

UNIT 16 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Steve: Welcome to Archaeology Live. Today we are at an archaeological dig taking place in the northwest of Montana. And we are lucky to be joined by Dr. Martha Graham, the archaeologist in charge of this project. Martha, thank you for taking the time to speak to us. First, could you tell us a little about what is going on here?

Martha: Hello, Steve. Yes, so right now we are standing in the middle of an archaeological site. We have been working here for the last ten days, and we're digging down to reveal part of a small prehistoric village.

Steve: OK, great. And could you tell us what you have found so far? Anything interesting?

Martha: Yes, we've found some fascinating objects. Probably the most interesting is this axe handle that we found today. We estimate that it must have been made around 3000 B.C.

Steve: For many of our viewers at home, it may just look like a normal piece of wood. How can you be sure that it is indeed an axe handle? And how do you know it is so old?

Martha: Well, we can visually compare it to similar axe handles from the period that have already been discovered. If you look closely you can see a small ridge near the end. There are small lines here, see? This is where the stone axe head would have been attached. As for dating it, well, as I said that is only an estimate, based on the design. We will send it to the laboratory for further tests after we're done here today, to get more information on its age.

Steve: And how about this?

Martha: Yes, these are the first things we found: pieces of what we think was originally a necklace. What is very interesting is that these pieces here are made from seashells. And as you know, we are over three hundred miles away from the nearest coastline. So, we think the people living in this village might have been travelers, or that they might have traded with other tribes or villages that lived closer to the coast.

Steve: And which one do you think is more likely? Were they traders or travelers?

Martha: Well, they might have been both. But I think it's more likely that they must have been trading regularly because we also found digested fish bones and other seashells, which is evidence that they must have been eating some types of seafood, too.

Steve: Wow! That is really interesting. OK, Martha, thank you for your time. And we'll join Martha later in the week to find out more about what they are discovering here.