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# Archaeologists Uncover Centuries-Old Underground Society

## Description

In northern Spain, archaeologists have found the remains of an ancient society that lived hidden underground for centuries. The discovery includes skeletons showing signs of disease, inbreeding (marrying within the family), and internal conflicts.

The society lived in Las Gobas, a group of natural caves, from the 7th to the 11th centuries. Researchers recently started examining this site, uncovering the tough conditions these people faced.

A study published in Science Advances revealed 33 individuals' remains at Las Gobas. About 63% of the genetic samples showed inbreeding, indicating that this group was very isolated and rarely interacted with outsiders. This isolation led to poor health and lack of genetic diversity.

The study also found fractures and wounds, likely from fights using swords. This suggests frequent internal conflicts within the society.

The skeletons showed traces of smallpox, a deadly disease that affected many in medieval Europe. Experts think the disease entered through contaminated pork, a main food source. Since the group had little contact with others and limited medical knowledge, diseases spread quickly.

By the end of the 11th century, the society at Las Gobas was abandoned. Researchers believe several factors might have caused this, including resource shortages, disease, and possible pressure from invasions or political changes. The site eventually became a burial ground with many caves used for this purpose.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. In which region of Spain was the ancient society discovered?

Option: Southern Spain

Option: Northern Spain

Option: Central Spain

Option: Eastern Spain

2. What percentage of the genetic samples showed signs of inbreeding?

Option: 50%



- Option: 63%
- Option: 75%
- Option: 80%

3. During which centuries did the society at Las Gobas exist?

- Option: 5th to 8th centuries
- Option: 7th to 11th centuries
- Option: 10th to 15th centuries
- Option: 12th to 16th centuries

4. What disease was found in the skeletons?

- Option: Plague
- Option: Smallpox
- Option: Typhoid
- Option: Measles

5. What was likely a main food source that contributed to disease spread?

- Option: Contaminated beef
- Option: Contaminated chicken
- Option: Contaminated pork
- Option: Contaminated fish

6. What type of injuries were found on the skeletons?

- Option: Burns
- Option: Fractures and wounds from fights
- Option: Cuts from farming
- Option: No injuries were found

### True-False

7. The ancient society lived above ground in Las Gobas.

8. The society was very isolated and rarely interacted with outsiders.

9. Researchers believe the society was abandoned due to climate change only.

10. The remains found included signs of internal conflicts.



11. The study published in Science Advances involved 33 individuals.

12. The society at Las Gobas existed from the 5th to the 10th centuries.

### Gap-Fill

13. The society lived in Las Gobas, a group of natural caves, from the 7th to the \_\_\_\_\_.

14. About \_\_\_\_\_ % of the genetic samples showed inbreeding.

15. The skeletons showed traces of \_\_\_\_\_ disease.

16. Frequent internal conflicts were suggested by the fractures and \_\_\_\_\_.

17. By the end of the 11th century, the society at Las Gobas was \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Experts believe the disease entered through contaminated \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Northern Spain 2. 63% 3. 7th to 11th centuries 4. Smallpox 5. Contaminated pork  
6. Fractures and wounds from fights

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

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 11th centuries 14. 63 15. smallpox 16. wounds 17. abandoned 18. pork

### CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL3

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