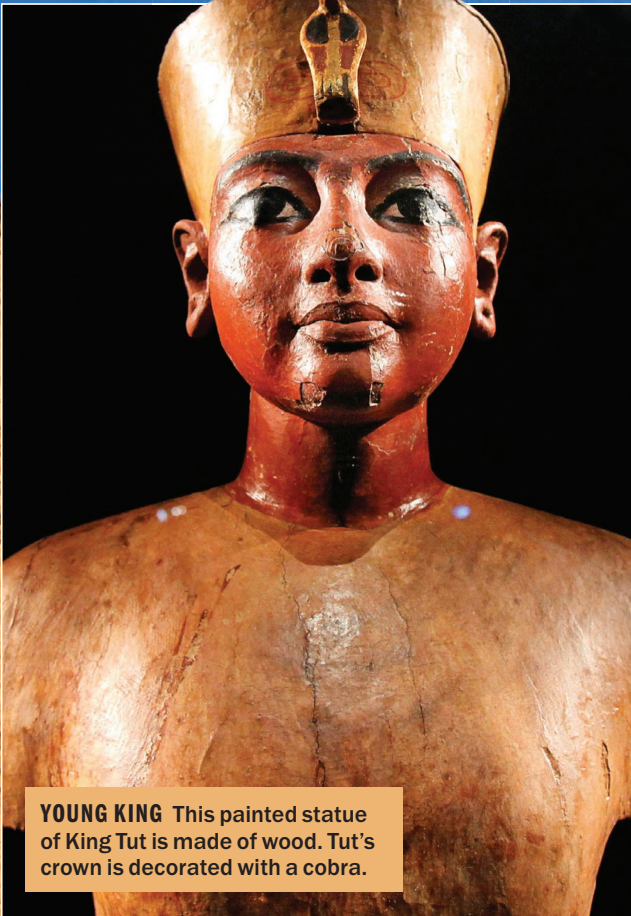
**TWO IN 1** A visitor at Frieze London, an art fair in England, poses with *Giant Pumpkin No. 1* on October 13. The work is by British artist Anthea Hamilton.



ISABEL INFANTES—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NEWS STORIES MAY INCLUDE REPORTING FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.





**YOUNG KING** This painted statue of King Tut is made of wood. Tut's crown is decorated with a cobra.



**DISCOVERY** Howard Carter studies King Tut's sarcophagus. His team found it in Tut's tomb along with many treasures.



**CLEANING UP** A conservator restores King Tut's throne at the Grand Egyptian Museum.



**STANDING TALL** This statue of the Egyptian king Ramses II is at the GEM.

### Power Words

**conservator** *noun*: a person who repairs and preserves historical objects

**deteriorate** *verb*: to fall apart; to decay

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BEN HIDER—GETTY IMAGES; ULSTEIN BILD/GETTY IMAGES; KHALED DESOUKI—GETTY IMAGES; MOHAMED EL-SHAHEED—AP/GETTY IMAGES; BACKGROUND: BRUCE YUANYUE BI—GETTY IMAGES



# ANCIENT HISTORY

**This year marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's tomb, in Egypt's Valley of the Kings.**

On November 4, 1922, an incredible discovery was made in Egypt. British archaeologist Howard Carter and his Egyptian crew found steps leading to the entrance of King Tutankhamen's tomb. "At first, I could see nothing," Carter later wrote about peering inside. "As my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, and gold—everywhere the glint of gold."

After arriving in Egypt in 1891, Carter searched for Tut's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. That's where ancient Egyptians laid most of their pharaohs, or rulers, to rest. Many tombs had been found by the time Carter began his search. But Tut's tomb had remained undiscovered for thousands of years. Rocks and sand hid the entrance. When Carter finally entered the tomb, in 1922, he found it untouched. One hundred years later, the discovery continues to fascinate people.

## FAMOUS PHARAOH

King Tut was Egypt's youngest pharaoh when he took the throne around 1333 B.C.E. He became king when he was only 8 or 9 years old. He died when he was about 19. "When his tomb was discovered, nobody really knew exactly what he looked like," Christina Riggs told TIME for Kids. She's a historian and the author of *Treasured*, a new book about Tutankhamen. Not even the gold mask in Tut's coffin provided a solid clue about his appearance. "That gold mask is so beautiful and dazzling," Riggs says. (See "Look Inside.") But "it's kind of a blank . . . and people can see in him what they want."

The discovery of Tut's tomb and its treasures was

an exciting moment for archaeology and for the study of ancient Egypt. "It kind of put the spark back into Egyptology," Riggs says. It was also "a really powerful moment" for the Egyptian people, she adds. Earlier in 1922, the country had won its independence from Britain. "This was perfect timing to symbolize a new era for them as an independent nation."

## GRAND OPENING

This November, the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) is expected to open near Cairo. Its King Tut exhibit will include the more than 5,000 artifacts from his tomb. "Conservators have done a lot of work to make sure those objects are not deteriorating and that they're presented in a safe and attractive way," Riggs says. "There's been a lot of research, and they're excited about it."

Among those objects are Tut's gold chariot, coffin, and throne. "I have four spaces representing the four rooms" of Tut's tomb, said GEM's former director general, Tarek Sayed Tawfik. He spoke to *Smithsonian* magazine in 2016 about his plans for the exhibit. He hoped the objects would be laid out as they were inside the tomb.

In the 100 years since the discovery of Tut's tomb, its treasures have been displayed in museums around the world. At GEM, the objects will all return to Egypt and be shown together for the first time. The museum sheds new light on ancient Egypt. Still, much about Tut remains a mystery. "There are some things we'll never know," Riggs says.

—By Cristina Fernandez



## LOOK INSIDE

Egyptian pharaohs were often buried in more than one coffin. A mummy would be put in a coffin that would be placed inside a larger one. Some were made of wood and covered in gold sheets. King Tut had three coffins. The inner one

was solid gold and weighed nearly 250 pounds. It's worth about \$1 million. Tut's mummy also wore a gold mask. Christina Riggs says the mask was first displayed to the public in 1926. It's one of Egypt's most famous artifacts.

GUSTAVO CABALLERO—GETTY IMAGES





# THE SURVIVOR

**Tardigrades can survive almost anything. Studying them might help us prepare astronauts for long-term space travel.**

Last year, NASA sent a supply craft to the International Space Station (ISS). Its cargo included thousands of tardigrades. These creatures, each small enough to fit on the tip of a pencil, can be found just about anywhere: in oceans, trees, and probably your backyard. They can live for decades without food or water. Scientists say some tardigrades would continue to exist even if most other life-forms on Earth were wiped out by an asteroid or supernova.

Tardigrades are survivors. That makes them well suited for space travel. Some can take about a thousand times the amount of **radiation** that would kill a human. Unlocking their survival secrets is key if we hope to send people to Mars someday. “If we can learn the tricks that tardigrades use to protect themselves,” molecular biologist Thomas Boothby says, “we could develop therapies or technologies that could protect humans.”

## DANGER BLOCKERS

The tardigrades on the ISS came from Boothby’s lab at the University of Wyoming. Previous experiments exposed tardigrades to big doses of radiation. Boothby wants to find out how they respond to low doses of radiation over a long period. That’s the kind of exposure people living in space would get.

One way tardigrades protect themselves is by entering what’s called a tun state. This adaptation lets them survive in places such as moss that dries out many times a year. Tardigrades dry up too. They curl up into tuns, or little balls, producing substances that protect their cells from damage. Their **metabolism** shuts down. They “essentially cease to live,” Boothby says. “And they can stay like that for years or even decades.” When water returns, tardigrades puff back up and spring to life.

Chemicals that tardigrades produce also protect them from

sunlight. Radiation creates charged particles called ions in the body’s cells. Ions pull the cells’ material apart. But a tardigrade’s body can lock up these particles, which keeps them from interacting with cells.

With this knowledge, scientists could develop dietary supplements that boost protective chemicals in astronauts’ bodies. This might fend off the effects of radiation.

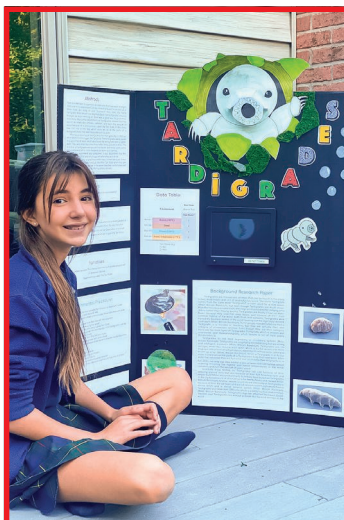
There’s still lots of research to be done. “Right now, we’re in the learning phase,” Boothby says, adding that other scientists will build on his research. “That’s just the way science works.”

—By Brian S. McGrath

### Power Words

**metabolism** *noun*: the chemical process in the body that uses food to produce energy

**radiation** *noun*: energy that is produced in the form of waves



## THE KID REPORT

The first time I heard about tardigrades, I was fascinated. These nearly indestructible creatures can survive in outer space, and they can be found in the moss that grows in your backyard. I knew I would make them the focus of my science fair project at the St. Bridget School, in Cheshire, Connecticut.

During my research, I read that tardigrades have the ability to go into a tun state. That’s how they survive in extreme environments. But I wondered what causes this state. I experimented by exposing tardigrades to a series of harsh conditions. This showed that the creatures achieved their tun state when they were totally deprived of water. If tardigrades are tiny superheroes, this tun state is the secret to their superpower!

—Natalia Pepe, 12



**WATER BEAR** This image of a tardigrade was taken with an electron microscope. The tiny creatures are often called water bears, because they move a little like plump bears.







# 8 QUESTIONS

## FOR ELIZABETH CLAY ROY

Elizabeth Clay Roy is the CEO of Generation Citizen, a nonprofit group that tries to get students involved in the democratic process. She spoke with TFK Kid Reporter Mina Fedor.

### 1. What's the mission of Generation Citizen?

Generation Citizen is seeking to catalyze an education movement, so that young people are able to have the skills, knowledge, and disposition to be community change-makers. That's the heart of our work.

### 2. Why is it important for kids to be civically engaged?

It's important that young people be civically engaged for the same reasons that it's important for me or anyone else. In our democracy, we have the opportunity to determine how we are represented in government. It's important that we are well-informed about how our representatives make decisions, and how those decisions may impact our lives.

### 3. How did you get started doing the work you do?

I was interested in my community from when I was a teenager. I got involved with volunteering as a way of giving back. It was just something that always appealed to me.

### 4. You were campaigning for candidates before you were old enough to vote. What inspired you?

I grew up in a household where there was a strong belief that community mattered and was an extension of our family life. So the question wasn't "What are you going to do with your life?" It was "What are you going to do to support our community?" When I'm going door-to-door for a candidate, my goal is not to say why I think someone would make a good city-council member. It's to try to draw a person into a conversation.

### 5. How do you deal with disagreement?

Disagreement is a healthy part of democracy. It can create an opportunity to think about one's perspective. It's important to make sure we're listening to one another, and that we're treating one another respectfully.



**SHE'S A LEADER** Elizabeth Clay Roy leads Generation Citizen. The group encourages kids and teens to be active citizens.

MATTHEW DAVIS

### 6. Generation Citizen runs a campaign to lower the voting age to 16. Can you talk about that?

Young people are able to drive, pay taxes, and take on important responsibilities in their families and communities. The right to vote, especially in local elections, is a natural extension of those responsibilities.

### 7. What role does social media play in your work?

We're encouraging young people to add to their toolbox of strategies to influence change. Social media is one tool. But so is speaking at a [city council] hearing or writing a letter to the editor of the local newspaper.

### 8. What can kids do to make a difference?

You're spending a lot of time talking about the world with your peers, right? Together, identify an issue that you care about. Contact those who represent your community, and share your point of view. Trust that you have power, because you really do.

#### Power Words

**catalyze** *verb*: to bring about

**disposition** *noun*: the tendency to act or think in a certain way

THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.

TIME for Kids Edition 5-6 (ISSN 2156-9150) is published weekly from September to May, except for school holidays and two double issues, by Time USA, LLC. Volume #13, Issue #8. Principal Office: 3 Bryant Park, New York, NY 10036. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. © 2022 Time USA, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Subscribers: If the postal authorities alert us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to TIME for Kids, P.O. Box 37508 Boone, IA 50037-0508. Subscription queries: 877-604-8017. TIME for Kids is a registered trademark at Time USA, LLC. For international licensing and syndication requests, please email [syndication@time.com](mailto:syndication@time.com).