

Student Handout —Jigsaw on Archaeological Sites

In this lesson, you will learn about life in three different ancient agrarian villages by reading about what archaeologists have learned at one specific archaeological site and then learning from your classmates about two other sites. This is called a jigsaw activity.

In a jigsaw activity, you work cooperatively in two different groups. In the first group, the Expert Group, you will read about, discuss, and take notes on your assigned archaeological site. In the second group, the Peer Teaching Group, you will teach your new group members about your site and then learn from them about their sites.

Expert Group:

In the expert group, you will study the same site together in order to become an “expert” on it. In addition, you also need to plan **how** you will teach the other students about this topic when you move into the Peer Teaching Groups. You are not allowed to simply pass around your work and let other students copy it. You must have a presentation plan which shows topic knowledge as well as a means for sharing it (other than copying). When you can teach new material to others, you are demonstrating mastery of that material... the process of teaching the information is as important as the information itself. You are responsible for making sure that everyone in your Expert Group understands the materials well enough to teach it to others. If your group needs help while you work, first ask other groups in studying the same site for assistance before you ask your teacher. Don’t let only one person do all of the work!

- 1) As a group, decide if you want to read the article out loud or silently. If you read out loud, take turns. Then read the article on your site, keeping the following Focus Questions in mind: **“Why do you think people settled in this particular spot? What information in the text helps you answer this question?”**

Once you have read the article, discuss the focus questions in your group. Summarize the main points of your discussion here:

People probably settled in this spot because...

The information in the text that helped us come up with this answer includes...

- 2) Your teacher will now hand out a graphic organizer. Only fill out the column for your assigned site. Work together by helping each other find information in the text that you can use to complete each section of the chart. You will each have your own chart, and you should agree on what you will write so that you have the same ideas on your papers.

Student Handout—Investigating Archaeological Sites Jericho, Southwest Asia

Jericho is located four miles west of the Jordan River, twenty miles east of Jerusalem, and ten miles northwest of where the Jordan meets the Dead Sea. Jericho is one of the lowest cities in the world, at approximately 825 feet below sea level. Archaeologists date the site at Neolithic Jericho to approximately 9,000 BCE. The location of ancient Jericho, built on a “tell,” or settlement mound, proved ideal for farming and trade. An underground spring, still flowing today at a rate of more than one thousand gallons per hour, is a major reason why people have been so successful in their farming endeavors, both in ancient times and today.

Ancient Jericho probably began as a camp of hunter-gatherers who took advantage of the abundant fresh water from the underground spring. Archaeologists have discovered evidence to suggest this, including abandoned tools and the remnants of wild plants and animals. The overlying layers illustrate the dramatic changes that followed.

Remnants of round houses, often in clusters, and connected by adobe walls (probably to keep livestock out of the inner yards) have been found. These houses were constructed of mud bricks, with inclined walls and domed roofs, and nearby cultivated fields. This was the beginning of agriculture and a reliable and renewable food source. Grains grown were wheat, rice, rye, oats, millet, and barley. Food could be raised in abundance and stored for the future. Ancient Jericho prospered with cultivated crops of barley and wheat, as well as domesticated sheep and goats. The organized society that developed can be seen in the variety of objects, including plastered human skulls used in rituals, tools replete with decorative carvings, and jewelry. Many of the knives found have a gloss on the blade, known to result from the cutting of grasses and cereal grains.

The people of ancient Jericho constructed a wall, for both fortification and flood control, 6.5 feet thick and up to 20 feet high, encompassing an area of approximately six acres. The total area of the city was about nine acres. It is believed, based on the archaeologist's rule of thumb of 200 persons per acre, that up to 1,200 people might have lived in ancient Jericho at its peak. One of the most amazing discoveries has been a circular stone tower with an internal stairway. The purpose of the tower is not known.

Evidence of trade is seen in the minerals and shells not found locally, such as obsidian and various green stones indigenous to Anatolia, turquoise from Sinai, and cowry shells possibly from the Red Sea. Jericho could have exported resources such as salt and bitumen (a tar-like material used to stick things together).

The excavation of some artifacts, such as greenstone amulets, hint at religious rituals. Burial rituals and ideas about death can be surmised from location and position of skeletons found.

Source: “Big Era 3.” World History For us All. San Diego State University. 20 April. 2012
<http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/>.



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Student Handout—Investigating Archaeological Sites Chilca, South America

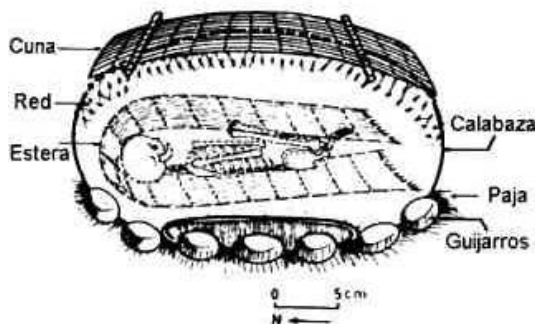
The Chilca Valley lies on the eastern coast of Peru, flanked on the east by the Andes Mountains and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The area lies at an altitude of 4000 meters, about 70 kilometers south of Lima. It has served as an important traveling route for coastal inhabitants to access the highlands. Within the Chilca Valley, two major archaeological sites have been discovered, Tres Ventanas and Kiqche. Each includes about two acres of excavations. The area is believed to have been inhabited by hunter-gatherers from the Early Archaic Period through the Formative Period (8000-5000 BCE).

Around 5000 BCE people in the area began to cultivate seeds and tubers indigenous to the area – potatoes, gourds, and lima beans, followed by squashes, peanuts, and cotton. They may have done this owing to the increasing scarcity of deer and camelids, the indigenous animals that had been a source of protein.

Evidence of tools used by the people of the Chilca Valley, such as stone blades and knives, has been found. Archaeology has evidence of dwelling construction, garbage heaps, and burial sites, further demonstrating that the people of Chilca settled there for a long period. The dwellings found in the village were well built and used sophisticated architectural techniques. Construction of the huts included heavy branches and brush, with “carpets” of organic material, and ceilings held up with a center pole.

Three different types of burial rituals were evident at the Chilca site: individual graves, graves containing up to eight bodies, and graves with large numbers of bodies. In each of the grave types, bodies were wrapped in organic material, and sometimes even in woven cotton. Evidence of the special importance of children in the community can be inferred by extra care taken in their burial. After being wrapped in cotton, the deceased child was laid on a bed of stone or sand surrounded by straw. The jewelry and fine fabrics buried with children are additional signs of respect for the dead and for children.

The Chilca people acquired knowledge through trial and error, discovering that alternating crops allowed the minerals in the soil to rebuild, thus producing a greater yield. They domesticated such vegetables as potatoes, yams, and ullucos.



Burial of a Fetus

<http://www.arqueologia.com.ar/peru/chilca.htm>

Source: “Big Era 3.” World History For us All. San Diego State University. 20 April 2012
<http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/>.

Student Handout —Investigating Archaeological Sites Ban-po-ts'un, East Asia

One of the earliest and best-investigated early farming sites is Ban-po-ts'un in East Asia, also called Banpo [baan paw]. It is located in northern China near the famous medieval city of Xian, in Shanxi province. The site belongs to the Neolithic period, or New Stone Age, and was settled from 6000 years ago. It is located near the ancient city of Xian, at longitude 108 E by latitude 34 N, and 412 meters above sea level. The site of this early farming village is 12.5 to 17.5 acres (5-7 hectares). It consisted of about 100 houses, both round and square in shape, surrounded by a defensive drainage ditch. The site was continuously occupied over a long period of time.

One area of the village showed evidence of five house floors on top of each other, showing that it was continuously remodeled and rebuilt over time. Some of the houses had floors sunk about 1 meter below the ground. The circular houses were about 3-5m in diameter (10-16 ft). They had timber beams resting on stone bases, with steep thatched roofs. The floors and walls were plastered with clay and straw. Circular or pear-shaped fireplaces at the center of the houses were lined with clay. Among the houses, storage pits and animal pens were found at the center of the settlement. (Image on next page.)

Rich farming soils surrounded the village, where people grew millet for food and hemp for fiber. Pigs and dogs were domesticated, and bones of cattle, sheep, and goats have been found. A cut silkworm cocoon may be evidence of early silk cultivation.

At Banpo, people made farming tools like bone hoes from the shoulder blades of sheep and cattle, as well as polished stone adzes, axes, and knives. Archaeologists found many digging stick weights at the site. Stone spindle whorls (weights) and bone needles are evidence of clothing production. Fishhooks, stone net sinkers, and bone or quartz arrow points show that people added to their diet of grain by hunting and fishing. Bones of deer and remains of chestnuts, hazelnuts, and pine nuts are also evidence that hunting and gathering still made up part of their diet.

Among the most abundant artifacts found at Banpo were 500,000 pieces of pottery. Six kilns for firing pottery were located around the village. Most of the containers found were handmade vessels called red ware, made from red clay. Some of the pottery was plain and coarse and used for cooking. Craftspeople also made water vessels and food serving bowls from finer clay. They decorated the pottery vessels by pressing twisted cord, fingernails, baskets, or textiles into the clay into the wet clay. Some of the most beautiful pottery bowls and jars were painted black with geometric and animal designs called.

Adults were buried in a cemetery outside the ditch at the north end of the settlement. Corpses were placed in pits, 2 m (6.5 ft) deep in rows. Individuals were buried alone, in an extended position. Ceramic vessels were included with the body in most of the graves. Infants and small children were most often buried in redware pottery jars near the houses. One child burial was in a wooden tomb with green jade pendant, string of 63 bone disk beads, four ceramic vessels, and three stone pellets.

Toward the end of the occupation of the village of Banpo, the inhabitants built a large rectangular structure on a manmade platform 20 x 12.5 m (65 x 41 ft) in the center of the village. A low wall that may have had posts in it to support walls that are no longer there ringed the platform. The earthen structure was plastered with a white limey substance hardened by baking. Archaeologists think it may have been a clan house or a communal assembly hall used for ceremonies or worship.



Source: "Big Era 3." World History For us All. San Diego State University. 20 April 2012
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