

28 MEMORIALS AND MYSTERIES

Memorials help us remember events or people. Some memorials are so big that it's impossible to miss them. But others are hidden. Sometimes, treasures found in the ground reveal hidden stories about a long-lost past.

What was unearthed at Sutton Hoo?

A king who ruled East Anglia in England in the 600s. He was buried in a wooden ship, 27 m long. The ship had been placed in a trench, and inside lay the body of a warrior, probably a powerful local king called Raedwald of the East Angles. He had been buried with clothes, weapons and treasure. Then his ship-grave had been filled in. The ship-burial remained undiscovered until unearthed by archaeologists at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk in 1939.



① A replica of the Sutton Hoo helmet, found in the ship-burial.



① The Gateway Arch is the tallest monument in the USA. It was completed in 1965.

Whose journey is remembered by a giant arch?

American pioneers. The Gateway to the West in St Louis, USA is an 192-m U-shaped arch that stands beside the Mississippi River. It commemorates the migration of thousands of settlers who set off in wagon trains to make new homes in the West in the 1840s–1870s.

Who was buried with an army of clay soldiers?

The Chinese emperor, Shih Huang-di, in around 210 BC. The ancient Chinese believed their dead rulers would need servants and soldiers in the after-life. So when Shi Huang-di, the first Qin emperor, died his tomb was filled with clay models of soldiers. Archaeologists were amazed to find them in 1974 when part of the huge imperial tomb complex was opened.

① The terracotta clay warriors of the Chinese emperor's immortal army.



Ancient treasures

What's wonderful about a mummy?

The Egyptians believed in life after death and made careful preparations for death and burial. They believed it was important to preserve the body of a dead person. The body was treated with chemicals and oils and then dried, to stop it decaying. The mummy was wrapped in linen bandages and put in a coffin, inside a tomb, along with clothes, weapons, jewels and food.

① When ready for burial, a mummy was placed inside a special coffin. Some of these were shaped and richly decorated.



Famous monuments

The highest column in the world commemorates the battle of San Jacinto, fought between Texans and Mexicans in 1836. Britain's famous monuments include The Monument (a column marking the spot in London where the Great Fire of 1666 began) and Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square in London, with a statue of Admiral Horatio Nelson on top.

Whose tomb revealed a lost treasure?

ankhamun, who became king of Egypt about 1347 BC but died aged 18. His tomb was found by the British archaeologist Howard Carter. Inside were astonishing treasures – more than 5,000 objects including chests, necklaces, chariots, urds, ostrich feathers, models of ships, toys and jars of precious oils.

Among the finds in Tutankhamun's tomb is the gold death mask of the young king.



Mighty monuments

name	Where	Height
Gateway to the West	St Louis, USA	192 m
San Jacinto Monument	Texas, USA	173 m
Washington Monument	Washington DC, USA	169 m
Otherland statue	Russia	82 m
Adelson's Column	London, UK	61 m
	London, UK	51 m

Famous treasure

Tutankhamun's tomb – opened by Howard Carter in 1922 and found to still contain most of its original tomb-treasures.

Inca loot – In 1532 the Spanish conquistador Pizarro demanded a huge ransom for the Inca leader Atahualpa – a roomful of gold, and another filled with silver. The Incas paid, but the Spaniards still killed Atahualpa. They melted down the treasures to make gold and silver bars.

Pirate treasure – Captain Kidd and other pirates may have hidden treasure on lonely islands, but wrecked ships are the best places to search!

➔ **Treasure divers still hunt for wrecks of ships lost in storms around Britain in 1588 and thought to be carrying Spanish gold.**



Which leaders stare out from a mountain?

Four US presidents, whose stone heads loom from rocky Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, USA. Carving work began in 1927. It took four years to build and cost \$1 million. Each head is as big as a five-storey building and the faces tower 1,800 m above sea level. The carvings are scaled to men who would stand 141 m tall. On each carving, the president's nose is 6 m long, the mouth 5 m wide and the eyes are 3 m across. The Mount Rushmore National Memorial honours four of the most important US Presidents – these are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Where did the last Incas live in secret?

High in the Andes, at Machu Picchu and other strongholds. The Spaniards conquered the Inca civilization in the 1500s, but never managed to capture the Incas' last stronghold. The ruins of the walled Inca city of Machu Picchu lie in the mountains near Cuzco in Peru. Machu Picchu remained unknown to the world until discovered by an American explorer, Hiram Bingham, in 1911. The local people called it 'Machu Picchu', meaning 'old mountain'.

➔ **The Spaniards never found the Inca fortress of Machu Picchu. Today, half a million tourists visit it every year.**

