

## 50,000-year-old piece of string found

17th April, 2020



Archaeologists have discovered the oldest piece of string ever found. The archaeologists are very happy about their find. The first reason they are happy is that the string they found is around 50,000 years old. The second

reason is that the string shows that Neanderthals were more intelligent than we previously thought they were. Neanderthals were an early species of humans that became extinct about 35,000 years ago. The string shows that Neanderthals had a good understanding of plants and textiles. The archaeologists say Neanderthals may have used the string to make clothes, bags, rope, mats and other things. This means they were probably as intelligent as modern humans.

The piece of string that the archaeologists found was tiny but it reveals a lot about how people lived 50,000 years ago. Dr Marie-Helene Moncel, director of research at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, said: "We were able to uncover details about the fibres and we observed that they're different, twisted fibres. It is not possible to find these kinds of fibres in nature." She added: "In my opinion, different things can be related to this discovery. Obviously, the ability of Neanderthals to make cord, but also their huge knowledge about trees. They knew about vegetation, plants and trees, and had the intelligence to use different parts of the environment."

Sources: yahoo.com / metro.co.uk / independent.co.uk

### Writing

We all need to carry some string with us. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

archaeologist / string / happy / reason / intelligent / species / humans / plants / bags / tiny / 50,000 years ago / research / museum / nature / discovery / knowledge / trees

### True / False

- a) Archaeologists are not very happy with finding the string. T / F
- b) Scientists say Neanderthals were more intelligent than we thought. T / F
- c) Neanderthals died out about 35,000 years ago. T / F
- d) The archaeologists said Neanderthals used string to make silk. T / F
- e) The string shows very little about how Neanderthals lived. T / F
- f) A researcher found that the string was not found in nature. T / F
- g) Neanderthals had a lot of knowledge of trees and plants. T / F
- h) Neanderthals used different parts of the environment. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>discovered</b>    | a. knowledge  |
| 2. <b>happy</b>         | b. bits       |
| 3. <b>shows</b>         | c. very small |
| 4. <b>understanding</b> | d. reveals    |
| 5. <b>intelligent</b>   | e. find out   |
| 6. <b>tiny</b>          | f. found      |
| 7. <b>uncover</b>       | g. very big   |
| 8. <b>opinion</b>       | h. clever     |
| 9. <b>huge</b>          | i. pleased    |
| 10. <b>parts</b>        | j. belief     |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think life was like 50,000 years ago?
- c) What could we use instead of string?
- d) How interested are you in natural history?
- e) What do archaeologists do every day?
- f) Would you like to be an archaeologist?
- g) What do you know about trees?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the archaeologists?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. archaeologists are very happy     | a. of humans                |
| 2. more intelligent than             | b. as modern humans         |
| 3. an early species                  | c. of the environment       |
| 4. make clothes, bags, rope, mats    | d. people lived             |
| 5. they were probably as intelligent | e. fibres in nature         |
| 6. it reveals a lot about how        | f. and other things         |
| 7. We were able to uncover           | g. to this discovery        |
| 8. possible to find these kinds of   | h. about their find         |
| 9. different things can be related   | i. details about the fibres |
| 10. use different parts              | j. we previously thought    |

## Discussion – Student B

- How important is string?
- What do you use string for?
- When was the last time you used a piece of string?
- What kinds of string are there?
- How long is a piece of string?
- What do you think the 50,000-year-old string was used for?
- What do you know about Neanderthals?
- How important are textiles?

## Spelling

- desoviecdr the oldest piece of string
- The first saerno they are happy
- we pvyoluires thought they were
- an early cpsesie of humans
- became ticnxt about 35,000 years ago
- they were probably as itinllteeng
- it srelave a lot
- find these kinds of fibres in ertanu
- In my nponoii
- their huge edwelognk about trees
- veeoagtitr, plants and trees
- different parts of the otvirnmneen

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. c	7. e	8. j	9. g	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Shoelaces

You think shoelaces are the best use of string. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which of these least need string (and why): guitars, yo-yos or kites.

### Role B – Guitars

You think guitars are the best use of string. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which of these least need string (and why): shoelaces, yo-yos or kites.

### Role C – Yo-Yos

You think yo-yos are the best use of string. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which of these least need string (and why): guitars, shoelaces or kites.

### Role D – Kites

You think kites are the best use of string. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their uses. Also, tell the others which of these least need string (and why): guitars, yo-yos or shoelaces.

## Speaking – Uses

Rank these with your partner. Put the best uses of string at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| • yo-yo   | • shoelaces           |
| • toys    | • washing line        |
| • weaving | • tying up plants     |
| • kites   | • violins and guitars |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.