



Tollund Man Mystery

What is a History Detective?

A History Detective is somebody who looks at evidence from the past. They do not want to catch criminals or bring anybody to justice with this evidence. History Detectives want to learn about the past from the clues other people leave behind. The further back in the past we look the harder it is to find clues.

Am I a History Detective?

YES! In today's lesson you will be a History Detective. You are going to investigate a murder that happened in Denmark during the Iron Age. Using PRIMARY and SECONDARY evidence about the murder you will attempt to work out why a man died.

If you think that YOU are up to this challenge then read the following information carefully because the Tollund Man is relying on you to decide who killed him and why they did it.

Who was the Tollund Man?



This body was found in a peat bog on Tollund Fen in Denmark in May 1950. Two men were digging peat for burning. As they worked they suddenly saw in the peat layer a face so fresh they thought they had come across a recent murder.

They called the police. The men carefully removed the peat from the body till more of him could be seen. The man lay on his right side as if he was asleep. He wore no clothes, except for a pointed skin cap and a smooth hide belt. His hair was cut short. Round the neck was a rope noose and an iron neck ring. It was drawn tight around his neck and throat.



These items were not found on the Tollund man but are similar to those around his neck. The items are a **rope noose** and a **neck ring**. Iron Age people buried neck rings with their dead as an offering to the Spring Goddess.

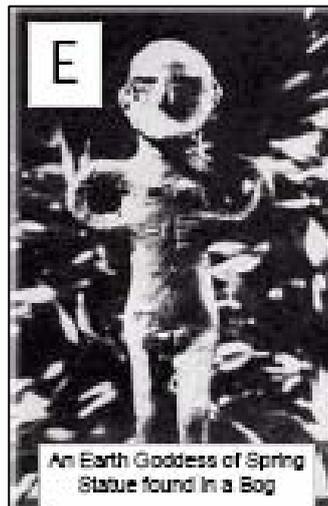
C

SCIENTIFIC REPORT

Age : The heart and organs were healthy. The wisdom teeth had grown. These appear in people around 20 years of age.

Stomach: The man had eaten soup at least 12 hrs before he died. The soup was made up of seeds that were connected only with the Spring

DOD: When they dug the grave some plants were trapped under the body. They were about 2000 years old.



D

The German tribes hang traitors from trees and drown cowards in fens under piles of sticks.

F

The German tribes worship the Goddess of Spring. Every Spring a cart carries a statue of the Goddess in a procession. Afterwards the cart and statue are washed by slaves, and then the slaves are sacrificed.

Complete these tasks...

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Quick Questions (answer in full sentences)

1. Who found the body?
2. Where was the body found?
3. What did they find on the body?

More Detailed Questions

4. Look at **Source C**, the **SCIENTIFIC REPORT**, and explain why it suggests that the man did not die of old age or disease?
5. Examine **Source B**. What do you think killed the Tollund Man?
6. How long ago do you think the body was buried and what is your evidence?

Going Further...

7. German tribes once lived in Denmark. The dead body was a German. Source D tells you why he might have been killed. Complete the following sentence:

Source A suggests that the man might have been killed because...

8. Now look at Sources E and F. Do they suggest a different reason why the Tollund Man was killed. What is this reason? Complete the following sentence:

Sources B and C suggest that the man was killed because...

The Final Stage

Now write a report about what you think happened to the Tollund Man. Remember to use evidence to back up your suggestions with information from the sources.



You might like to use the following sentences to help you:

"I think... happened because of what it says in Source..."

"In my opinion I feel he was murdered. I think this because..."

"Whilst we can't be certain, Source... makes me think he was..."