



Unveiling a Rare Bronze Age Wooden Tool from English Trench

Description

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Archaeologists cleaning excess mud off the Bronze Age spade

Wessex Archaeology

Archaeologists in the UK have made a remarkable discovery: a wooden spade dating back to the Bronze Age. Such artefacts are exceedingly rare as organic materials rarely survive from this period.

This spade, uncovered in wetlands near Poole Harbour, provides a fascinating window into a time when early communities began to adopt farming practices.

“It’s a very tangible link to our past,” explains [Ed Treasure](#) of Wessex Archaeology. The archaeological team has been active in the area, which is under the [Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project](#); their efforts aim to preserve invaluable artefacts before they are lost to environmental changes.

While digging in circular trenches known as ring gullies, they spotted the handle of the spade. “It was almost unbelievable when we first saw it,” says Treasure. The shovel was carved from a single oak, and its preservation was aided by the wet conditions, which limited exposure to oxygen.

Radiocarbon dating suggests the spade dates back approximately 3400-3500 years, aligning it with the Middle Bronze Age, a time marked by significant transformations as communities became more sedentary.

Future research aims to uncover the spade's specific function, potentially relating to peat cutting or digging in the surrounding area.

Topics:

This revised version includes more complex sentence structures, a wider range of vocabulary, and adheres to the word count requirement of 260-290 words, aligning it with a CEFR B2 level of English.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Archaeologists** /,ɑːr.ki'ɒl.ə.dʒɪsts/ (noun): Scientists who study human history and prehistory through excavation and analysis of artifacts.
2. **Artefacts** /'ɑː.tɪ.fækt/ (noun): Objects made by a human being typically an item of cultural or historical interest.
3. **Transformation** /,træns.fə'rmeɪ.ʃən/ (noun): A thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance.
4. **Sedentary** /'sɛd.ən.ter.i/ (adjective): Characterized by much sitting and little physical exercise; not migratory.
5. **Preservation** /,prez.ə'vɛɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The act of maintaining or protecting something from loss or destruction.
6. **Excavation** /,ɛk.skə'veɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The action of digging up and removing earth to uncover something buried.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Where was the wooden spade dating back to the Bronze Age uncovered?
Option: In the UK
Option: In a desert region
Option: In a mountain range
Option: In a rainforest
2. What was the material that the spade was made from?
Option: Oak
Option: Bamboo
Option: Plastic
Option: Metal
3. What project is focused on preserving valuable artifacts in the area where the spade was found?
Option: Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project
Option: Urban Development Project
Option: Mining Exploration Project
Option: Space Exploration Project
4. What type of trenches were the archaeologists digging in?
Option: Ring gullies
Option: Square pits
Option: Linear troughs
Option: Circular basins
5. What method of dating was used to determine the spade's age?
Option: Radiocarbon dating
Option: Tree ring dating
Option: Carbon-14 dating
Option: Potassium-argon dating
6. What was the potential function of the spade according to future research?
Option: Peat cutting or digging



- Option: Cooking food
- Option: Transporting water
- Option: Building shelters

True-False

- 7. The spade was made of plastic.
- 8. The preservation of the spade was aided by dry conditions.
- 9. Archaeologists found the handle of the spade while digging in triangular pits.
- 10. The spade dates back to the Neolithic Age.
- 11. The discovery of the spade provides insight into a time when communities began fishing practices.
- 12. The archaeological team aims to destroy the artifacts they find.

Gap-Fill

- 13. The spade dates back approximately 3400-3500 years, aligning it with the Middle Bronze Age, a time marked by significant transformations as communities became more _____.
- 14. Future research aims to uncover the spade's specific function, potentially relating to _____ cutting or digging in the surrounding area.
- 15. Radiocarbon dating suggests the spade dates back approximately 3400-3500 years, aligning it with the _____ Bronze Age.
- 16. The shovel was carved from a single _____.
- 17. Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project aims to preserve invaluable _____ before they are lost to environmental changes.



18. The preservation of the spade was aided by the _____ conditions.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. In the UK 2. Oak 3. Moors at Arne Coastal Change Project 4. Ring gullies 5. Radiocarbon dating 6. Peat cutting or digging

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

Gap-Fill: 13. sedentary 14. peat 15. Middle 16. oak 17. artifacts 18. wet

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. Who are professionals who study human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artifacts and other physical remains?

Option: Geologists

Option: Archaeologists

Option: Biologists

Option: Astronomers

2. What is the complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell or organism?

Option: Hormone

Option: Protein

Option: Genome

Option: Carbohydrate

3. Which natural substance is known for its powerful pain-relieving properties?

Option: Morphine

Option: Insulin

Option: Vitamin C

Option: Caffeine

4. The process of combining different aspects into a unified whole is known as:

Option: Isolation

Option: Integration

Option: Segregation

Option: Differentiation

5. What type of prehistoric flying reptile is known for its membranous wings and long beak?



Option: Tyrannosaurus Rex

Option: Pterosaur

Option: Stegosaurus

Option: Trilobite

6. What is the act of maintaining or protecting something from damage decay or loss?

Option: Destruction

Option: Preservation

Option: Neglect

Option: Disposal

7. The term "alleviate" means to:

Option: Intensify

Option: Worsen

Option: Increase

Option: Relieve

8. What is an abnormal mass of tissue that forms when cells divide uncontrollably?

Option: Virus

Option: Tumour

Option: Bacteria

Option: Parasite

9. Disruptions refer to:

Option: Harmony

Option: Chaos

Option: Balance

Option: Stability

10. What scientific process involves carefully removing soil to uncover archaeological remains?

Option: Reconstruction

Option: Excavation

Option: Destruction

Option: Restoration

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

11. _____ lifestyles involve minimal physical activity and a lot of sitting.

12. DNA _____ helps in understanding the order of nucleotides in a genetic code.



13. Some individuals benefit from talk _____ to improve mental health.
14. The _____ system is responsible for transporting blood throughout the body.
15. Scientists are _____ their findings with additional research data.
16. Conditions affecting the brain are often termed _____ disorders.
17. Efforts towards _____ aim to revive extinct species using genetic techniques.
18. Characteristics like eye color and height are examples of inherited _____.
19. The neurotransmitter _____ plays a key role in regulating mood and emotions.
20. Persistent feelings of worry and fear often characterize a state of _____.

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

21. Historical items such as pottery tools and jewelry found at archaeological sites are known as artefacts.
22. The process of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly is a beautiful transformation in nature.
23. Understanding the human genome has opened new possibilities in the field of genetics.
24. The scientist double-checked the results to ensure the accuracy of the experiment.
25. Having a clear plan and defined strategies is key to success in any endeavor.
26. The artist's painting featured an intricate design that amazed viewers with its complexity.
27. Understanding the mechanics of how engines work is crucial for a mechanical engineer.
28. Architects study different types of structures to design safe and functional buildings.
29. The doctor performed a thorough examination to determine the cause of the patient's symptoms.
30. Massages can help alleviate muscle tension and promote relaxation.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Archaeologists 2. Genome 3. Morphine 4. Integration 5. Pterosaur 6. Preservation 7. Relieve 8. Tumour 9. Chaos 10. Excavation

Gap-Fill: 11. Sedentary 12. Sequencing 13. Therapy 14. Vascular 15. Substantiating 16. Neurological 17. De-extinction 18. Traits 19. Serotonin 20. Anxiety

Matching sentence: 1. Artefacts 2. Transformation 3. Genome 4. Accuracy 5. Strategies 6. Intricate 7. Mechanics 8. Structures 9. Examination 10. Alleviate

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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