

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____

LT: I can make inferences about the lifestyles of Paleolithic Era humans

Do Now: Read excerpt and answer questions (whole front of page)

Lifestyle of Paleolithic Era Humans

Day 2: Looking at Artifacts

It is the year 4022 CE.

In less than a day, the most advanced civilization of the ancient world had perished. Archeologist Howard Carson found himself facing the entrance of a long-forgotten tomb dated from the ancient 1980s. Thunderstruck, he realized he was on the threshold of history. His entire body trembled as he contemplated the possible significance of his find. The mysterious burial customs of the late twentieth-century North American were finally to be revealed.

Everything in the Outer Chamber faced the Great Altar including the body of the deceased, which still lay on top of the Ceremonial Platform. In its hand was the Sacred Communicator. Signs of the ancient burial ritual were everywhere. To ensure maximum comfort during eternal life, several pieces of beautifully crafted furniture were placed in the room, along with additional garments stacked carefully in a specially designed rectangular pod.

Although it seemed hardly possible, the contents of the Inner Chamber were even more dazzling. A second body was present, and this one appeared to have been buried with more care and ritual than the first. It had been placed in a highly polished white sarcophagus, which had in turn been sealed behind an exquisite and elaborately hung curtain. Two water trumpets, one about five feet above the other, projected from the end wall facing the deceased. Nearby was the Sacred Parchment, pieces of which were periodically placed in the Sacred Urn during the ceremony. The Headband and the Sacred Collar were still in place on the Sacred Urn to which they had been secured following the ceremony.

Harriet, his assistant, insisted that she be allowed to wear some of the priceless treasures. Carson gave in. For the remainder of the day, Harriet proudly strode around the site wearing the Sacred Collar and matching Headband. She also wore the magnificent *plasticus* ear ornaments and the exquisite silver chain and pendant.

(Source: "Motel of Mysteries" David Macauley)

Part 1: Excerpt Questions

1. Where is Howard Carson?
2. Pick three of artifacts Carson found. What are they, really?
3. What can we learn from reading this? (Why did I assign it as the do now?)

Part 2: Making Inferences about Paleolithic Artifacts

There isn't much left from the Paleolithic Era. From the artifacts that remain, scientists make inferences about what hunter-gatherer life was like. Rather than just reading an article and believing their authority, let's make our own inferences. There are several artifacts, but I want you to choose 4-5.

Describe Artifact	Explain inferences below (What does this artifact show about hunter-gatherer life?) 1 inference is required, but there's space for 2
	1. 2.
	1. 2.
	1. 2.
	1. 2.
	1. 2.

Part 3: Do your inferences agree with scientists'?

Scientists say.....

1. Hunter gatherers believed in animism, a very early, simple religion that believes spirits are in nature and possibly an afterlife.

Based on the artifacts I saw, I AGREE/DISAGREE/NEED MORE INFO (circle one)

Explain:

2. Hunter gatherers were very simple and had few possessions, since they moved around so much.

Based on the artifacts I saw, I AGREE/DISAGREE/NEED MORE INFO (circle one)

Explain:

3. Hunter gatherers were peaceful societies where everyone shared everything and everyone was equal (no social classes.)

Based on the artifacts I saw, I AGREE/DISAGREE/NEED MORE INFO (circle one)

Explain:

