

THE SECRETS OF STONEHENGE

Stonehenge Secrets

CHORAL READING

- 1) Have an adult read the paragraph to you and make sure that you are listening carefully.
- 2) The adult to re-read the text and you can then join in with words or phrases that you recognise.
- 3) Have a go reading it all with a partner - read it together (at the same time). Try and stay at the same speed.
- 4) Can you now read it on your own aloud?

Stonehenge Secrets

How do we know so much about the life of Stonehenge? Well, even tiny fragments of cremated skeletons from the early times of Stonehenge give clues to archaeologists. Later, people started to be buried in graves with belongings such as pottery, arrows, stone tools and even some of the earliest metal objects. The 'Amesbury Archer' is one of the fascinating skeletons found nearby. Slowly but surely, all these discoveries build a picture of Stonehenge in all its phases.

BEFORE WE LOOK AT THE TEXT AGAIN, HERE IS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMESBURY ARCHER

Who was the Amesbury Archer?

In 2002, archaeologists at Amesbury, in Wiltshire made an amazing find. They discovered the grave of a Bronze Age man, just two miles from Stonehenge.

He was buried with around 100 objects! The people who buried him must have believed that he would use the objects in the next world.

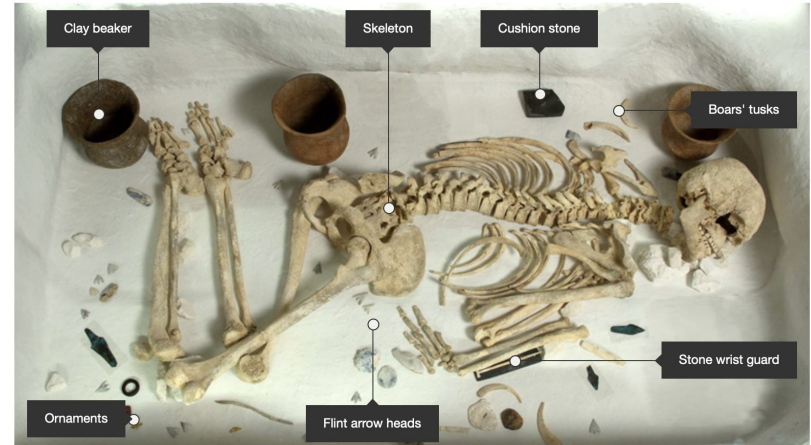
When the man was found, he was nicknamed 'the Amesbury Archer'. This was because he was buried with arrowheads and wrist-guards used by archers.

In fact, the Amesbury Archer probably spent most of his time working with metal. One of the objects in his grave was a cushion stone - a tool used by metalworkers.



Tests on the Archer's skeleton show that he lived around 2300BC, grew up in the mountains of mainland Europe then travelled to England as an adult.

What can you learn about the Amesbury Archer from his grave?



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Glossary

Fragments - a small part broken off or separated from something

Archaeologist – a person who learns about human history by looking at artefacts found

Pottery – items made out of clay

I'm the
Amesbury
Archer.

Study of the
Amesbury Archer's
skeleton reveals three
important facts to the
experts:

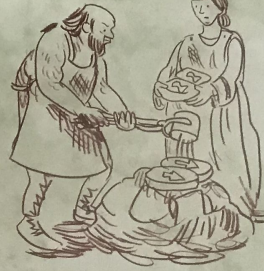
- He had been born in
the Swiss Alps about
4,300 years ago.

wrist
guard

- He had survived
a terrible injury that
had torn off his left
knee-cap.

- Another skeleton buried close
by must have been a relative,
as they both shared a rare
abnormality of the foot.

The Amesbury Archer was buried with rich possessions
such as gold hair decorations, precious copper knives and
flint arrows. These show he was a very important figure.
Perhaps he was a leader, warrior or some sort of priest?



The 'Beaker People', named after their
distinctively patterned pottery, were
the people of the late Stone Age and
early Bronze Age. This was a period of
time when ideas about metal-working
spread across Europe and into Britain.



The Stonehenge Archer was a local
man who lived about 4,300 years ago.
He wore an archer's wrist guard but
the only arrow archeologists found was
the one stuck in his bones. It's possible
that he may even have been a sacrifice.

Glossary

Abnormality – something that is
not the norm (not normal)

Possessions - things that you own

Precious – meaning a lot to
someone

Important figure – an important
person

QUESTION TIME - WHICH WORDS OR PHRASES WILL HELP YOU?

- 1) How do we know that the Amesbury Archer was an important person?
- 2) Give me one interesting fact about the Amesbury Archer.
- 3) How are we able to learn so much about the life of Stonehenge?