**News Shorts: Tomb Raiders**

American **archaeologists1** recently did something that would make

their mummies proud: They discovered a hidden Egyptian tomb!

Otto J. Schaden and his team found the **burial chamber2**

underground in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings. It holds five mummies in

*sarcophagi* (sar-KAH-fuh-gigh), or coffins. The tomb also contains 20

jars in which Egyptians stored food and drink for the afterlife.

This marks the first time an intact tomb has been discovered in the

valley in 84 years. The last tomb found there was that of

Tutankhamen, the boy king. Tut’s tomb is just feet from the newly

found chamber.

"It was just so amazing to find an intact tomb here after all the work

that’s been done before," Edwin Brock, one of the project leaders, told

reporters.

Archaeologists suspect that the tomb is about 3,000 years old. The

scientists will study the sarcophagi to determine the mummies’

identities and social status.

One of the sarcophagi has the features of a woman with black hair,

dark-lined eyes, and a gold necklace.

Schaden says the mummies may be members of a pharaoh’s court,

but some people have speculated that the tomb may hold the mummy

of Nefertiti—one of Egypt’s most beautiful and powerful queens. Even

if the tomb doesn’t hold Nefertiti’s remains, it’s still the find of a

lifetime, archaeologists say. "This cache…proves that the Valley of the

Kings is not exhausted," Mansour Bouriak, an Egyptian official, told

reporters.

**1 archaeologist:** scientist that studies past human life as shown by fossil relics and the monuments and

tools left by ancient peoples

**2 burial chamber:** an enclosed space that holds one or more bodies

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The main idea of this passage is:

a. The remains of Nefertiti were found.

b. Archaeologists recently found a hidden Egyptian tomb.

c. Sarcophagi were coffins that hold Egyptian mummies.

d. Egyptians store food and drink in coffins.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The main idea of the last paragraph is

a. Scientists are hypothesizing who might be in the tomb.

b. Nefertiti was the most beautiful of Egyptian women.

c. Social status can be determined by the way someone was buried.

d. Even though they do not know who is in the tomb, it is still an important discovery.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Egyptians stored food and drink in their tombs, because

a. they wanted to feed their dead as they enter the afterlife.

b. they wanted to feed workers that were building the tomb.

c. they wanted to preserve the food for later use.

d. tombs were cold and acted as refrigeration for ancient Egyptians.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The author included the quote from Edwin Brock

a. to add additional facts about the findings.

b. to show the archaeologists’ perspective.

c. to encourage the reader to study archeology.

d. all of the above.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. List two details that supports the main idea. Explain how they support the main idea.

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