



# DNA Reveals 'Well Man' Skeleton Linked to 800-Year-Old Norwegian Saga

## Description

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## The complete skeletal remains of the “Well Man”

Age Hojem, NTNU University Museum

A Norwegian saga from over 800 years ago recounts the tale of a man believed to have been tossed into a castle well. Researchers now think they might have uncovered his remains. The Sverris saga, an Old Norse text, chronicles King Sverre Sigurdsson’s rise in the 12th century AD and describes how a rival clan allegedly threw a deceased man into the castle well, potentially as an early act of biological warfare.

In 1938, archaeologists discovered a skeleton in this medieval well at Sverresborg castle; many believed it belonged to the “Well Man” from the saga, but verification was not possible then. However, using radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis on a tooth from the skeleton, Anna Petersén and her colleagues have associated the man’s lifespan with the timeline of the castle's attack.

The researchers also gleaned new details, revealing that he likely had blue eyes and light hair, indicating his ancestry may trace back to southern Norway. While there's no evidence supporting the theory that he was tossed into the well due to a disease, this question remains unresolved. “This research sheds light on the confluence of history and genetics,” notes Michael Martin, emphasizing its potential to transform our understanding of former royal families and individuals from antiquity.

Topics:

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Chronicles** /'krɒnɪkəlz/ (verb): Records or narrates a series of events.
2. **Associated** /ə'soʊsiɪtɪd/ (verb): Connected or linked to something else.
3. **Verification** /,vɛrɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ (noun): The process of establishing the truth or validity of something.
4. **Gleaned** /gli:nd/ (verb): Collected information or knowledge gradually.
5. **Ancestry** /'æn.ses.tri/ (noun): The lineage or hereditary line of a person or family.
6. **Confluence** /'kɒnfluəns/ (noun): The act of merging or coming together.

## Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which term describes something innovative and pioneering?

Option: Artificial

Option: Groundbreaking

Option: Enhancing



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Option: Artificial

2. What term describes a material that allows light to pass through but diffuses it?

- Option: Translucent
- Option: Renewable
- Option: Emissions
- Option: Infrastructure

3. Which term refers to introducing new ideas or methods?

- Option: Innovative
- Option: Mitigating
- Option: Associated
- Option: Verification

4. Which term means connected or related to something?

- Option: Phenomenal
- Option: Biological
- Option: Artificial
- Option: Associated

5. What term describes an energy source that is not depleted when used?

- Option: Simulate
- Option: Renewable
- Option: Genesis
- Option: Gleaned

6. Which term is related to living organisms and their functions?

- Option: Biological
- Option: Detection
- Option: Confluence
- Option: Compounds

7. What term refers to substances formed from two or more elements?

- Option: Transformation
- Option: Delineates
- Option: Compounds
- Option: Emissions

8. Which term describes the origin or mode of formation of something?



- Option: Infrastructure
- Option: Genesis
- Option: Confluence
- Option: Ancestry

9. What term refers to the basic physical and organizational structures needed for a society or enterprise to function?

- Option: Chronicles
- Option: Mitigating
- Option: Translucent
- Option: Infrastructure

10. What term is used to describe substances released into the air especially by cars and factories?

- Option: Associated
- Option: Groundbreaking
- Option: Emissions
- Option: Artificial

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

11. The invention of the smartphone truly \_\_\_\_\_ the way we communicate.

12. Regular exercise plays a key role in \_\_\_\_\_ your overall health.

13. The intelligence displayed by the chess-playing computer was completely \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Planting trees is one way of \_\_\_\_\_ the effects of climate change.

15. The team's performance in the championship was truly \_\_\_\_\_.

16. The book \_\_\_\_\_ the life of a young girl growing up in wartime.

17. The security system \_\_\_\_\_ unauthorized access to the building.

18. The report clearly \_\_\_\_\_ the key findings of the research.

19. From the data collected the researchers \_\_\_\_\_ valuable insights into consumer behavior.

20. The city is located at the \_\_\_\_\_ of two major rivers.



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

21. The new technology is the way we approach healthcare.
22. The sudden increase in sales was a that surprised everyone.
23. Economic growth and employment rates are important of a country's development.
24. The issue of climate change is highly with strong arguments on both sides.
25. Solar and wind energy are examples of energy sources.
26. Graduating from college was a significant in her life.
27. Planting trees is one way of the effects of climate change.
28. The symptoms are often with the onset of the disease.
29. The authenticity of the document requires careful .
30. Learning about her family's helped her understand her cultural background.

**Answer**

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Groundbreaking 2. Translucent 3. Innovative 4. Associated 5. Renewable 6. Biological 7. Compounds 8. Genesis 9. Infrastructure 10. Emissions
- Gap-Fill:** 11. revolutionized 12. enhancing 13. artificial 14. mitigating 15. phenomenal 16. chronicles 17. detected 18. delineates 19. gleaned 20. confluence
- Matching sentence:** 1. revolutionizing 2. phenomenon 3. indicators 4. contentious 5. renewable 6. milestone 7. mitigating 8. associated 9. verification 10. ancestry

**CATEGORY**

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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