WHAT CAN AN UNTOUCHED CHIMÚ TOMB TELL US ABOUT AN ANCIENT EMPIRE?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Archaeologists working at Chan Chan in Peru have uncovered a largely untouched Chimú funerary platform containing 38 skeletons, weapons, ceramics, jewellery and objects made from shells and metal. The Chimú Empire ruled much of Peru's northern coast before being conquered by the Inca in the fifteenth century. Because earlier tombs were heavily looted, this discovery gives researchers unusually detailed evidence about elite life, religion, warfare and social organisation.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The discovery introduces students to a major American civilisation that is often overshadowed by the Inca. It also shows why archaeologists need objects in their original positions. The tomb may help explain Chimú beliefs, social ranking and military power while improving understanding of the Inca conquest.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"Why is an untouched tomb more useful than a looted one?"

Source: National Geographic

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/peru-tomb-chimu-chan-chan