

Discovery Worksheets

Archaeology AD 3000

It is the year that your society calls AD 3000. An archaeologist has dug up the strange object shown opposite. She has invited you to be part of a team of historians and archaeologists to decide the original purpose of the object. Work through the following questions that your team has devised to guide its research.

- You discover a great many holes in a definite pattern on the underside of the object.
 - Is it some kind of ancient writing?
 - What do you think the pattern could represent?
- There is a long cord coming from the end of the object which has caused much argument. Was the cord used for:
 - swinging the object around as a weapon?
 - swinging and throwing the object in a kind of sport?
 - carrying the object?
 Do you agree with any of these arguments? What do you think the cord was used for?
- What does this artifact tell us about the culture which produced it? Refer to the material it is made from and the technical skill necessary for its design and production.
- Using magnifying equipment, your team has deciphered the word 'Sunbeam' on the top of the object. This has prompted a theory that the artifact may have been of strong religious significance.
 - Why do you think the word 'Sunbeam' would cause some historians to think there was some religious purpose behind the object?
 - Do you think this religious purpose could be the reason there was a handle on the object – so that the priests could lift it to the sky?
 - Do you think it is a religious object? Why or why not?
- As a historian in the year AD 3000, having looked at the object and analysed what it is made from, what do you think it could be? Present a short report to the class, explaining your conclusions.



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