



Outcomes:

HT4-1: describes the nature of history and archaeology and explains their contribution to an understanding of the past

HT4-6: uses evidence from sources to support historical narratives and explanations

HT4-9: uses a range of historical terms and concepts when communicating an understanding of the past

HT4-10: selects and uses appropriate oral, written, visual and digital forms to communicate about the past

The Task

Your task is to take on the role of an historian writing a research paper on “the world’s most important archaeological find”. You will begin with a series of questions that you will need to answer using as much evidence as possible. You will need to collect the evidence, interpret it and link the evidence together to create a coherent explanation of the significance of your chosen archaeological discovery. This will be a written report with relevant images and /or graphics.

Word limit: 600 words

You may choose from one of the following:

1. The discovery of the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen by famous archaeologist, Howard Carter, in 1922.
2. The discovery of a new species of hominid ('the Hobbit') on the island of Flores in Indonesia in 2003
3. The discovery of the Rosetta Stone (which unlocked the secrets of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics) by French soldiers in 1799
4. The discovery of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, which was buried during a volcanic eruption in 79 AD when Mount Vesuvius exploded. It was lost for nearly 1700 years.
5. The discovery of Knossos, Crete. Arthur Evans' excavations in 1900-1905 uncovered a vast Middle Bronze Age (c.1900-1450 BC) palace complex boasting some 1,300 rooms, many decorated with colourful frescoes of dolphins, griffins, and athletes engaged in bull-leaping.
6. Machu Picchu, Peru - 'Rediscovered' by Hiram Bingham in 1911, this monumental 'lost' Inca citadel was built in the mid-15th century.
7. 1938 - Sutton Hoo, England Basil Brown uncovered a massive intact ship burial, containing the richest haul of Anglo Saxon grave goods in archaeological history. Imported Byzantine objects, enigmatic religious symbols, recreational objects and weaponry – including the world-famous helmet – allowed vivid insights into the Anglo-Saxon world.
8. Discovered by farmers in 1974, the "terracotta warriors" are 8,000 soldiers stand guard to protect the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, unifier and first Emperor of China. The soldiers are accompanied by 130 chariots pulled by over 500 horses, as well as 150 cavalry horses and civilian officials, acrobats and musicians.

Your report should answer all the following questions:

1. Why is this considered one of the world's greatest archaeological finds?
2. Who found it? Is the person famous for other finds?
3. When was it found?
4. How was it found? Was it found accidentally or purposefully?
5. What archaeological techniques/methods were used?
6. What difficulties were encountered? How were they overcome?
7. What artefacts were found and what do they reveal about the culture/people who left them behind?
8. Where are the artefacts now?
9. Can people view them?
10. What has the find taught you about history and the work of archaeologists and historians?
What would you like to know more about?

