



Revealed: Victim of Franklin Expedition Cannibalism Identified

Description

The Franklin expedition was an important historical event involving the British Royal Navy's attempt to find a route through the Arctic in 1845. The expedition, led by Sir John Franklin, included two ships, HMS Terror and HMS Erebus, with 129 crew members. Captain James Fitzjames, commander of the HMS Erebus, was identified as the first known victim of cannibalism among the expedition members through DNA and genealogical evidence.

After abandoning the ships in 1848, the remains of many sailors were found in various locations in the Canadian Arctic. Researchers, including [Douglas Stenton](#) at the University of Waterloo, identified Fitzjames using genetic comparisons between a tooth and a descendant's cheek swab.

Further analysis by the late bioarchaeologist [Anne Keenleyside](#) revealed evidence of cannibalism, with cut marks on Fitzjames's lower jawbone and other remains. This suggests that the survivors resorted to eating the bodies of their fellow sailors in a desperate bid to survive.

According to [Treena Swanston](#) from MacEwan University, research like this highlights the importance of Indigenous Inuit testimony, as they were the first to report signs of cannibalism among the Franklin expedition members. The findings shed light on the harsh realities faced by the sailors in their quest to navigate the Arctic.

Topics: Arctic exploration, DNA analysis, cannibalism, historical research

Vocabulary List:

1. **Expedition** /ˌɛkspəˈdɪʃən/ (noun): A journey undertaken for a specific purpose often involving exploration.
2. **Cannibalism** /ˈkænɪbəlɪzəm/ (noun): The act of consuming the flesh of one's own species.
3. **Analysis** /əˈnælɪsɪs/ (noun): The process of examining data or information to understand it better.
4. **Genetic** /dʒəˈnetɪk/ (adjective): Relating to genes or heredity.
5. **Survivor** /sərˈvaɪvər/ (noun): A person who remains alive after an event or ordeal.
6. **Desperate** /ˈdɛspərɪt/ (adjective): Having lost all hope; despairing; driven to take risks or extreme actions due to urgency.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who led the Franklin expedition in 1845?

- Option: Sir John Franklin
- Option: James Fitzjames
- Option: Treena Swanston
- Option: Anne Keenleyside

2. How many crew members were aboard the expedition?

- Option: 100
- Option: 129
- Option: 150
- Option: 200

3. Which ships were part of the Franklin expedition?

- Option: HMS Victory and HMS Beagle
- Option: HMS Terror and HMS Erebus
- Option: USS Constitution and USS Enterprise
- Option: HMS Bounty and HMS Resolution

4. Who identified Captain James Fitzjames as the first known victim of cannibalism among the expedition members?

- Option: Douglas Stenton
- Option: Anne Keenleyside
- Option: Treena Swanston
- Option: Sir John Franklin

5. What kind of evidence was found on Fitzjames's lower jawbone indicating cannibalism?

- Option: Burn marks
- Option: Cut marks
- Option: Scratch marks
- Option: Engraved symbols

6. Who highlighted the importance of Indigenous Inuit testimony in the research?

- Option: Sir John Franklin
- Option: James Fitzjames
- Option: Treena Swanston
- Option: Anne Keenleyside



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Sir John Franklin 2. 129 3. HMS Terror and HMS Erebus 4. Douglas Stenton 5. Cut marks
6. Treena Swanston

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Which term refers to a journey undertaken for a specific purpose?
Option: Expedition
Option: Analysis
Option: Desperate
Option: Survivor
2. What word describes the ability to be passed from one person to another?
Option: Variant
Option: Transmissible
Option: Prevalent
Option: Effectiveness
3. Which term means to give special importance or prominence to something?
Option: Combining
Option: Emphasized
Option: Symptoms
Option: Assistance
4. What refers to suggestions or advice on what should be done?
Option: Itinerary
Option: Recommendations
Option: Tailored
Option: Revolutionizing
5. Which term describes being influenced or harmed by something?
Option: Affected
Option: Variant
Option: Submerged
Option: Behavior



6. What is the term for a period when a service is not available or operational?

- Option: Outage
- Option: Disruption
- Option: Verify
- Option: Submerged

7. Which term relates to the study of genes and heredity?

- Option: Genetic
- Option: Survivor
- Option: Desperate
- Option: Expedition

8. What term refers to measures taken to protect against potential harm or damage?

- Option: Continuity
- Option: Safeguards
- Option: Affected
- Option: Variant

9. Which term refers to physical or mental features that indicate a condition exists?

- Option: Tailored
- Option: Revolutionizing
- Option: Symptoms
- Option: Assistance

10. What gas is essential for most living organisms?

- Option: Repellent
- Option: Extract
- Option: Scuba
- Option: Oxygen

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

11. _____ different ingredients can lead to unexpected flavors and textures.

12. Technology is constantly _____ the way we live and work.

13. The new invention has the potential to _____ the industry.

14. Have you planned the complete _____ for the trip?

15. Do you need any _____ with your project?



16. The company offers _____ solutions to meet individual needs.
17. The ancient city remains _____ under the sea.
18. Please _____ the accuracy of the data before proceeding.
19. In some regions malaria is _____ during the rainy season.
20. The sudden power _____ caused chaos in the city.

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

21. The _____ of the plane crash was found after days in the wilderness.
22. The new _____ of the virus is more contagious than the original strain.
23. The disease is highly _____ through close contact with infected individuals.
24. The insect effectively keeps mosquitoes away.
25. The _____ detailed revealed interesting patterns in the data.
26. The code determines many of our inherited traits.
27. The team tested the _____ of the new treatment on a small sample.
28. The scientific _____ aimed to discover rare plant species in the rainforest.
29. The committee made several _____ for improving workplace safety.
30. The child's disruptive _____ improved after counseling sessions.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Expedition 2. Transmissible 3. Emphasized 4. Recommendations 5. Affected 6. Outage
7. Genetic 8. Safeguards 9. Symptoms 10. Oxygen

Gap-Fill: 11. Combining 12. Revolutionizing 13. Revolutionize 14. Itinerary 15. Assistance 16. Tailored
17. Submerged 18. Verify 19. Prevalent 20. Disruption

Matching sentence: 1. Survivor 2. Variant 3. Transmissible 4. Repellent 5. Analysis 6. Genetic 7. Effectiveness
8. Expedition 9. Recommendations 10. Behavior



CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

Date Created

2024/09/26

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