Read the passage and fill in each numbered blank with the correct word or phrase from the word banks. Use each word or phrase ONCE ONLY. You may need to change the grammatical form of some words.

**WORD BANK A (Questions 1–13)**

hamper • chance discovery • testify to • natural tendency • fragment • scrape aside • discoloured • set in motion • assertion • thorough • shed light on • forensic pathologist • ashtonishing • circumstance

**WORD BANK B (Questions 14–26)**

staggering • account for • cranium • deterioration • forensic anthropologist • burial • bewildering • let • doomed • radiocarbon dating • determine • fleeting • originate alone • landfall

# The Mystery of an Ancient Coastal Settlement

In 2018, a group of construction workers made a remarkable (1) _____ while digging the foundations of a new hotel near a remote coastline. What initially appeared to be an ordinary stone turned out to be a human bone, buried beneath several layers of soil. This unexpected finding (2) _____ a series of archaeological investigations that would eventually challenge existing theories about ancient migration.

Humans have a (3) _____ to investigate unusual objects, and the workers were no exception. One of them carefully (4) _____ the loose soil surrounding the object and uncovered a small (5) _____ of what appeared to be a human skull. Its surface was badly (6) _____, suggesting that it had remained underground for centuries.

The discovery immediately attracted the attention of researchers. A team of archaeologists conducted a (7) _____ examination of the site, hoping to (8) _____ the lives of the people who had once inhabited the region. However, the unusual (9) _____ surrounding the discovery made the investigation particularly challenging.

Some researchers made the bold (10) _____ that the remains belonged to a previously unknown population. Others argued that the bones simply (11) _____ the presence of an established coastal community. Unfortunately, heavy rainfall and unstable ground began to (12) _____ the excavation process.

To determine whether the individual had suffered any injuries before death, the team consulted a (13) _____, a medical specialist trained to investigate causes of death.

Further examination revealed that the (14) _____ was remarkably well preserved, despite the considerable (15) _____ of other skeletal remains. A (16) _____ was then invited to examine the bones and estimate the individual's age, biological sex, and physical characteristics.

The position of the skeleton suggested that it had been placed in a deliberate (17) _____ rather than abandoned accidentally. Using (18) _____, scientists estimated that the remains were approximately 4,000 years old.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

This raised an important question: where had these people originally (19) _____ from? The archaeological evidence was (20) _____, with several findings appearing to contradict one another.

Researchers were particularly surprised by the (21) _____ distances that ancient populations might have travelled across open seas. Without modern navigation equipment, reaching a distant island would have been extremely difficult, (22) _____ establishing a permanent settlement there.

One theory suggested that a group of early sailors had successfully made (23) _____ on the island after a long and dangerous voyage. However, their initial success may have been (24) _____, as environmental changes and limited food supplies could have threatened their survival.

Some experts believed that the settlement was ultimately (25) _____ because of prolonged droughts and declining natural resources. Others argued that migration, disease, or conflict might (26) _____ the sudden disappearance of its inhabitants.

Although many questions remain unanswered, the discovery illustrates how a single unexpected finding can transform our understanding of human history.



LIVEWORKSHEETS