

Richard III

Discovery

Discovering King Richard

In 2012 when archaeologists were searching for the remains of King Richard III, a skeleton was found at the excavation site of Greyfriars Church in Leicester. They called it Skeleton 1, but who was it?

During the excavation, the archaeologists collected evidence about where the person was buried in the church and how the person was treated after they died. When Skeleton 1 was taken back to the lab, the archaeologists could tell a lot about the person from their bones:

- They could determine if the person was male or female by studying the pelvis, base of the skull, the forehead and the jaw.
- They used formulas to determine the person's height based on the length of the leg and arm bones.
- By studying the mineral content in the bones they could tell what sort of diet the person had.
- They were able to approximate how old the person was when they died by examining the joints, bones and teeth.
- By radiocarbon dating the bones, they could work out when the person died.
- By looking for signs of disease and trauma on the bones, they could tell how the person died.

But who was Skeleton 1?

I am Brother William Giles. I am the last warden of the friary. We built our church in the year 1230 and we buried people in it for over 300 years until King Henry VIII demolished it in 1538.

I am Master Peter Swynfield. I am an important friar, in charge of all the Franciscan friars in England.

I am Ellen Lavener. I am not rich, but I gave the poor friars some land in Leicester so they could build a bigger friary.

I am Sir William Moton. I am a local knight. I gave the friars a lot of money to pray for me after I died.

I am King Richard III of England - it was my right to be buried in Westminster Abbey or another of the many fine cathedrals in this land.

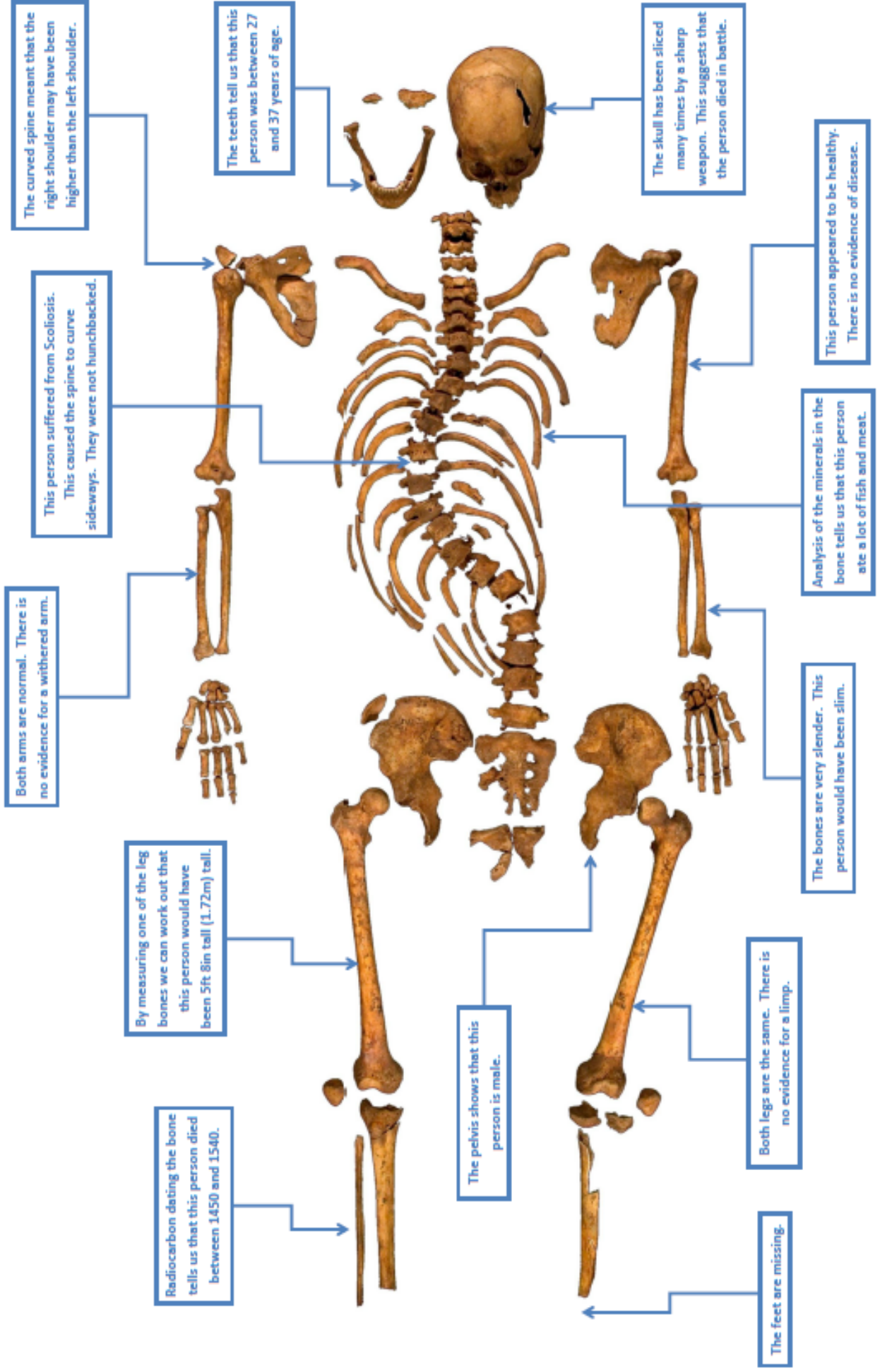
Your Task

Using the clues on the following pages, can you identify who Skeleton 1 turned out to be?

Richard III

The link below gives you the chance to be a real archaeologist and explore the grave site in 3D!

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/king-richard-iiiis-grave-00d23c7defd0476db1a36c08728fa60f>



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Brother Peter Swynfeld	Supporting Evidence	
Brother Peter was male	Yes	No
He was 5ft 6in tall	Yes	No
He ate a lot of fish and meat	Yes	No
He died in 1272	Yes	No
He was aged 72 when he died	Yes	No
He died of old age	Yes	No

Ellen Lavener	Supporting Evidence	
Ellen was female	Yes	No
She was 5ft 3in tall	Yes	No
She did not eat a lot of fish and meat	Yes	No
She died in 1349	Yes	No
She was aged 37 when he died	Yes	No
She died of the plague	Yes	No

Sir William Moton	Supporting Evidence	
Sir William was male	Yes	No
He was 5ft 7in tall	Yes	No
He did not eat a lot of fish but ate a lot of meat	Yes	No
He died in 1362	Yes	No
He was aged 60 when he died	Yes	No
He died from a fall which fractured his skull	Yes	No

King Richard III	Supporting Evidence	
Richard III was male	Yes	No
He was 5ft 8in tall	Yes	No
He ate a lot of fish and meat	Yes	No
He died in 1485	Yes	No
He was aged 32 when he died	Yes	No
He died in battle	Yes	No

Brother William Giles	Supporting Evidence	
Brother William was male	Yes	No
He was 5ft 8in tall	Yes	No
He ate a lot of fish but not a lot of meat	Yes	No
He died in 1538	Yes	No
He was aged 35 when he died	Yes	No
We do not know how he died	Yes	No