

6/1.

1. Barely had we entered the natural reserve area had we when we could feel the undescriled beauty of this world natural heritage.
2. In spite of the fact that the island is isolated from the world, the modern technology has made it possible to develop the sea resources around.
3. For centuries, people have been de' dedicate to exploring the infinite universe; and generated astronomy from it.
4. The previous research indicates that once child's curiosity has been stimulated; their desire to explore the unknown things will be strengthened.
5. The ~~tourist~~ tourist attraction which located in the South West of CW is the home to the giant pandas, which can get 500k tourists every ~~year~~ year on average.



that a 60,000 to 70,000-year-old layer lies directly beneath a layer that is no more than 44,000 years old. That is particularly unfortunate because some of the most noteworthy finds from the cave come from layers of dirt that lie very close to this time gap, making it difficult to be sure how old they are.

Fortunately, archaeologists could still work out the age of an artefact by using optical dating on sand grains immediately around it. Sand grains are now routinely collected alongside all the finds. The archaeologists have also unearthed rings, beads and bone sewing needles. These artefacts may be the oldest of their kind in Eurasia.

But which human inhabitants of the cave made them?

It is certainly possible that the bone artefacts recovered from Denisova cave were produced by the Denisovans, says Roberts. "The Denisovans did persist at the cave until quite recently — certainly recently enough that they could have made some of those artefacts," he says.

If so, the finds give us a first glimpse of how the Denisovans lived and behaved. Take the curious rows of dots carved into some of the needles. "It's terribly difficult to work out what they mean, but they could be marks of ownership or just purely decorative," says Thomas Higham at the University of Oxford.

The best way to establish the probable identity of the craftspeople at the cave is to find fragments^③ of bone or human genetic material in the layers that hold the artefacts. But the chances of discovering those in just the right layers is relatively low. Instead, scientists are pinning their hopes on new techniques that extract^④ human DNA from samples of dirt even if no fragments of bone are present.

Who were the Denisovans?

Almost a decade ago, researchers sequenced DNA from an ancient bone fragment found in the Denisova cave to reveal that it belonged to a woman from an entirely new group of humans — now known as the Denisovans. These humans lived in Stone Age Eurasia alongside our species and the Neanderthals.

Food for thought

1. Why is Denisova cave described as "archaeology's most exciting cave" in the title? Underline your clues in the passage.

The cave has support for the idea of a new group of humans.

2. Below is a part of the transcript of an interview between Li Ming (M), a correspondent of your school newspaper, and Richard Roberts (R), one of the scientists working at the Denisovan cave. Complete it according to the information in the passage.

M: How did you and other scientists work out the age of the artefacts found in the Denisova cave?

R: Usually we can know the age of an artefact by working out the age of the (1) layers in caves. But that's no easy job. You don't have nice and simple layers one after the next, with nothing happening afterwards. Things happen in caves. To take the Denisova Cave. (2) _____

(3) 2 To make matters worse, (3) 3

M: Does that mean we can never know the age of some of the artefacts? Was there a way around it?

R: Yes. We were able to date some of the artefacts by (4) 4. So it has become a routine to (5) 5.

M: That sounds a lot of work! But the technology is amazing. Here is another question. Have you been able to identify who made those artefacts? Did the Denisovans make them?

R: Probably. (6) 6

M: So there's no way to know for sure?

R: Ideally, if (7) 7, then we can know for sure who were the craftspeople, but the chances of that happening is low. An alternative is to (8) 8.

Notes

③ n. a small part of sth that has broken off or comes from sth larger

④ v. to remove or obtain a substance from sth, for example by using an industrial or a chemical process

Notes