

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:

Grade 4:

Understand the importance of evidence and apply this knowledge to the Windover site.

Discuss physical features of Florida and how these impacted the Windover people.

Understand new vocabulary introduced.

Have a basic understanding of the Windover site and demonstrate this understanding through a written summary of the site.

Compare and order decimals.

Science:

SC.4.N.1.7 Recognize and explain that scientists base their explanations on evidence.

The archaeologists that worked on the Windover site had to use evidence to come up with their explanations for things such as why the Windover people were probably a caring people. What type of evidence did the archaeologists use to come to this conclusion? Can you give another example of something you saw in the exhibit where the archaeologist's provided evidence to come up with an explanation for something?

Social Studies

SS.4.G.1.1 Identify physical features of Florida.

What are some physical features of Florida, how do you think these physical features affected the Windover people?

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.4.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly? Describe the job of an archaeologist.

LA.4.4.2.1 The student will write in a variety of informational/expository forms (e.g., summaries, procedures, recipes, instructions, graphs/tables, experiments, rubrics, how-to manuals);

After viewing the exhibit and reading about the Windover site write a summary about the Windover site and why you think it is important.

Mathematics:

MA.4.A.2.4 Compare and order decimals, and estimate fraction and decimal amounts in real-world problems. Imagine that a scientist at the Windover site is digging different levels in the peat and takes measurements and records what they find at each level and these are the different measurements they took in no particular order

2.4 feet

1.5 feet

.5 feet

7.3

7.5 feet

2.2 feet

.7 feet

.1 feet

Put the measurements in order from closest to the surface to the farther or deepest.