

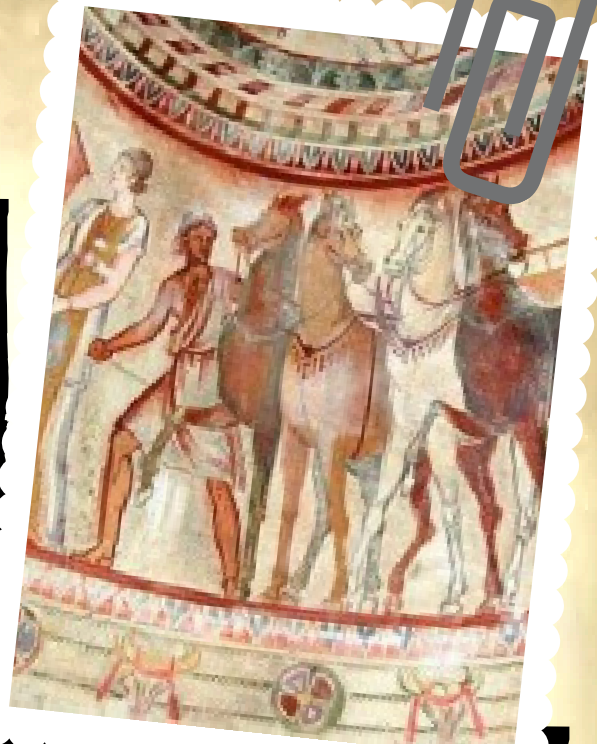
Context: Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak

Dates: Found in 1944, Hellenistic period, 4th century BC

Origin: South Bulgaria, near Kazanluk

Nature: Thracian tombs are found all over the territory of Bulgaria. In the valley of the kings there are more than 1500.

Quote: the only one of its kind anywhere in the world



General information: The Kazanlak Tomb (circa 4th-3rd century BC) is one of the most significant monuments of Thracian culture in the country, included in UNESCO's list of global cultural inheritance. This tomb is known for the remarkable frescoes covering the walls of the corridor and the domed ceiling. Their style is early Hellenistic, and the colours used are mainly white, red, yellow and black arranged in a stunning composition.

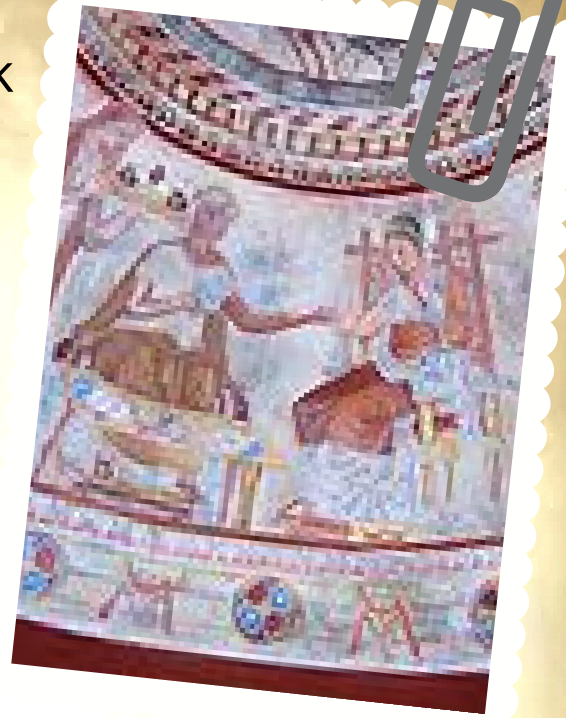
Main highlights of the period: Long before the Bulgarians came to the Balkans, they were inhabited by Thracians – as early as 3500 BC. On the territories of today's Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Greece lived more than 50 different Thracian tribes. In the 5th century BC one of the tribes – the Odrysians, became powerful enough to take over most of the Balkans and establish the largest Thracian kingdom.

Economical context: The Thracians are in many ways steeped in mystery. With their writing system remaining undecoded, and what few cities they built lost to the ages or lying in ruin, the most preserved testament to their lifestyle are the richly decorated and carefully hidden tombs in which they buried the most significant members of their society, and the treasures within. Of all the Ancient Thracian burial mounds with their tombs and graves in the Valley of the Thracians Kings, only the Kazanlak Tomb has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (since 1979)

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Significant people - King Roygos

Interestingly, while the names of the people buried in the tomb have been lost to the ages, the artist - **Kodzimasis Hrestos** - left his signature on the frescoes, which allows us to link him to at least one other Thracian tomb.



Big inventions: Between 1992 and 2006, late Bulgarian archaeologist **Georgi Kitov** led his special archaeological expedition which explored over 200 Thracian burial mounds during the Iron Age and the Roman Age in the Kazanlak Valley. The expedition's finds include over 15 tombs, 3 brick masonry graves, and a number of rich funerals.



STEAM connections: The Kazanlak frescoes testify to high level of culture and pictorial art in Thracia. The paintings depict scenes from the history, military achievements and afterlife of the man and woman who were buried in it.

Architecture, Engineering, Maths, Art - all can be found in the Thracian tombs.

Traditions: The tomb is part of a large Thracian necropolis. It comprises a narrow corridor and a round burial chamber, both decorated with murals representing a Thracian couple at a ritual funeral feast. The murals are memorable for the splendid horses and especially for the gesture of farewell, in which the seated couple grasp each other's wrists in a moment of tenderness and equality.