

Egypt archaeologists find large 'city of the dead'

1st March

Easier

Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a huge cemetery hidden under the sands south of Cairo. The 2,000-year-old necropolis was found south of Egypt's capital in the Nile Valley city of Minya. The word necropolis is from ancient Greek and means "city of the dead". The necropolis contains thousands of artifacts, including coffins and statues. Archaeologists started excavation work on the site late last year. They found tombs belonging to priests of Thoth. He was the ancient god of the moon and wisdom. Thoth was also believed to be the inventor of writing. Egypt's Antiquities Minister, Khaled al-Anani, said: "We will need at least five years to work on the necropolis. This is only the beginning of a new discovery."

Mostafa Waziri, the head of the archaeological dig, said he was very excited about the contents of the site. He said he and his colleagues have uncovered eight tombs so far. He expects many more to be found soon. The tombs contain a wealth of historic treasures. One tomb includes more than 1,000 statues and four pottery jars that contain the remains of the internal organs of important ancient Egyptians. Mr Waziri also said there were 40 sarcophagi. A sarcophagus is a stone coffin in which dead bodies were placed. Waziri hopes the new site will help to attract more tourists to Egypt. There has been a downturn in tourism since the revolution that took place there in 2011.

Sources :

cbsnews.com
reuters.com
newsweek.com





1. An Archaeologist said he needs 50 years to work on the site. **T / F**
2. The head of the dig said 80 tombs have been discovered. **T / F**
3. A large cemetery was found under the sand north of the city of Cairo. **T / F**
4. The cemetery is about 2,000 years old. **T / F**
5. Tourism is suffering in Egypt because of the 2011 revolution. **T / F**



1. What do you know about ancient Egypt?
2. Why is the necropolis so important?
3. How valuable are the historic treasures?
4. what else do you think the archaeologists will find?
5. What do you know about the ancient history of your country?