

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 5:

Recognize the difference between personal opinion/interpretation & verified observation and demonstrate this knowledge when discussing Windover site.

Use latitude and longitude to locate Titusville, Florida.

Have a basic understanding of the Windover site and the importance of the artifacts found.

Apply the formula for finding the area of a parallelogram.

Science:

SC.5.N.1.6 Recognize and explain the difference between personal opinion/interpretation and verified observation.

The archaeologists concluded that the Windover people were probably not a peaceful people. Is this based on personal opinion or verified observation and why?

Social Studies

SS.5.G.1.2 Use latitude and longitude to locate places.

Can you find Titusville on a map using latitude and longitude?

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.5.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly; Describe the job of an archaeologist and give some examples of artifacts found at the Windover site.

After viewing the exhibit is it believed that the Windover people were nomadic? Why or why not?

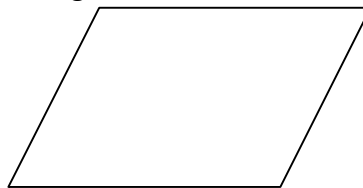
LA.5.4.2.1 The student will write in a variety of informational/expository forms (e.g., summaries, procedures, instructions, experiments, rubrics, how-to manuals, assembly instructions);

Write a summary about the Windover site and what the artifacts found tell us about the Windover people.

Mathematics:

MA.5.G.5.4 Derive and apply formulas for areas of parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids from the area of a rectangle.

Imagine that the area the archaeologists are excavating for skeletons is in the shape of a parallelogram with a base of 10.3 feet and height of 17.4 feet.



What is the area of this parallelogram?