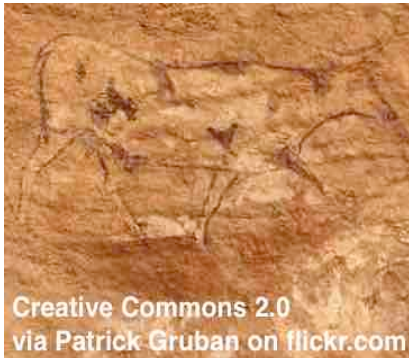


Algeria is the new 'cradle of civilization'

3rd December, 2018



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For many decades, scientists believed the earliest humans originated in East Africa. This belief has changed because of a collection of 2.4-million-year-old stone tools found in Algeria. Scientists now believe that

Algeria and not East Africa is the cradle of civilization - where humankind began. The new find consists of 250 tools. There were also 296 animal bones. The scientists say the animal bones show that early humans were butchering meat. Dr Mohamed Sahnouni, leader of the project, said: "The evidence from Algeria changes the earlier view that East Africa was the cradle of humankind." He added: "Actually, the whole of Africa was the cradle of humankind."

Archaeologists have been digging at various sites on this project for 25 years. The sharp-edged tools and bones were discovered near the city of Setif, about 200 miles east of Algeria's capital, Algiers. In particular, the animal bones excited the scientists. Dr Sahnouni said it is now clear that humans were butchering animals for meat 600,000 years earlier than previously thought. A Spanish archaeologist said: "The effective use of sharp-edged tools ...suggests that our ancestors were not mere scavengers." She said it wasn't clear whether or not they hunted, but they did compete with other animals to get access to meat. Dr. Sahnouni now hopes to find the tool-makers and even older stone tools.

Sources: cnn.com / sci-news.com / dw.com

Writing

It is important we know where civilization started. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

decades / scientists / humans / stone tools / civilization / animal bones / meat / Africa / sites / project / capital city / archaeologist / ancestors / scavengers / hunter / hopes

True / False

- a) For many centuries, scientists thought civilization started in East Africa. T / F
- b) Stone tools over two million years old were found in Algeria. T / F
- c) Archaeologists found 296 stone tools and 250 animal bones. T / F
- d) A scientist said the north of Africa was the cradle of humankind. T / F
- e) Archaeologists have been working on the project for 25 years. T / F
- f) Humans cut up animals for meat earlier than we thought. T / F
- g) An archaeologist said our ancestors were not only scavengers. T / F
- h) An archaeologist said he hoped to find old buildings. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. believed | a. originated |
| 2. collection | b. obvious |
| 3. began | c. proof |
| 4. butchering | d. set |
| 5. evidence | e. different |
| 6. various | f. just |
| 7. clear | g. thought |
| 8. previously | h. discover |
| 9. mere | i. cutting up |
| 10. find | j. earlier |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What did early humans do every day?
- b) What did early humans look like?
- c) How was life less stressful 2.4 million years ago?
- d) What would early humans think about today's world?
- e) What would life be like to live in a cave?
- f) Why is it important we know where civilization began?
- g) What did early humans have for breakfast, lunch and dinner?
- h) Would you like to travel back in time 2.4 million years?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. This belief has | a. the city of Setif |
| 2. The new find consists | b. of humankind |
| 3. early humans were | c. mere scavengers |
| 4. The evidence from Algeria changes | d. of 250 tools |
| 5. Africa was the cradle | e. butchering meat |
| 6. Archaeologists have been digging | f. at various sites |
| 7. discovered near | g. the earlier view |
| 8. 600,000 years earlier than | h. the tool-makers |
| 9. our ancestors were not | i. changed |
| 10. Dr Sahnouni now hopes to find | j. previously thought |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How was life better 2.4 million years ago?
- What would working as an archaeologist be like?
- Is it better to be a scavenger or hunter?
- What are the greatest things about today's civilization?
- What will our civilization be like in the future?
- What are the most important tools we use today?
- What questions would you like to ask the archaeologists?

Spelling

- For many ceesadd
- humans iaedorting in East Africa
- because of a illntoecoc of...
- The new find tnscssoi of 250 tools
- leader of the copjert
- the lwoeh of Africa
- digging at uirsave sites
- svcodeeidr near the city of Setif
- east of Algeria's lciatpa, Algiers
- earlier than pueiorlvys thought
- The tffevciee use of sharp-edged tools
- our ersnastco were not mere scavengers

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Religion

You think religion is most responsible for changing civilization today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't affect civilization as much. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the Internet, trade or movies.

Role B – Internet

You think the Internet is most responsible for changing civilization today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't affect civilization as much. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): religion, trade or movies.

Role C – Trade

You think trade is most responsible for changing civilization today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't affect civilization as much. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the Internet, religion or movies.

Role D – Movies

You think movies are most responsible for changing civilization today. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't affect civilization as much. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the Internet, trade or religion.

Speaking – Civilization

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that change civilizations most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| • war | • religion |
| • technology | • Internet |
| • movies and music | • science |
| • sport | • trade |

Answers – True False

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