

**Podcast 2 - DNA: Unlocking the past**

**Find out more**

Why not try clicking on some of the links below to find out more about the subjects we discussed in Podcast 2 – *DNA: Unlocking the past*.

1. Find out more about Selina’s Ancient DNA laboratory at the Natural History Museum by clicking on the link below.

[www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/departments-and-staff/core-research-labs/molecular-laboratories-new/ancient-dna-laboratory.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/departments-and-staff/core-research-labs/molecular-laboratories-new/ancient-dna-laboratory.html)

1. Find out more about the Giant Ground Sloth which is found near Selina’s laboratory in the Natural History Museum.

[www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2018/november/darwins-giant-ground-sloth-skull-pieced-together-and-scanned.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2018/november/darwins-giant-ground-sloth-skull-pieced-together-and-scanned.html)

1. Selina told us Cheddar Man came from the Mesolithic period of the Stone Age. Click on the links below to find out more about the three different periods of the Stone Age and what life was like for the people at the time.

<https://kidzfeed.com/stone-age-facts-for-kids/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mbf3m>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FwR97NBUC0>

1. Selina told us it is thought that Cheddar Man was about 20 years old when he died. This is a great article about how we can identify how old someone is using their bones and teeth.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/analysing-the-bones-what-can-a-skeleton-tell-you.html>

1. Now it’s your turn! See if you can tell how old this person is by looking at their teeth and bones.

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/media/file/wibidentifytheagefinal.pdf>

1. Do you remember Selina told us people have to be really careful to avoid contamination when working with ancient DNA? These great videos show the precautions that need to be taken in the laboratory.

<https://youtu.be/Mviy0wGett4>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-ancient-dna-revolution-unlocks-how-connected-we-all-are>

1. Selina told us they were able to extract DNA from the petrous bone. Here are some interesting facts and pictures showing the location of the petrous bone.

<https://exspaceproject.wordpress.com/2017/06/20/the-importance-of-being-petrous-bone/>

1. You can watch the whole of this video, ‘*Who was Cheddar Man?*’ or you can go to the section about the petrous bone where Selina shows us how the DNA is extracted from this part of the skull which is about 12 minutes into the video.

 <https://youtu.be/TQ8dc0XhUMM>

1. In the Podcast we talked about using tartar on teeth to study ancient people. Unfortunately, Cheddar Man’s teeth were too clean and there was no tartar to extract DNA from. Listen to this amazing video from Dr Christina Warinner talking about her work using tartar on teeth to study people from the past.

<https://youtu.be/2TmRoPTa4IU>

1. Read about what we think Neanderthals’ diets consisted of by analysing DNA from the tartar on their teeth.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/03/neanderthals-teeth-diet-medicine-microbiome-humans-science/>

<https://www.ted.com/talks/christina_warinner_tracking_ancient_diseases_using_plaque?language=en>

1. Find out what was discovered on the teeth of Neanderthals found in Spain.

<https://www.science.org.au/curious/people-medicine/what-did-neanderthals-eat>

1. Read this incredible article about how scientists were able to get DNA from birch tar – ancient chewing gum and find out what the person who chewed it looked like!

[https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2019/12/dna-stone-age chewing-gum-tells-incredible-story](https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2019/12/dna-stone-age%20chewing-gum-tells-incredible-story)

1. We learnt that Cheddar Man had dark skin. Click on the link to find out more about the evolution of skin colour.

 <https://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/genetics/human-skin-color-variation/modern-human-diversity-skin-color>

 <https://youtu.be/_r4c2NT4naQ>

1. We learnt that Cheddar Man had blue eyes. Watch this video to find out about the evolution of blue eye colour.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dsjz8TCahe4>

1. Find out how Selina and her team determined what Cheddar Man looked like – a must watch!

 <https://youtu.be/o8IQhA5CCl8>

To find out more about *The DNA Detectives: The Stone Age Mystery* book click here

<https://insightandperspective.co.uk/primary-science-the-dna-detectives>