
Study Discovers Ancient Humans Created Lethal Wooden Weapons 300,000 Years Ago

Description

New Imaging Techniques Reveal Humans Crafted Complex Hunting Weapons from Wood 300,000 Years Ago

In a groundbreaking discovery, new imaging techniques have unveiled that humans were already crafting intricate hunting weapons from wood over 300,000 years ago, challenging the traditional view of the Stone Age. Archaeologists have long suspected that wooden tools were in use alongside stone ones, but most evidence has deteriorated over time due to wood's fragility.

By utilizing 3D microscopy and micro-CT scanners to analyze 187 wooden artifacts from Schöningen in Germany, archaeologist Dirk Leder and his team have confirmed these suspicions. The artifacts, including spears, throwing sticks, and domestic tools, were all crafted from flexible and hard woods like spruce, pine, and larch.

The wooden tools exhibited signs of a splitting technique previously thought to be exclusive to modern humans, as well as evidence of carving, scraping, and abrasion. University of Reading archaeologist Annemieke Milks expressed amazement at the level of expertise displayed in manufacturing these tools.

The discovery sheds light on the sophistication of woodworking during the Paleolithic period and highlights the slow, meticulous process required to achieve such craftsmanship. These advancements in toolmaking coincided with the rise of Neanderthals in Europe, showcasing their dominance over other early human species.

Furthermore, the researchers found evidence of up to 25 butchered animals at the site, primarily horses. This suggests that early humans not only fashioned tools for hunting but also coordinated in capturing and processing large game.

The study, published in PNAS, emphasizes the significance of hunting in human evolution, providing insights into Pleistocene woodworking techniques and the interplay of technology, behavior, and evolution. It also underscores the sustainable practices of early humans by repurposing broken tools for new purposes.

The findings offer a glimpse into the innovative capabilities of our ancestors and their profound impact on human history.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Intricate** // (adjective): Very detailed or complex.
2. **Fragility** // (noun): Quality of being delicate or easily broken.
3. **Microscopy** // (noun): Investigation of minute objects through a microscope.

4. **Abrasion** // (noun): Process of scraping or wearing away by friction.
5. **Sustainable** // (adjective): Capable of being upheld or maintained for an indefinite period.
6. **Sophistication** // (noun): Quality of being refined or complex in style or design.

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What do we call a planet that orbits a star outside of our solar system?

- Option: Exoplanet
- Option: Moon
- Option: Asteroid
- Option: Comet

2. Which term describes a planet that is capable of supporting life?

- Option: Barren
- Option: Habitable
- Option: Toxic
- Option: Frozen

3. Which type of light has longer wavelengths than visible light?

- Option: Ultraviolet
- Option: Infrared
- Option: X-ray
- Option: Gamma-ray

4. What term is used to describe substances that easily change from a solid or liquid state to a vapor?

- Option: Volatile
- Option: Stable
- Option: Inert
- Option: Solid

5. What is the process of breaking something into smaller pieces or parts called?

- Option: Aggregation
- Option: Dissolution
- Option: Fragmentation
- Option: Growth

6. Who is a person who comes after another in a position or office?

- Option: Predecessor
- Option: Leader

Option: Heir

Option: Successor

7. What term describes the process of light bouncing off a surface?

Option: Absorbing

Option: Reflecting

Option: Scattering

Option: Transmitting

8. Which term describes chaotic or unstable airflow?

Option: Calm

Option: Turbulence

Option: Serenity

Option: Stability

9. What is the quality of being delicate or easily broken?

Option: Strength

Option: Fragility

Option: Resilience

Option: Robustness

10. Which term refers to a large amount of money possessions or assets?

Option: Poverty

Option: Wealth

Option: Moderation

Option: Scarcity

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

11. The warm glow of the fireplace was _____ a comforting heat on the chilly evening.

12. I have an _____ with my dentist tomorrow for a check-up.

13. It is essential to develop _____ practices to protect the environment for future

generations.

14. The artist's painting featured an _____ design with detailed patterns.

15. There are _____ changes coming to the company but nothing has been confirmed

yet.

16. The delicious smell of freshly baked bread was _____ from the bakery down the street.

17. The weather forecast is _____ us about possible heavy rain and thunderstorms tonight.

18. Her _____ from the company left a noticeable gap in the team.

19. Learning multiple languages can be _____ for travel and career opportunities.

20. The king's palace was a symbol of his immense _____ and power.

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

21. The scientist used a powerful microscope to study the tiny organisms in the water sample.

22. The independent organization acts as a to ensure government transparency and accountability.

23. The new luxury car model exudes elegance and modern in its design.

24. The group of environmental activists were passionate for conservation and climate protection.

25. Due to the company's expansion the headquarters were to a larger building.

26. Graduating from college was a significant in her academic journey.

27. The historical museum showcases artifacts from the time of the Roman of Britain.

28. The photo album was filled with of family vacations and special occasions.

29. The research team tested the new drug before it was approved for human trials.

30. The aroma of freshly baked cookies was of her grandmother's kitchen.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Exoplanet 2. Habitable 3. Infrared 4. Volatile 5. Fragmentation 6. Successor 7. Reflecting 8. Turbulence

9. Fragility 10. Wealth

Gap-Fill: 11. emanating 12. appointment 13. sustainable 14. intricate 15. rumored 16. enameting 17. cautioning 18. departure 19. advantageous 20. wealth

Matching sentence: 1. microscopy 2. watchdog 3. sophistication 4. campaigners 5. relocated 6. milestone 7. invasion 8. snapshot 9. rigorously 10. reminiscent

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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