WHY WAS A 3,300-YEAR-OLD SWORD STILL SHARP UNDERWATER?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Archaeologists have recovered a bronze sword from Lake Mezzano, a volcanic lake in central Italy. The weapon is about 3,300 years old and still has a sharp edge. It dates from the Late Bronze Age, centuries before the rise of Rome. Researchers also found vases, axes, arrowheads, daggers, spearheads, pins and a bronze razor near parts of a settlement built on wooden stilts. The sword may have belonged to a powerful warrior, but it may also have been placed in the lake as an offering to a god or spirit. Bronze Age communities sometimes threw weapons, jewellery and other valuable objects into rivers and lakes as part of religious rituals. The discovery gives archaeologists clues about people who lived in Italy before the Etruscans and Romans. It also shows that weapons were not only tools for fighting. They could be symbols of wealth, status and power.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

A sword can tell us about warfare, technology, religion and social class at the same time. The discovery reminds us that ancient people did not always use objects in the way we expect. A weapon placed carefully in a lake may have been more important as a religious or political symbol than as something used in battle.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“Why might someone throw a valuable sword into a lake?”

Source: Live Science

https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/bronze-age-sword-discovered-in-an-italian-lake-is-still-sharp-after-3-300-years