

CHW3M *Frink's Dig

*Courtesy of Scott Pollock, Oakville, ON

Please note that the following scenario is entirely fictional. There are no right or wrong solutions to the questions you will be asked. The focus of this activity is your ability to reason like a researcher studying the fragmentary records of the ancient past.

Dear student;

You have been invited to participate in an international archaeology program, under the tutelage of the brilliant Professor Frink. The site you will be exploring was recently uncovered by Professor Frink and his team in the Fertile Crescent (the home of some of the earliest civilizations), and has been named UHC1 (Unknown Human Civilization 1).

Professor Frink and his team have excavated the entire city and have found a number of artifacts. They are now in the process of interpreting what these artifacts mean.

Your task is to help the Professor by giving him your interpretation of his findings.

In this report be sure to answer the following:

- ❖ Did UHC1 have a class structure? If so describe it?
- ❖ Is there evidence of organized religion?
- ❖ Is there any evidence of specialization (of jobs)?
- ❖ Did the inhabitants of UHC1 trade? With whom?

Remember, when you attempt to answer the questions above you must do two things: 1) provide a logical interpretation 2) use facts to back up this interpretation.

The Find (see attached diagrams):

Upon excavation Professor Frink found the following:

- ❖ The main centre of UHC1 is surrounded by a 10-foot high wall.
- ❖ Inside this wall, UHC1 can be divided into three main areas- Area C, Area P and Area B.
- ❖ Area B is the largest area and is located at the Southern end of UHC1.
- ❖ Area B is covered by the remains of ancient buildings. These buildings were very small, ranging in size from 80-100 square feet. They contained very few rooms and were packed together tightly (very little space between buildings).
- ❖ Analysis of these buildings has indicated that they were dwellings (Professor Frink found animal remains- indicating that food preparation took place- as well as human wastes).
- ❖ Interestingly the vast majority of these buildings did have access to a small amount of land. However, this land was not used for gardens, or to keep livestock. Instead the inhabitants used it to house the structure named TMP1 (see attached diagram).
- ❖ TMP1 is about 5 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Inside each TMP1 stands an altar. We cannot say for certain what TMP1 was used for. Professor Frink did find the remains of several wooden and clay figures. These figures have been labeled TMP2, TMP3, TMP4 and TMP5 (see attached). It is interesting to note that similar figures have been found inside SP1 (see below).
- ❖ Professor Frink has determined that some of these figures represent the gods of UHC 1. The most common of these gods is Neta labeled TMP2 (see the story of King Ar below).
- ❖ However, not all of these figures represent UHC 1's gods. Professor Frink has not yet been able to uncover what TMP4 and TMP5 represent. Are they gods of whom we know nothing else? Are they gods which predate the union of UHC 1? Only further research will determine this for sure.
- ❖ Area P, located to the north of area B, contains a wide variety of buildings. Some of these buildings are very, very small (so small that the Professor doubts they were dwelling places). Many of these tiny buildings contained jars or storage pits.

- ❖ A very large quantity of artifact M1- see photo (numbering in the hundreds) was found in these small buildings, and even larger quantities were found within LC1 and SH1 (see below).
- ❖ However, not all of the buildings in area P were so diminutive. In fact area P houses two of the largest buildings found- called LC1 and SH1.
- ❖ LC1 is a very large building with over twenty rooms. In the centre of LC1 there stood an open courtyard. The purpose of this courtyard is unknown, but Professor Frink has found the remains of many bodies in the centre of this square. Examination has revealed that they did not die of natural causes, but were killed by repeated blows to the body and head. Professor Frink is unsure what caused these blows.
- ❖ Aside from this central courtyard, the most interesting feature of LC1 is a large subterranean pit. The pit is 15 feet deep, with steep sides. It has been determined that the pit was not used for the storage of food (as Professor Frink originally believed).
- ❖ Interestingly, the remains of several bodies have been found in this pit. It appears these individuals died of natural causes, but they were not buried.
- ❖ SH1 is the other large building in area P, and is similar in size to LC1. Unlike LC1 however, SH1 contains only 3 rooms- two small rooms at the main entrance, and a third, extremely large room which was accessible from the 2 smaller rooms.
- ❖ Professor Frink found large quantities of M1 in the two small front rooms.
- ❖ Professor Frink also found an incredible amount of pottery (unfortunately it was mostly broken) in the large backroom.
- ❖ The streets of area P seem to radiate from LC1 and SH1. This has led Professor Frink to conclude that LC1 and SH1 were vital centres of some kind.
- ❖ Area C, located to the north of area P, contains the largest of all the buildings (called SP1) as well as a number of large dwellings.
- ❖ The dwellings differ from those found in area B in a number of ways. First they are 5-6 times larger. They contain many more rooms, some large, some small. Most of these dwellings contained a central court yard which probably served as a gathering and eating area. These dwellings also sat atop large amounts of land.

- ❖ Like the dwellings found in area B, these dwellings all had a TMP1.
- ❖ SP1 is 100 feet high and 80 meters wide at its base. It is built of a series of platforms, which form a step pyramid. On top of the step pyramid stands a large building. This structure contains three rooms- two small rooms at the entrance and a large room which is accessible via a long hall from the two small rooms.
- ❖ The large room appears to have sort of religious significance. It contains many small statues (similar to those found in TMP1) as well as larger versions of these statues, which are up to 15 feet tall, and made entirely of gold and precious jewels.
- ❖ Interestingly the only way to access the building on top of SP1 was through a secret entrance, which Professor Frink believes was heavily guarded. Why this was guarded and who had access is uncertain.
- ❖ Two cemeteries were found at UHC1 and have been labeled DP1 and DP2. DP1 is located at some distance from UHC1 in the Grant Mountains.
- ❖ The graves consist of large rooms dug out of the mountain. The walls of these rooms have been painted/decorated with depictions of the gods of UHC1, as well as a “biography” of the deceased.
- ❖ The bodies themselves were placed in sarcophaguses along with some of the favourite belongings of the deceased.
- ❖ Professor Frink believes that these graves were at one time full of jewels, which have subsequently been removed by grave robbers.
- ❖ The graves found at DP2 (located to the south of UHC1) are very different from those found at DP1. Instead of the elaborate rooms and decorations, Professor Frink has found a series of simple graves, with the deceased placed face up in the ground and then buried. There do not appear to have been any grave markers or other types of memorials.
- ❖ There is evidence that the inhabitants farmed the land around UHC1 and it seems that they used an extensive irrigation system.
- ❖ Oddly enough, the professor found the remains of many, many dead animals, but he could not find evidence of any pens.

- ❖ Professor Frink has only just begun to decode the language used by the inhabitants of UHC1. What remains of their writing is contained on stone tablets and pottery.
- ❖ Professor Frink has managed to decode parts of one long written piece located inside SP1. The story told seems to be of the founding of UHC1. It tells of a legendary king Ar, who united the several different clans which make up UHC 1. This king, who wore a blue crown, conquered the other clans (we believe this because King Ar began to wear the sacred white crown, red crown, yellow crown, and orange crown of the other clans) and exported his clans god (Neta) to the other clans, making it the chief god of UHC 1.