

# Windover Site

In 1982 in Titusville, Florida a burial site in a shallow pond was discovered. The pond had turned to peat many years before that which helped preserve the bones and even brain tissue of the ancient people buried in this pond. The bodies were so well preserved due to the peat preventing oxygen in. The people and objects found in this pond were between 7,000 and 8,000 years old. There were over 167 remains of people and artifacts discovered in this pond. The skeletons found were of both adults and children and they were buried wrapped in fabric with valuable artifacts that included bones, carved wooden objects, and tools. The artifacts were often made of wood, bone, and antler. Plants were also buried including prickly pear pads gourds. The fabric wrapped around the bodies is some of the oldest ever found. Making the fabric into something that could be wrapped around a body took a long time. Archaeologists believe that the Windover people probably made Titusville their semi-permanent home, maybe only living here in the spring and summer. These ancient people are thought to be a caring and less nomadic people. It is believed these people cared for the sick and injured. These people were not entirely peaceful however as some skeletons were found with fractures and other wounds.

## **Objectives:**

### **Second Grade:**

Discuss the necessities that the Windover people relied on to survive-compare and contrast with what we use to survive today.

Locate Florida on a map.

Understand new vocabulary introduced.

Have a basic understanding of the Windover site and write an expository/informational paragraph about the site.

Estimate and use standard units including inches and centimeters to measure lengths of objects.

### **Science:**

SC.2.L.17.1 Compare and contrast the basic needs that all living things, including humans, have for survival.—What were some of the things the people of the Windover site probably relied on in order to survive? Do you think we use any of these same things today in order to survive? What do we use today to survive that the Windover people might not have had?

### **Social Studies**

SS.2.G.1.2 Using maps and globes, locate the student's hometown, Florida, and North America, and locate the state capital and the national capital.

The Windover site was found in Titusville, Florida. Using a map can you locate Florida?

### **Reading & Language:**

Vocabulary:

**Artifacts:** 1.any object made by human beings, esp. with a view to subsequent use.

2.a handmade object, as a tool, or the remains of one, as a shard of pottery, characteristic of an earlier time or cultural stage, esp. such an object found at an archaeological excavation.

**Peat:** 1.a highly organic material found in marshy or damp regions, composed of partially decayed vegetable matter: it is cut and dried for use as fuel.

Archaeology:

**Nomad:** 1.a member of a people or tribe that has no permanent abode but moves about from place to place, usually seasonally and often following a traditional route or circuit according to the state of the pasturage or food supply.

**Archaeology:** 1.the scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains, esp. those that have been excavated.

**Shard:** 1.a fragment, esp. of broken earthenware

LA.2.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly; What were some of the artifacts found at the Windover site?

LA.2.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository paragraphs that contain a topic sentence, supporting details, and relevant information;

Write a paragraph about the Windover site and discuss why it is important using the information you learned from the exhibit.

### **Mathematics:**

MA.2.G.3.1 Estimate and use standard units, including inches and centimeters, to partition and measure lengths of objects.

The scientists of the Windover site found parts of skeletons such as skulls, using a ruler measure one of your classmates head from top to chin.