

Metal detecting finds ancient treasure in U.K.

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The British Museum in the U.K. has reported record levels of historical discoveries this year. People have found more than 47,000 objects with metal detectors. Metal detecting is a big hobby in the U.K. Many people go out in the

countryside to try and find old coins and other treasure. This year, more people have been metal detecting. This is because of the coronavirus. Metal detecting is a good hobby that means social distancing is very easy. People have been recording their finds on an app on the British Museum's website. The U.K. Culture Minister said: "It is brilliant to see the [app] growing from strength to strength during lockdown thanks to garden discoveries and digital reporting."

The British Museum said people have dug up many exciting and interesting things this year. Perhaps the best find among the new discoveries are two hoards of coins. One of the hoards contained 50 South African solid gold coins found 50 miles northwest of London. The other coin hoard contained gold coins and one silver coin featuring the British kings Edward IV and Henry VIII. Experts believe they were buried in the 16th century. Another find was an ancient Roman furniture fitting made of copper. It featured the face of the god Oceanus and dates to AD 43-200. The British Museum said the app, "ensures finds, important for understanding Britain's past, are not lost but instead recorded".

Sources: cnn.com / nypost.com / ancient-origins.net

Writing

Finding things from the past is very important. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

British / museum / record / discoveries / hobby / countryside / treasure / brilliant / app / coins / gold / silver / ancient / furniture / face / important / understanding

True / False

- a) A man in the U.K. found 47,000 historical objects. T / F
- b) Metal detecting is a popular hobby in the U.K. T / F
- c) Coronavirus has increased the popularity of metal detecting. T / F
- d) The U.K. Culture Minister said a discovery was brilliant. T / F
- e) The article says the best finds were probably two hoards of coins. T / F
- f) A silver coin was found with the face of a British queen on it. T / F
- g) A furniture fitting was found with a picture of the god Oceanus on it. T / F
- h) The British Museum said it is important to understand the UK's future. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. discoveries | a. makes certain |
| 2. treasure | b. noting |
| 3. hobby | c. included |
| 4. recording | d. excellent |
| 5. brilliant | e. very old |
| 6. dug out | f. riches |
| 7. contained | g. history |
| 8. ancient | h. finds |
| 9. ensures | i. excavated |
| 10. past | j. leisure activity |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of museums?
- b) What is your favourite museum?
- c) What do you think of metal detecting?
- d) Have you ever found something valuable?
- e) What do you like to do in the countryside?
- f) How important are historical discoveries?
- g) What treasure do you like?
- h) Would you like to visit the British Museum?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. record levels | a. distancing |
| 2. People have found more | b. hobby in the U.K. |
| 3. Metal detecting is a big | c. past |
| 4. social | d. to strength |
| 5. growing from strength | e. in the 16th century |
| 6. Perhaps the best find among | f. of historical discoveries |
| 7. solid gold | g. furniture |
| 8. Experts believe they were buried | h. coins |
| 9. ancient Roman | i. than 47,000 objects |
| 10. important for understanding Britain's | j. the new discoveries |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you like to go digging for old things?
- Who should keep the old coins?
- What do you know about British kings?
- What parts of your country's history are you interested in?
- What do you think life was like in AD43?
- How important is it to record the past?
- What questions would you like to ask the metal detectors?

Spelling

- record levels of osicalhirt discoveries
- go out in the dtrionscuye
- lcisoa distancing
- edrgrocin their finds on an app
- It is lanrlbiti to see
- dialgti reporting
- igtcxein and interesting
- two shdaor of coins
- they were buried in the 16th cntreuy
- ancient Roman ftrruniue
- It ufreetda the face of the god Oceanus
- not lost but tesdani recorded

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – 20th Century

You think the 20th century is the most interesting period of history. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their periods. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): 19th century, the Stone Age or the age of the dinosaurs.

Role B – 19th Century

You think the 19th century is the most interesting period of history. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their periods. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): 20th century, the Stone Age or the age of the dinosaurs.

Role C – The Stone Age

You think the Stone Age is the most interesting period of history. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their periods. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): 19th century, 20th century or the age of the dinosaurs.

Role D – The Age Of The Dinosaurs

You think the age of the dinosaurs is the most interesting period of history. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their periods. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): 19th century, the Stone Age or 20th century.

Speaking – Historical Times

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting historical times at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| • 10th century | • 20th century |
| • 1st century | • 19th century |
| • The Stone Age | • 18th century |
| • The age of the dinosaurs | • 17th century |

Answers – True False

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