

Caves & Karst *Natural Inquirer* • Reflection Section Answer Guide

The Whole Kit & Kaboodle

Introduction

All people have stories and traditions that are passed down from generation to generation. What is one story or tradition that has been passed down in your family? *This question is an individual question. However, you can prompt discussion by having students work in small groups to discuss this question and then the group can share out to the larger audience.*

State in your own words what the scientist was interested in learning.

The scientist in this study was interested in learning about whether the site was occupied by land otters at times when people weren't present. The scientist also wanted to know if the shells and animal bones left by people differ from the shells and animal bones left by land otters. Additionally, the scientist studied whether land otter behavior affected Tlingits' beliefs about the land otter.

Methods

Material was collected from three different areas of the site. Why do you think it was important for the scientist to collect information from multiple locations?

It is important to gather material from different locations because different areas may have been used for different purposes.

Think about the last time you did research on a specific topic at school. Did you use books, the Internet, information from teachers to learn about the topic, or another method? If so, what method of gathering information did you find most useful? Why? *This question is an individual question. However, encourage the students to think about and discuss where they get research material and how they know if it is reliable and useful.*

Findings

In the first paragraph of the Findings section, the last sentence states that "Some of these remains would have been due to humans using the cave as a shelter." What remains do you think would indicate the presence of humans? Why?

Halibut and harbor seal would be examples of animals that were used by humans for food and other necessities.

Observation is an important characteristic of a scientist. Why was observation important in this study? *The scientist made many observations about the cave areas, remains found in the caves, and the areas surrounding the caves. These observations helped the scientist draw inferences about the land otters and the Tlingit people.*

Think of a time that you closely observed something. Did you learn anything that surprised you? *This question is an individual question; however, you may want students to engage in a think-pair-share exercise to get discussion going.*

Discussion

The scientist in this study is an anthropological archaeologist. After having read about the study and what the scientist did, what things did you notice that support the fact that the scientist is an anthropological archaeologist? *An anthropological archaeologist studies the ancient and recent human past through material remains. The scientist in this research studied a lot of material remains from the cave. 5,035 bones were examined. The scientist is also very knowledgeable about the Tlingit people, their history, and their customs and beliefs.*

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The scientist found that sharing space helped the Tlingit people understand land otters better and contributed to the land otter's presence in Tlingit stories and beliefs. Think about a person or animal you share space with, like a cat, dog, or family member. Do you think by sharing common space with this animal or person, even though you may not be in the space at the same time, helps you to understand the person or animal better? What are some examples? *This question is an individual question. Encourage students to share their thoughts with each other or note their ideas in a science journal.*