



SUTTON HOO

Who was Buried in the Tombs?

This activity is aimed at Key Stage 2: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past. Pupils will describe and make links between main events, situations and changes within and across different periods and societies.

Objectives

To encourage pupils to think about why people may be buried in different ways. To explore what evidence is needed to come to a conclusion and that evidence can be used to come to different conclusions.

Resources

<http://www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk>
<http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass/>
<http://www.icons.org.uk/theicons/collection/sutton-hoo-helmet>

Discussion

Using an electronic whiteboard, navigate the URLs in the mentioned resources. When exploring the British Museum Ancient Civilizations website, navigate the religion component of the site, and explore the Anglo-Saxon period for a virtual tour of the burial site at Sutton Hoo.



Sutton Hoo - Who Was Buried in the Tombs?



Explain to your pupils that archaeologists are detectives. They are looking for evidence to reconstruct the past just like a police detective looks for clues to a murder. Sometimes the clues can point to the wrong person. Sometimes archaeologists reconstruct the past in one way but new evidence can change their ideas.

Have your pupils think about what evidence they would need to discover who was buried in the grave.

How can we tell whether the person buried was a man or a woman?

How might we be able to tell whether it was a man or a woman if the body has rotted away?

What sort of objects are buried around the person, and what does this tell us about them?

Now explore the Ancient Civilizations virtual burial ground on Sutton Hoo on your e-whiteboard and generate discussion in the classroom.

You can then navigate to the Compass website provided by the British Museum, showing pupils images of the Sutton Hoo helmet, and various other objects found at the Sutton Hoo burial site.

Going through the objects found in the tomb, ask them to think about how these objects could identify a person's sex, profession, and interests.

Ask your pupils about what types of materials last. Cloth, wood, bodies rot away easily while metal and stone survives the test of time.

How might this affect the way we reconstruct what was going on? Discuss the reconstruction of the Sutton Hoo Helmet.

Finish the lesson by asking pupils to think about what will survive from today in four thousand years.

