WHAT CAN AN ANCIENT CAMP TELL US ABOUT THE FIRST AMERICANS?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Archaeologists have found what may be the oldest dwelling in the Western Hemisphere at a site in Alaska. The camp, called Shég? Xdaltth?í?, was used about 13,800 years ago by people living in the region during the last Ice Age. Researchers uncovered a hearth, a small pit and traces of a wooden post that may have supported a lean-to or early tent. They also found stone tools, bone needles, an antler pendant and an earth oven filled with charcoal and animal bones. Some tools are similar to objects found far away in Siberia, suggesting that people remained connected across the Bering Land Bridge, a region that once linked Asia and North America. Wolf-like animal bones may also provide clues about the early relationship between humans and dogs. The discovery gives a picture of people settling into a new environment, making clothes, cooking food and travelling across huge distances. It also adds evidence to the story of how Indigenous peoples first reached the Americas.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The discovery helps us imagine ordinary life thousands of years ago. Instead of seeing early Americans only as hunters moving through the landscape, we can see people building shelters, sewing clothes, cooking meals and carrying objects from distant places. It also shows how much evidence can be hidden beneath the ground.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“What do the remains of this camp tell us about how people lived?”

Source: Live Science

https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/americas/archaeologists-discover-the-oldest-dwelling-in-the-western-hemisphere-at-a-13-800-year-old-site-in-alaska