

Remains of 15 found in ancient Mexican settlement

July 13 2012



An unearthed skeleton dating back about 700 years is seen at a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

(AP) — Archaeologists in Mexico City have unearthed the skulls and other bones of 15 people, most of them the children of traveling merchants during Aztec times.

Researcher Alejandra Jasso Pena says they also found ceramic flutes, bowls, incense burners, the remains of a dog that was sacrificed to accompany a child in the afterlife and other artifacts of a pre-Columbian civilization.



An unearthened skeleton of a child dating back about 700 years is seen at a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

Jasso Pena said Friday that construction was about to start on five buildings in a Mexico City neighborhood when the National Institute of Anthropology and History asked to carry out an excavation of the site first.



Pictured is an unearthed ceramic object from a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

Experts suspected the site was an important ceremonial center for the Tepanec tribe between 1200 and 1300. The influential traders living there were called Pochtecas.

[Archaeologists](#) say excavation is continuing at the site.



Archeologists stand next to a table displaying objects unearthed from a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)



Pictured is a mask unearthed from a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)



Pictured is an unearthed flute from a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)



A worker pushes a wheelbarrow through a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of the Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)



Workers clean an area of a recently discovered archeological site in Mexico City, Friday, July 13, 2012. According to Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History, INAH, the site is about 700 years old and is a neighborhood of the Tepaneca merchants. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

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Citation: Remains of 15 found in ancient Mexican settlement (2012, July 13) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-07-ancient-mexican-settlement.html>

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