

# 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 6:**

Understand that science sometimes relies on creativity to form explanations and find examples of explanations that used creativity in the Windover site.

Explain how major physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and absolute and relative locations have influenced settlement, interactions, and the economies of ancient civilizations of the world.

Understand new vocabulary introduced and be able to use it.

Have a basic understanding of the Windover site and demonstrate this knowledge through an essay discussing the importance of the site and what the artifacts tell us about the people that lived here.

Compare and order decimals and find their location on a number line.

## **Science:**

SC.6.N.1.5 Recognize that science involves creativity, not just in designing experiments, but also in creating explanations that fit evidence.

Can you give an example of where the archaeologists used creativity in creating an explanation that fits their evidence?

## **Social Studies**

**SS.6.G.2.1** Explain how major physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and absolute and relative locations have influenced settlement, interactions, and the economies of ancient civilizations of the world.

Titusville may have only been a semi permanent site which the people of Windover lived at during spring and summer but the physical characteristics of the land, natural resources, climate, and location still played an important role. How do you think major physical characteristics, climate, natural resources, and location influenced the Windover people to settle in Titusville?

## **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.6.1.6.1** The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly; What type of work does an archaeologist perform and what is an artifact. Give an example of some of the artifacts found at the Windover site.

What is peat and what role did it play in the Windover site?

**LA.6.4.2.3** The student will write informational/expository essays (e.g., process, description, explanation, comparison/contrast, problem/solution) that include a thesis statement, supporting details, and introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs; Discuss the importance of the Windover site and what the artifacts found tell us about the Windover people.

## **Mathematics:**

**MA.6.A.5.2** Compare and order fractions, decimals, and percents, including finding their approximate location on a number line.

Imagine that the archaeologists at the Windover site found whole skeletons and fractions of skulls and other bones and recorded their observations:

- A.) 15.4 skulls
- B.) 17.4 tibias
- C.) 14.2 femurs
- D.) 24.6 ribs
- E.) 18.9 metacarpals
- F.) 18.7 metatarsals
- G.) 14.3 fibulas

Draw a number line and place the bones in the appropriate spots.