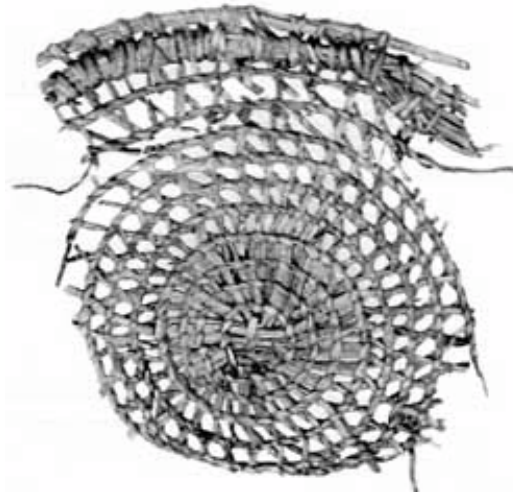


THE SUNKEN VILLAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

On the border between Oregon and Washington there is a small landlocked island called Sauvie Island. It is home to the Sunken Village, an old archaeological site that houses the remains of a village of Chinook Indians who lived there centuries ago.

According to Lewis and Clark, who first discovered the island, the Chinook may have lived there as early as 1250 AD, and thrived until about 1750 AD. They lived in a complex *hunter-gatherer* community with an extensive trading system. They called the island “Wapato Island”, because of the abundance of Wapato potatoes that grew there. It was home to at least 6,000 Chinook Indians, who mostly died by disease. This village is one of the only well-preserved cultural sites that remain in the area.



Remains of a basket

Today, the site is called the “Sunken Village” because it is mostly buried beneath marshland. The whole island is prone to seasonal flooding and other dangers. A bridge was built in 1950 to provide better access to the mainland, but this access led to *looting* of the archaeological site. Additionally, *levees* that were built in the 1930s to limit flooding are now leaking and swamping the village even more. The National Parks Service recently listed the site as “threatened”.



VOCABULARY

Hunter-gatherer: a way of living by hunting animals and gathering plants for survival.

Looting: to take what is not yours, esp. in a time of war or from an abandoned place.

Levees: a dam or embankment to help prevent flooding.

ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

Archaeology is the study of ancient cultures by looking at artifacts and remains of villages like the Sunken Village. Do you think archaeology is an important science? Why do people bother to dig up and study ancient cultures?