Archaeology and Human Health

Archaeology · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. What part of the human skeleton is most frequently preserved in archaeological sites due to its high density?

A) Ribs
B) Teeth
C) Finger bones
D) Skull cap

2. What condition can archaeologists identify in ancient skeletal remains by observing 'Harris lines' in long bones?

A) Dental cavities
B) Periods of childhood malnutrition
C) Broken limbs
D) Broken noses

3. Which mineral is commonly used by forensic archaeologists to determine the diet of ancient individuals through bone analysis?

A) Iron
B) Calcium
C) Strontium
D) Gold

4. What was the primary cause of dental wear in many ancient societies before the invention of processed flour?

A) Sugar consumption
B) Stone-ground grain grit
C) Lack of water
D) Smoking

5. Which specific bone is most often studied by archaeologists to determine the biological sex of an adult skeleton?

A) Pelvis
B) Femur
C) Sternum
D) Clavicle

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6. What is the scientific term for the study of ancient human remains, including bones and teeth?

A) Paleontology
B) Osteology
C) Botany
D) Astronomy

7. What ancient health condition is characterized by a 'porous' appearance on the eye sockets of a skull, often linked to iron deficiency?

A) Cribra orbitalia
B) Scurvy
C) Rickets
D) Osteoporosis

8. Archaeological evidence shows that trepanation, an ancient surgical practice, involved doing what to the human skull?

A) Painting it
B) Drilling a hole
C) Removing the jaw
D) Polishing the bone

9. Which vitamin deficiency leads to rickets, a condition clearly visible in the curved leg bones of ancient skeletons?

A) Vitamin A
B) Vitamin B12
C) Vitamin D
D) Vitamin C

10. What material found in ancient archaeological sites provides the most direct evidence of an individual's DNA?

A) Pottery shards
B) Stone tools
C) Dried tooth pulp
D) Charcoal

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