

Grade 7 Social Sciences Worksheet

Assessment Task: History Archaeology 1

Time lines: The history of the Earth / Archaeology

1. Match the time to the event in the table, by writing the number of the event next to the correct time. [5]

	Years ago	Event
1 – First humans	4 000 million	
2 – Extinction of the dinosaurs	65 million	
3 – Ancient Egyptian civilisation	2 million	
4 – Age of the Earth	150 000	
5 – Development of human speech	5 000	

2.1 If you found a rock painting showing a dinosaur, would you believe that:

- A you had made a major archaeological discovery, because nobody has ever found such a painting before.
- B people who did rock paintings often painted dinosaurs so it is nothing unusual.
- C it must be a fake, because ancient peoples lived in Africa and dinosaurs in America.
- D it must be a fake, because humans and dinosaurs lived in different times. [2]

2.2 Give an example of evidence supporting your choice in 2.1. [2]

3.1 **Before writing was invented**, historical evidence was left behind in several different ways. List three of these forms of historical evidence. [3]

3.2 Briefly explain why written evidence is so important to archaeologists and historians. [3]

4. Imagine you are part of an archaeological team in the Free State that finds a grave with a skeleton in it. Buried with the skeleton are a bow and several arrows; an empty ostrich egg; a small leather bag containing some herbs; and a clay pot containing some roots and dried out fruit. Around the neck is a leather thong (string) on which is the tooth of a lion. It appears the person has died as a result of a crushing blow to his chest.

Write a paragraph to interpret this evidence. Say something about how old you think the evidence is; whether the person was male or female; what skills the person had; and how he died. Give reasons for your conclusions. You may add any other thought that you have. [10]

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Suggested Solutions

1. Match the time to the event in the table, by writing the number of the event next to the correct time.
 [5]

	Years ago	Event
1 – First humans	4 000 million	4
2 – Extinction of the dinosaurs	65 million	2
3 – Ancient Egyptian civilisation	2 million	1
4 – Age of the Earth	150 000	5
5 – Development of human speech	5 000	3

2.1 If you found a rock painting showing a dinosaur, would you believe that:
 D - it must be a fake, because humans and dinosaurs lived in different times.
 [2]

2.2 Give an example of evidence supporting your choice in 2.1.
 They can get one mark if they choose a wrong answer, but provide evidence that IS true. For example, if they chose A, it would be true that nobody has ever found an ancient painting depicting dinosaurs and if an ancient painting showing dinosaurs was found it would change our thinking about humans and dinosaurs. However, the overwhelming weight of evidence is that such a painting will never be found.
 [2]

3.1 Before writing was invented, historical evidence was left behind in several different ways. List three of these forms of historical evidence.
 [3]
 Any three of: Fossils, burial sites, artefacts (tools, beads, weapons etc.), buildings, rubbish sites (middens), paintings, petroglyphs (rock carvings).

3.2 Briefly explain why written evidence is so important to archaeologists and historians.
 [3]
 Written evidence records the actual thinking of ancient people. Artefacts only indirectly tell us what they thought. For example, an amulet of a lion tooth does not really tell us what power, if any, they believed the lion tooth holds. But a written description of the lion as a 'god' would tell us a lot more.

4. Imagine you are part of an archaeological team in the Free State that finds a grave with a skeleton in it. Buried with the skeleton are a bow and several arrows; an empty ostrich egg; a small leather bag containing some herbs; and a clay pot containing some roots and dried out fruit. Around the neck is a leather thong (string) on which is the tooth of a lion. It appears the person has died as a result of a crushing blow to his chest.

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Write a paragraph to interpret this evidence. Say something about how old you think the evidence is; whether the person was male or female; what skills the person had; and how he died. Give reasons for your conclusions. You may add any other thought that you have. [10]

The skeleton is not very ancient, because there is still leather and plant material. These would have decayed completely in a very ancient grave. It is most likely a male (women generally are not the hunters). Another human would not be able to deliver a death blow such as this, so it was probably a large animal such as a buffalo. The lion tooth probably indicates some belief in the power of the lion.