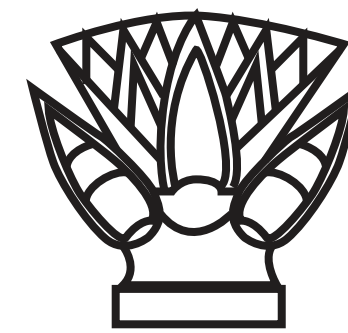


Ancient Egyptian Life

Map for the Valley of the Kings



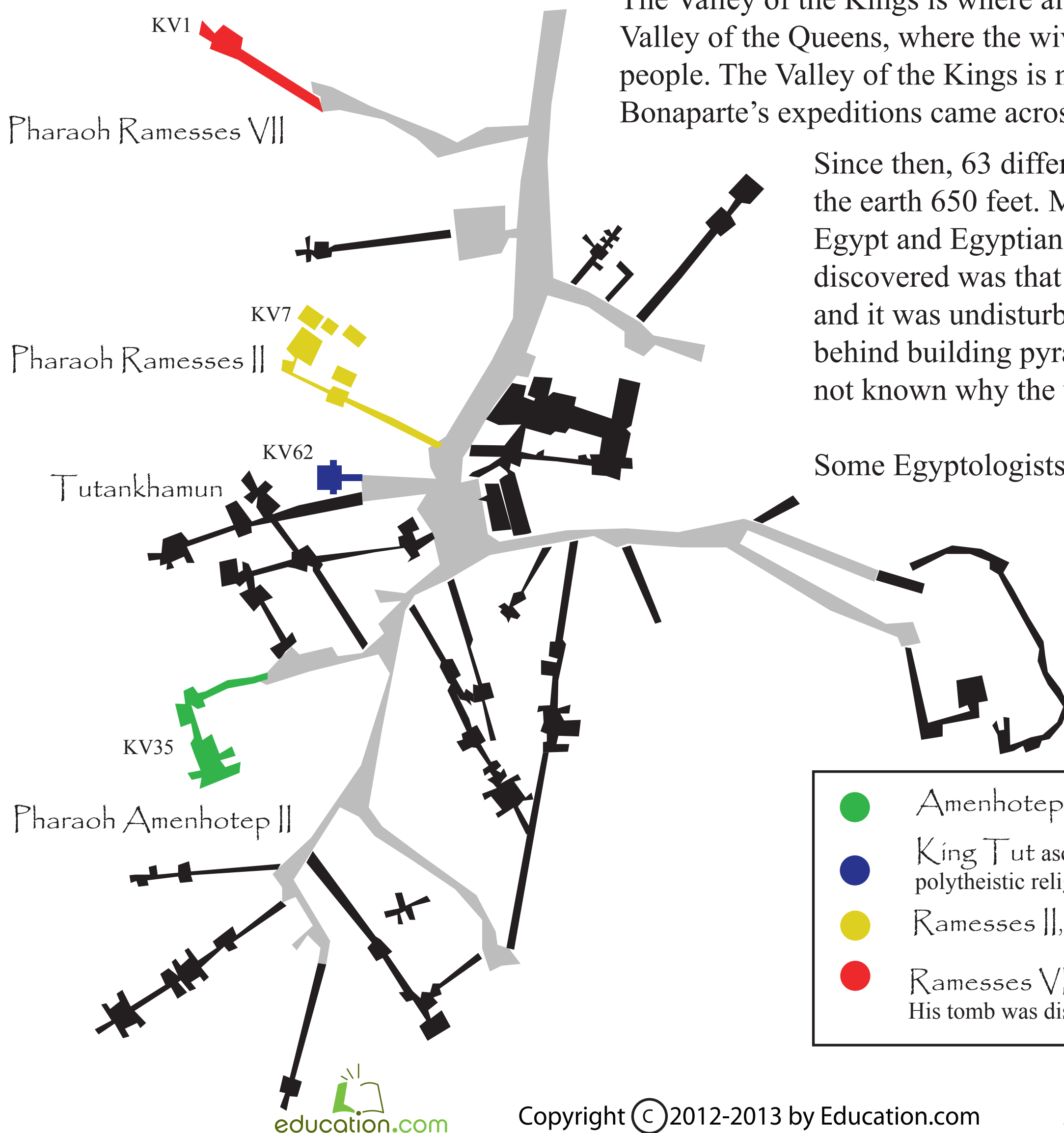
The Valley of the Kings is where all the great pharaohs are buried. There is also the lesser known Valley of the Queens, where the wives, princes and princesses are buried, as well as some noble people. The Valley of the Kings is near the city of Thebes, now called Luxor. One of Napoleon Bonaparte's expeditions came across the valley in 1799.

Since then, 63 different tombs have been found there. Some of them go down into the earth 650 feet. Most are richly adorned with paintings and carvings of life in Egypt and Egyptian beliefs of afterlife with the gods. The most famous tomb discovered was that of King Tutenkhamun. Compared to other tombs his was tiny, and it was undisturbed by grave robbers. Around the 18th dynasty Egyptians left behind building pyramids to carving tombs into the cliffsides of the valley. It is not known why the use of pyramids as burial tradition stopped.

Some Egyptologists think that the valley was started by Queen Hatshepsut.

What do you think?

What factors could affect a decision to abandon burying leaders and statesmen in pyramids, or, what might be the appeal of using the cliffs, if any?



- Amenhotep II was a successful military leader during Egypt's 18th dynasty.
- King Tut ascended the throne still a child; his reign returned the country to polytheistic religion and away from his father's institution of the one sun god.
- Ramesses II, or Ramesses the Great, lived to be over 90 years old.
- Ramesses VII ruled during a time of economic decline, little else is known about him. His tomb was discovered in the 1980s.