

A portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, the first English monarch to be crowned as a virgin. She is depicted in a red gown with intricate gold embroidery and a large pearl necklace. She is holding a book in her hands. The background features dark red curtains. The title 'Elizabeth I' is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the center of the image.

# Elizabeth I

Nel Yomtov

 SCHOLASTIC



# Diana Princess of Wales

Robin Doak

 SCHOLASTIC



# Grace of Monaco

Michael Burgan

 SCHOLASTIC



# Nefertiti

Katie Parker

 SCHOLASTIC



Amenhotep gave Nefertiti the honor of performing religious ceremonies, unlike any Egyptian queen before her.

CHAPTER

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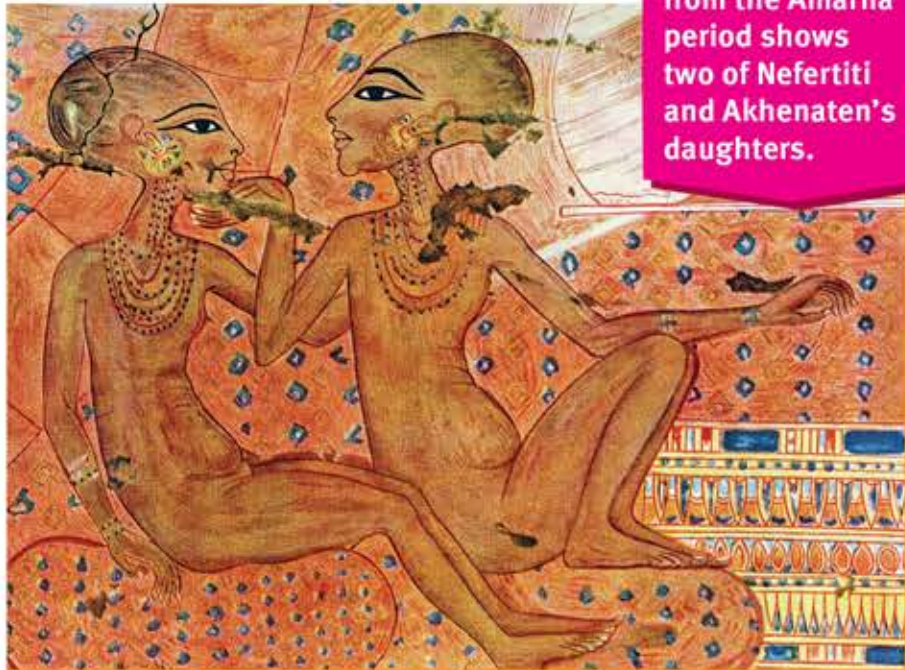
# A Religious Revolution

By the time Nefertiti became queen, the Egyptian people had practiced the same religion for 2,000 years. The people believed in many gods, some more powerful than others. Elaborate festivals were held to celebrate and honor these gods. The Egyptians believed that when the gods and the pharaoh were pleased, their society would prosper.

In 1338 BCE a total eclipse occurred. It is likely the Egyptians believed they had angered their gods in some way.

## Bodies in Amarna Style

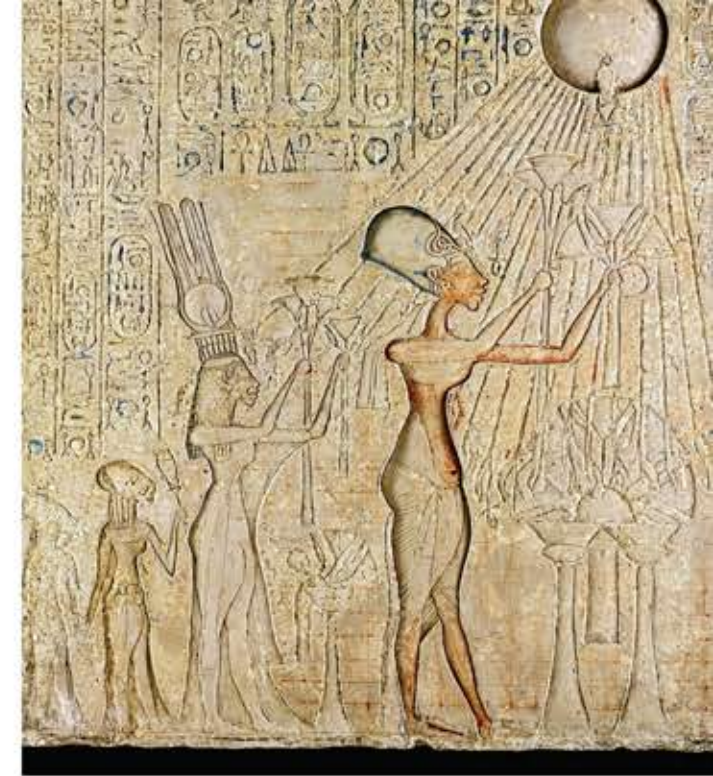
In Amarna style, the bodies usually have an odd shape. The royal family members have skinny legs and arms. They also have large bellies and hips, and long necks and heads. It is possible that these were family traits that the artists exaggerated. Other bodily details such as ears and wrinkles are depicted. Feet are clearly shown with toes indicating left and right.



This wall painting from the Amarna period shows two of Nefertiti and Akhenaten's daughters.

## Art with Symbolism

Some historians suspect that the royal couple used art to emphasize their closeness with Aten. For example, their stretched-out limbs may have been **symbolic** of sun rays. They may also represent the royal couple accepting “ankh,” a word meaning life, from the sun god. Akhenaten considered Aten the provider of life and abundance on Earth. The pharaoh and his queen used art to make sure the Egyptian people understood their power and divinity.



In this relief from the Amarna period, Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and their family make an offering to the sun god.

## The **BIG** Truth

# The Disappearance of Nefertiti

For 12 years, Akhenaten ruled with his wife Nefertiti at his side, unrivaled by any queen before her. Then, suddenly, she disappeared. She is not pictured in art after about 1343 BCE, nor does her name appear in written documents.

Scholars and scientists have their theories. *Which do you believe?*

### Theory #1: Nefertiti continued ruling.

After Nefertiti's disappearance, we know Akhenaten selected an adviser to rule alongside him. There is little known about the pharaoh who then succeeded Akhenaten, other than his name: Ankhkheperure Smenkhkare. Some historians believe that the adviser and the new pharaoh were the same person: Nefertiti! But why would she have hidden her identity?



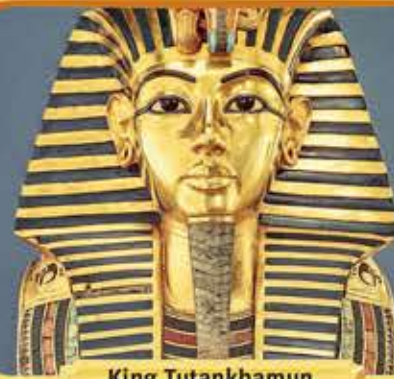
Smenkhkare

### Theory #2: Nefertiti died of an illness.

Did Nefertiti fall victim to a plague that passed through Egypt? Evidence has shown that the black plague may have started in Egypt at this time. But then . . . why wasn't her death memorialized?

### Theory #3: Nefertiti was rejected by her husband.

Akhenaten rejected Nefertiti after one of his other wives gave him a male heir—the boy who would become known as King Tutankhamun. But why is Nefertiti painted on Akhenaten's sarcophagus if she was cast aside?



King Tutankhamun

Nefertiti with three of her daughters.



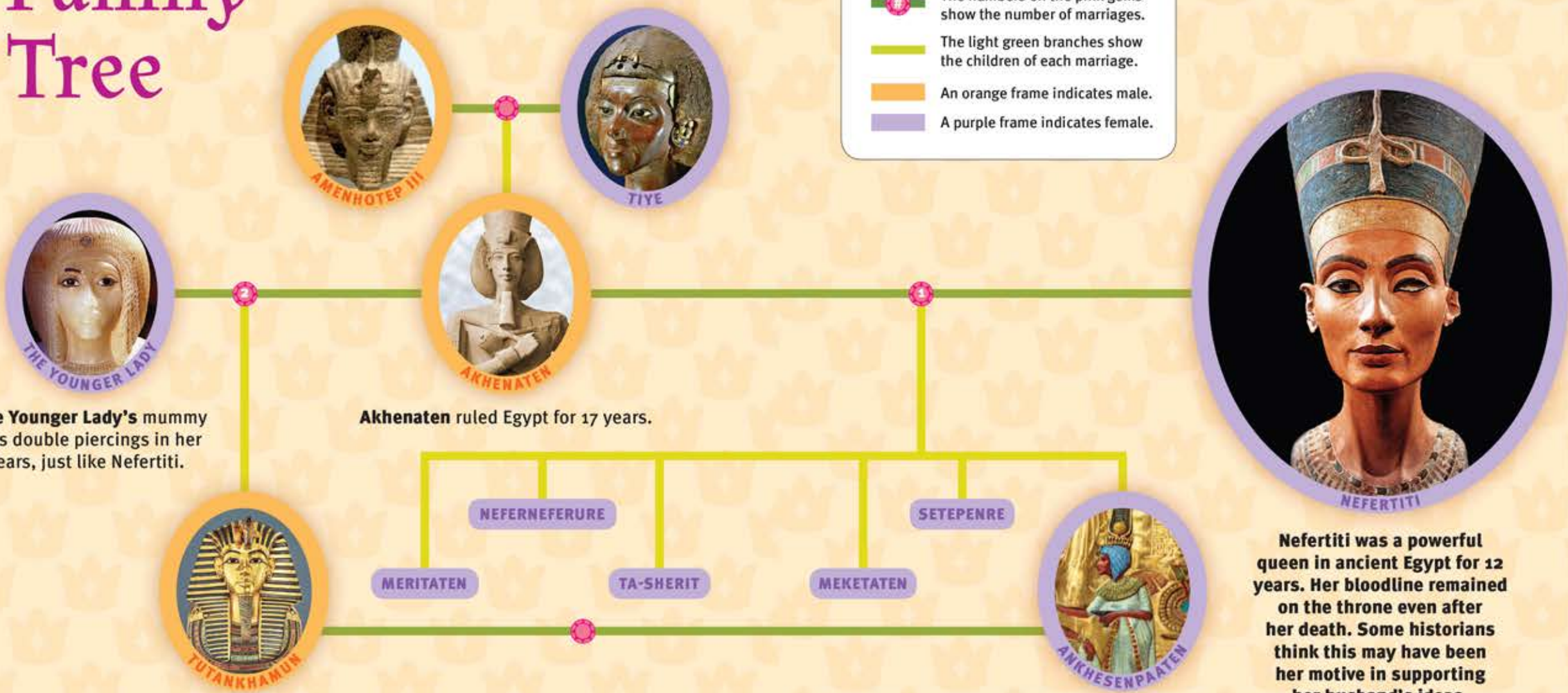
### Theory #4: Nefertiti took her life in grief.

Shortly before Nefertiti's disappearance, the royals lost three daughters. Some historians think Nefertiti took her own life in grief. But why was there no record of her death?

# Nefertiti's Family Tree

**LEGEND**

- The pink gem and dark green branches show each marriage.
- The numbers on the pink gems show the number of marriages.
- The light green branches show the children of each marriage.
- An orange frame indicates male.
- A purple frame indicates female.



The Younger Lady's mummy has double piercings in her ears, just like Nefertiti.

Akhenaten ruled Egypt for 17 years.

Tutankhamun was nine years old when he became pharaoh.

Ankhesenpaaten had two daughters with Tutankhamun.

Nefertiti was a powerful queen in ancient Egypt for 12 years. Her bloodline remained on the throne even after her death. Some historians think this may have been her motive in supporting her husband's ideas.