

Egypt archaeologists find large 'city of the dead'

1st March, 2018



Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a huge cemetery hidden under the sands south of Cairo. The 2,000-year-old necropolis was found south of Egypt's capital in the Nile Valley city

of Minya. The word necropolis is from ancient Greek and means "city of the dead". The necropolis contains thousands of artifacts, including coffins and statues. Archaeologists started excavation work on the site late last year. They found tombs belonging to priests of Thoth. He was the ancient god of the moon and wisdom. Thoth was also believed to be the inventor of writing. Egypt's Antiquities Minister, Khaled al-Anani, said: "We will need at least five years to work on the necropolis. This is only the beginning of a new discovery."

Mostafa Waziri, the head of the archaeological dig, said he was very excited about the contents of the site. He said he and his colleagues have uncovered eight tombs so far. He expects many more to be found soon. The tombs contain a wealth of historic treasures. One tomb includes more than 1,000 statues and four pottery jars that contain the remains of the internal organs of important ancient Egyptians. Mr Waziri also said there were 40 sarcophagi. A sarcophagus is a stone coffin in which dead bodies were placed. Waziri hopes the new site will help to attract more tourists to Egypt. There has been a downturn in tourism since the revolution that took place there in 2011.

Sources: cbsnews.com / reuters.com / newsweek.com

Writing

Egypt is the most interesting country in the world to visit. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

archaeologists / cemetery / sand / ancient / statues / excavation / moon / wisdom / dig / excited / colleagues / historic / treasures / internal organs / tourists / revolution

True / False

- a) A large cemetery was found under the sand north of the city of Cairo. T / F
- b) The cemetery is about 2,000 years old. T / F
- c) Archaeologists first started digging on the site in 2011. T / F
- d) An Archaeologist said he needs 50 years to work on the site. T / F
- e) The head of the dig said 80 tombs have been discovered. T / F
- f) There were over 1,000 statues in one tomb. T / F
- g) Archaeologists found the remains of people's internal organs in jars. T / F
- h) Tourism is suffering in Egypt because of the 2011 revolution. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. discovered | a. very, very old |
| 2. huge | b. tempt |
| 3. ancient | c. creator |
| 4. excavation | d. very, very big |
| 5. inventor | e. co-workers |
| 6. head | f. digging |
| 7. colleagues | g. happened |
| 8. placed | h. found |
| 9. attract | i. put |
| 10. took place | j. leader |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How would you feel about entering ancient tombs?
- c) How valuable are the historic treasures?
- d) In which country would you like to dig for ancient treasures?
- e) What should happen to all the treasures?
- f) How good a place is Egypt to visit?
- g) What do you know about Egypt's revolution?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the archaeologists?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. discovered a huge cemetery hidden under
 2. found south
 3. The word necropolis is from
 4. Archaeologists started excavation
 5. We will need at
 6. uncovered eight tombs
 7. The tombs contain a wealth
 8. internal
 9. There has been a downturn
 10. since the revolution
- a. in tourism
 - b. work on the site
 - c. of historic treasures
 - d. least five years
 - e. that took place there
 - f. the sands
 - g. organs
 - h. ancient Greek
 - i. so far
 - j. of Egypt's capital

Discussion – Student B

- a) How interested are you in archaeology?
- b) What would it be like to be an archaeologist?
- c) What do you know about ancient Egypt?
- d) What do you know about the ancient history of your country?
- e) Why is the necropolis so important?
- f) How did someone invent writing?
- g) What is your favourite image of Egypt?
- h) What else do you think the archaeologists will find?

Spelling

1. discovered a huge ceytmree
2. The word necropolis is from nticna Greek
3. The necropolis contains thousands of stfarciat
4. including coffins and ssutaet
5. the voennrit of writing
6. the beginning of a new scioevyd
7. he and his uleolcgsae
8. contain a haletw of historic treasures
9. the internal nrosga
10. the new site will help to craattt more
11. There has been a downturn in iorutms
12. since the ivtlouoern

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Statues

You think statues are the best artifacts to find on an archaeological dig. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their artifacts. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): manuscripts, weapons or jewellery.

Role B – Manuscripts

You think manuscripts are the best artifacts to find on an archaeological dig. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their artifacts. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): statues, weapons or jewellery.

Role C – Weapons

You think weapons are the best artifacts to find on an archaeological dig. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their artifacts. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): manuscripts, statues or jewellery.

Role D – Jewellery

You think items of jewellery are the best artifacts to find on an archaeological dig. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their artifacts. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): manuscripts, weapons or statues.

Speaking – Artifacts

Rank these with your partner. Put the best artifacts to find in an archaeological dig at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- pots and jars
- weapons
- jewellery
- farming tools
- statues
- manuscript
- wall paintings
- mummies

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | T | c | F | d | F | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.