

# 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:**

### **Third Grade:**

Understand the role of the archaeologists and the importance of questions, discussing, & checking evidence.

Understand the role the environment played in the Windover people settling in Titusville.

Understand new vocabulary introduced.

Demonstrate knowledge of the Windover site through an expository/informational paragraph.

Construct and analyze a bar graph.

## **Science:**

SC.3.N.1.5 Recognize that scientists question, discuss, and check each others' evidence and explanations.—Many archaeologists worked on digging up the graves and researching this site. Why is it so important that these archaeologists question, discuss, and check each other's evidence and explanations?

## **Social Studies**

SS.3.G.4.1 Explain how the environment influences settlement patterns in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

What role did the environment play in the Windover people settling where they did?

**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.3.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly;  
What were some of the artifacts found at the Windover site and why were they important?

LA.3.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository essays that contain at least three paragraphs and include a topic sentence, supporting details, and relevant information;  
What was the Windover site and discuss why this site was important using the information you learned from the exhibit.

**Mathematics:**

MA.3.S.7.1 Construct and analyze frequency tables, bar graphs, pictographs, and line plots from data, including data collected through observations, surveys, and experiments.

Let's imagine that one of the scientists of the Windover site found 3 skulls, 10 femur bones, 18 ribs, and 12 tibias. Make a bar graph representing this data. Write down three observations about your bar graph.