



HISTORY DETECTIVES

What is a History Detective?

A History Detective is somebody who looks at events in the past. They do not want to catch criminals or bring anybody to justice. History detectives want to find out about the past for its own sake, and learn about what has gone before from the clues other people have found. The further back in the past we look the harder it is to find clues. We must get help from people like archaeologists to find out what happened a very long time ago.

Am I a History Detective?

YES! In today's lesson you will be a History Detective. We are going to investigate a murder that happened in Denmark during the Iron Age (remember this is when the Celts lived). Using a selection of PRIMARY and SECONDARY evidence about the murder you will try and work out why a man was killed.

If you think that YOU are up to this challenge then watch the video closely and read the following information carefully. The Tollund Man is relying on you to decide who killed him and why they did it.

The Tollund Man Mystery



This body was found in a peat bog on Tollund Fen in Denmark in May 1950. Two men were digging peat for burning. As they worked they suddenly saw in the peat layer a face so fresh they thought they had come across a recent murder. They called the police. The men carefully removed the peat from the body till more of him could be seen. The man lay on his right side as if he was asleep. He wore no clothes, except for a pointed skin cap and a smooth hide belt. His hair was cut short. Round the neck was a rope noose and an iron neck ring. It was drawn tight around his neck and throat.

Questions

1. Who found the body?
2. Where was the body found?
3. What did they find on the body?



These items were not found on the Tollund man but are similar to those around his neck. The item on the right is a rope noose and the item on the left is a neck ring. Iron Age people buried neck rings with their dead as an offering to the Spring Goddess.

| SCIENTIFIC REPORT | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>AGE</u> | The heart and other organs were healthy. The wisdom teeth had grown. These kinds of teeth appear in people around 20 years old. |
| <u>THE STOMACHE</u> | The man had eaten soup at least 12 hours before he died. The soup was made up of seeds that were connected only with the Spring. |
| <u>DATE OF BURIAL</u> | When they dug the grave some plants had got trapped under the body. These type of plants were about 2,000 years old. |

Questions

4. What evidence in the **SCIENTIFIC REPORT** suggests that the man did not die of old age or disease?
5. Examine the picture at the top of this page. What do you think killed this man?
6. How long ago do you think the body was buried and what is your evidence?

Evidence and clues that might help us learn more about the man:

WRITTEN CLUES: These were written around 97-98 A.D. by Tacitus, a Roman, in his book about Germanic tribes.

CLUE A

The German tribes hang traitors from trees and drown cowards in fens under piles of sticks.

CLUE B

The German tribes worship the Goddess of Spring. Every Spring a cart carries a statue of the Goddess in a procession. Afterwards the cart and statue are washed by slaves, and then the slaves are sacrificed.

Questions

7. The German tribes once lived in Denmark. The body was a German, **CLUE A** tells you why he might have been killed. Complete the following sentence:

CLUE A suggests that the man might have been killed because.....

Clue C

An Earth Goddess of Spring Statue found in a Bog



8. Now look at **CLUES B** and **C**. Do they suggest a different reason why the Tollund Man was killed. What is this reason? Complete the following sentence:

CLUES B and **C** suggest that the man was killed because.....

9. Now look back at the **SCIENTIFIC REPORT**. Is there any evidence in it that agrees with the idea that Tollund Man was part of a sacrifice? Write a sentence explaining what the evidence is.
10. Now write a brief detective's report about what **YOU** think happened to the Tollund Man. Use the information in this booklet and from the video to help you.