



Ancient Arrow Poison Unearthed in 7,000-Year-Old Bone: Discovery

Description

In 1983, scientists found an old bone with arrowheads inside in South Africa. They kept it in a storage room until 2022. Researchers from the University of Johannesburg studied the bone. They discovered it had the oldest known plant toxin mixture for arrows. This shows the advanced knowledge of ancient people.

The bone was X-rayed again with better technology. Chemical analysis showed toxic substances in the bone that are not from nearby plants. This suggests people traveled far to get them.

In history, hunters used poisonous plants and animals to make their weapons more effective. In southern Africa, they combined different poisons for arrows. The earliest evidence of poison dates back 24,000 years. Research continues to uncover more ancient uses of poison in hunting.

This study helps us learn how ancient people used natural resources for survival. It shows their intelligence and skills in combining plant toxins for hunting. The findings teach us about the past and how people lived long ago.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Discovered** /dɪs'kʌv.əd/ (verb): Found or uncovered something that was previously unknown.
2. **Toxin** /'tɒk.sɪn/ (noun): A toxic substance produced by living cells or organisms.
3. **Evidence** /'ev.ɪ.dəns/ (noun): Facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.
4. **Combined** /kəm'baɪnd/ (verb): Brought or put together.
5. **Analysis** /ə'næl.ə.sɪs/ (noun): A detailed examination of the elements or structure of something.
6. **Intelligence** /ɪn'tel.ɪ.dʒəns/ (noun): The ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What did scientists find inside an old bone in South Africa in 1983?

Option: Arrowheads

Option: Coins

Option: Tools



Option: Gemstones

2. What is the significance of the discovery of plant toxin mixture in the bone?

- Option: Advanced knowledge of ancient people
- Option: Lack of expertise in ancient hunting techniques
- Option: Modern interference with the bone
- Option: Inaccurate analysis

3. How far did the chemical analysis suggest people may have traveled to obtain toxins for the arrows?

- Option: Far distances
- Option: Nearby locations
- Option: Within the same city
- Option: No specific distance mentioned

4. What is one of the uses of poisonous plants and animals in hunting mentioned in the text?

- Option: To make weapons more effective
- Option: To use for medicinal purposes
- Option: To build shelters
- Option: To create artworks

5. Based on the historical evidence mentioned, how long ago does the use of poison in hunting date back?

- Option: 24,000 years
- Option: 10,000 years
- Option: 5,000 years
- Option: 1,000 years

6. What does the study mentioned in the text help us comprehend about ancient people?

- Option: Their intelligence and survival skills
- Option: Their lack of resourcefulness
- Option: Their inability to adapt to new environments
- Option: Their isolation from other communities

True-False

7. The bone with arrowheads was found in South America in 1983.

8. The chemical analysis of the bone showed toxins only from nearby plants.



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9. Ancient hunters did not use poisonous substances for hunting purposes.
10. The study unearthed evidence of poison use in hunting from 24,000 years ago.
11. The researchers found no link between poison use and improved hunting efficiency.
12. The study indicates that ancient people lacked skills in utilizing natural resources.

Gap-Fill

13. The bone was kept in a storage room until _____.
14. The researchers who studied the bone were from the University of _____.
15. The mixture of plant toxins discovered in the bone is believed to date back _____ years.
16. The combination of different poisons for arrows was common in southern _____.
17. The analysis of the bone confirmed the presence of toxic substances not locally sourced, indicating people may have traveled _____ to obtain them.
18. This study sheds light on the intelligence and skills of ancient people in utilizing _____ resources for survival.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Arrowheads 2. Advanced knowledge of ancient people 3. Far distances 4. To make weapons more effective 5. 24,000 years 6. Their intelligence and survival skills

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 2022 14. Johannesburg 15. 24,000 16. Africa 17. far 18. natural

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Who first discovered the process of photosynthesis?
Option: Joseph Priestley
Option: Isaac Newton
Option: Marie Curie
Option: Albert Einstein
2. What do we call the vast expanse that contains galaxies stars planets and everything in existence?
Option: Atmosphere
Option: Universe
Option: Solar System
Option: Constellation
3. Which of the following chronic diseases is often linked to an imbalance in blood sugar levels?
Option: Diabetes
Option: Hemophilia
Option: Malaria
Option: Tuberculosis
4. In ancient times people sometimes _____ animals as part of religious rituals.
Option: Admired
Option: Sacrificed
Option: Protected
Option: Fed
5. A volcanic _____ can cause ash clouds lava flows and pyroclastic surges.
Option: Meditation
Option: Eruption
Option: Celebration
Option: Drought
6. What is data or information that supports a claim or proposition?
Option: Opinion
Option: Evidence
Option: Rumor
Option: Prediction
7. The seasonal movement of animals from one region to another is known as:
Option: Hibernation
Option: Navigation
Option: Migration



Option: Acceleration

8. Plants require sunlight water and _____ to grow and thrive.

Option: Nutrients

Option: Insects

Option: Rocks

Option: Metal

9. What are vast systems of stars gas and dust bound together by gravity?

Option: Galaxies

Option: Asteroids

Option: Comets

Option: Meteorites

10. When an author's work is made available to the public it is said to be _____.

Option: Hidden

Option: Printed

Option: Published

Option: Burned

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. When oxygen and hydrogen are _____ water is formed.

12. Scientists conducted a detailed _____ of the DNA sample to identify the genetic markers.

13. Suddenly a bright light _____ in the night sky startling the onlookers.

14. Organic matter undergoes a process of _____ as it breaks down over time.

15. The test results revealed a _____ connection between two seemingly unrelated variables.

16. The magician made the rabbit _____ from the hat much to the audience's delight.

17. The old abandoned house had a _____ aura that intrigued the neighborhood children.



18. Studies have found that lack of exercise is closely _____ to various health problems.
19. The archaeological team made an exciting _____ when they unearthed ancient artifacts.
20. In the early stages of the caterpillar's life it will _____ from its chrysalis as a butterfly.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills is often associated with this trait.
22. The act of becoming larger or more extensive.
23. An act or process of finding or learning something for the first time.
24. Gradually ceasing to be visible or exist.
25. A poisonous substance produced within living cells or organisms.
26. Something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain.
27. The process of determining something by mathematical logical or other methods.
28. A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order.
29. To make information or work available to the public through a printed or digital medium.
30. Cut into or shape (stone wood etc.) by cutting or using a tool.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Joseph Priestley 2. Universe 3. Diabetes 4. Sacrificed 5. Eruption 6. Evidence 7. Migration 8. Nutrients 9. Galaxies 10. Published

Gap-Fill: 11. Combined 12. Analysis 13. Appeared 14. Decay 15. Surprising 16. Disappear 17. Mysterious 18. Linked 19. Discovery 20. Emerge

Matching sentence: 1. Intelligence 2. Expansion 3. Discovery 4. Disappearing 5. Toxin 6. Mystery 7. Calculation 8. Ritual 9. Published 10. Carved



CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL2

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