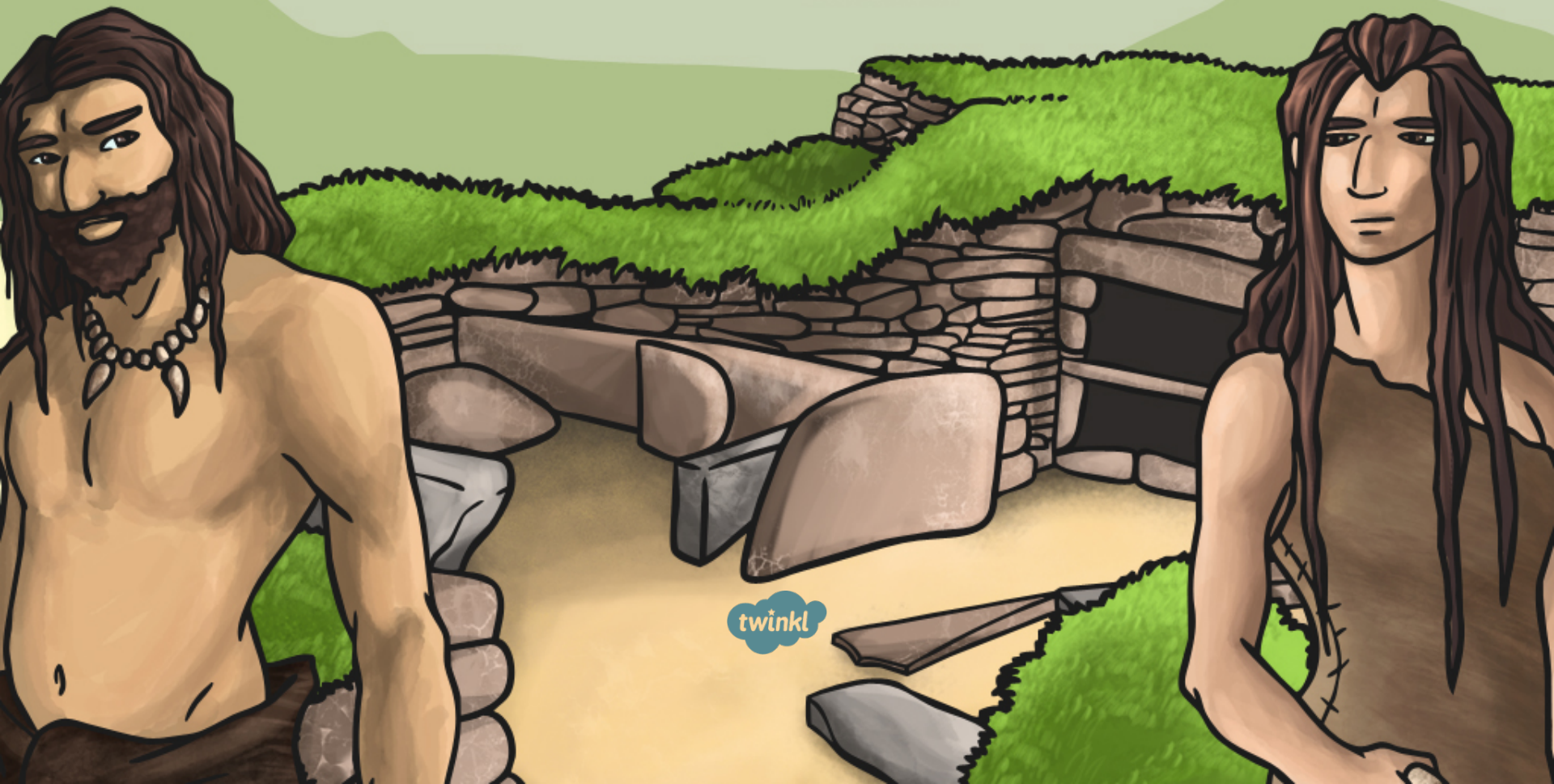


Skara Brae



Read All About It!

ORKNEY EXAMINER

10th December 1850

BREAKING NEWS FROM OUR ISLAND EVERYDAY

PREHISTORIC SITE DISCOVERED

Aggressive storms reveal undiscovered Stone Age dwelling.



William Watt could not believe his eyes as the magnitude of what he had discovered was slowly becoming real.

Experts have not yet been called to the scene, because the landowner would prefer to explore the artefacts himself. William Watt thought that the buildings appeared to be Neolithic (late Stone Age - around 3000 BC), which makes them older than the ancient pyramids, Stonehenge and The Great Wall of China.

Who knows what stories will be told as this man digs for information at the site. What we know for sure is that the people of these islands are soon to discover more about this hidden treasure.

AGGRESSIVE STORM REVEALS UNDISCOVERED STONE AGE DWELLING.

The people of Orkney are used to bad weather, but last night's storm was no ordinary storm. It revealed a secret kept hidden for thousands of years; a site previously inhabited by prehistoric people.

Local landowner, William Watt, was out walking when he came upon this extraordinary sight.

'I've been walking these lands for many a year, so the stone clumps that I could see in the distance stood out as strange', explained Watt, 44.

William Watt could not believe his eyes as the magnitude of what he had discovered was slowly revealed.

Experts have not yet been called the scene, because the landowner would prefer to

explore the artefacts himself. William Watt thought that the buildings appeared to be Neolithic (late Stone Age, around 3000 BC), which makes them older than the ancient pyramids, Stonehenge and the Great Wall of China.

Who knows what stories will be told as this man digs for information at the site. What we know for sure is that the people of these islands are soon to discover more about this hidden treasure.

By Thomas McD



Information About Skara Brae

Skara Brae provides evidence that **Stone Age people were beginning to settle down in one place**, making homes and farming, rather than being on the move all of the time.

The people who lived there had **started growing their own food and looking after livestock**.



Skara Brae

Skara Brae is a remarkably well preserved Stone Age village built in the Neolithic period, around 3000 BC.

It was discovered in 1850, after a heavy storm stripped away the earth that had previously been covering what we can see today.

Orkney is off the North coast of Scotland. Skara Brae can be found on Mainland, the largest of the Orkneys.



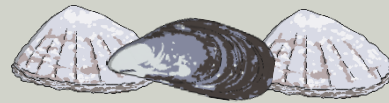
Photo courtesy of wronski (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

What Else Was Found and What Does it Teach Us?

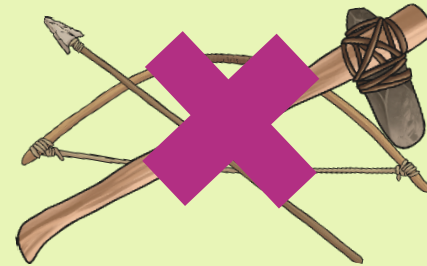
Animal bones including cattle and sheep, and barley and wheat grown nearby, suggest a farming community.



Plentiful remains of fish and shellfish indicate they were also skilled fishermen. Large piles of limpets were found, but these weren't necessarily part of their diet, they may have been used for bait.



The lack of weapons found suggest that life was peaceful.



Richly carved stone objects might have been used for religious rituals.



Bone tools, along with the absence of tools for weaving, indicate that animal skins were used for clothing.



Many examples of jewellery were found including pendants, pins, necklaces and beads.



Breaking News!



In 1925, Skara Brae was the focus of an archaeological dig, to reveal the rest of William Watt's site.

Your Challenge:

Can you plan a television news report from 1925 as if you are archaeologists discovering the artefacts for the first time?

[Watch this documentary.](#)



Making News



Now work together with the other children in your group to gather your ideas and create a group news report.

Remember to:

- Use facts.
- Explain when the site was first discovered.
- Include an interview.
- Explain why Skara Brae has been chosen for this year's dig.
- Explain what the artefacts tell us about the Stone Age.

