

## TOMB TREASURE

Shaft graves were much deeper and more difficult for thieves to rob, and so the treasure buried with the royal families has often survived. The graves at Mycenae were found with all kinds of precious things.

*These gold treasures were found in graves at Mycenae.*

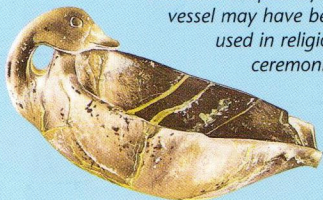


*This gold drinking cup probably belonged to a king.*

*This pendant depicts a Mycenaean goddess.*



*This duck-shaped crystal vessel may have been used in religious ceremonies.*



*This gold death mask is known as the Mask of Agamemnon.*

## DEATH MASKS

The faces of five kings in the Mycenae burial chambers were covered with masks of gold or electrum (a metal made of gold and silver). To make the mask, the metal was heated, then beaten into shape. Experts believe these masks were attempts at real portraits of the kings. The most famous

one, shown here, is often named after Agamemnon, the legendary king in Homer's tale of the Trojan War (see pages 164-165). But, sadly, it can't really be Agamemnon himself. The mask dates back to about 1550BC, but the Trojan War, if it happened, took place later - around 1250BC.