

Egtved Girl

Girl from Bronze Age Denmark (1,370B.C.)

Just under 3,400 years ago, (During the early Bronze Age), a young girl was buried in an area that is now Egtved, Denmark.

She was buried in a large oak coffin, this was put into a mound (hill).

It was discovered in 1921 by a local farmer. Another grave was on top of her one, but not much remained of that coffin (experts think it may have been her husband, who may have died years later).

It is thought that she was about 18 years old when she died, we have no idea how she met her end, She was wrapped carefully in a large cow skin and a blanket was placed on top of her.

A flower (called yarrow) was placed carefully on the blanket.

It looks like a sad story... because there were also the remains of a small child that had been cremated and placed in a tree bark container near her, (we don't think that the child was her own, it is more likely to be a younger relative).

She had shoulder-length hair that appears not to have been fastened up, but worn in a loose style.

Her clothes look a bit different to other Bronze Age clothes that survive, (Normally, skirts that have been found in other Bronze Age women's graves were much longer than this). So, when she was first discovered, archaeologists thought she must be very special, perhaps a dancer or acrobat.

But we now know that a few other women may have worn clothes like this in the Bronze Age. (Other skirts like this have now been found, some even had tiny bronze tubes on the ends of the cords).

Also, there are many small statues of women from the Bronze Age, that seem to show them wearing short skirts like this one).

Her top was made from a light brown wool and her skirt was also wool and made up of many cords.

It was wrapped twice around her waist. Her belt was woven and fixed by a large bronze disc that was decorated with tiny spiral patterns. She was also found with 2 bronze bangles that would have been worn on her wrists and she also had a small comb.

Oddly enough, there were no shoes in her coffin.

Why not colour her in?

She looks quite modern, but here's the challenge... avoid using bright, modern colours if you can.

To be really accurate: Use different brown shades for her clothes...and yellow for her jewellery... unless you think she really must look really colourful of course. It's up to you...

Name _____

Class _____

Can you label the Egtved Girl?

Use these words to help:

Wool tunic (her top)

Belt disc (bronze)

Skirt (This was short and made of cords)

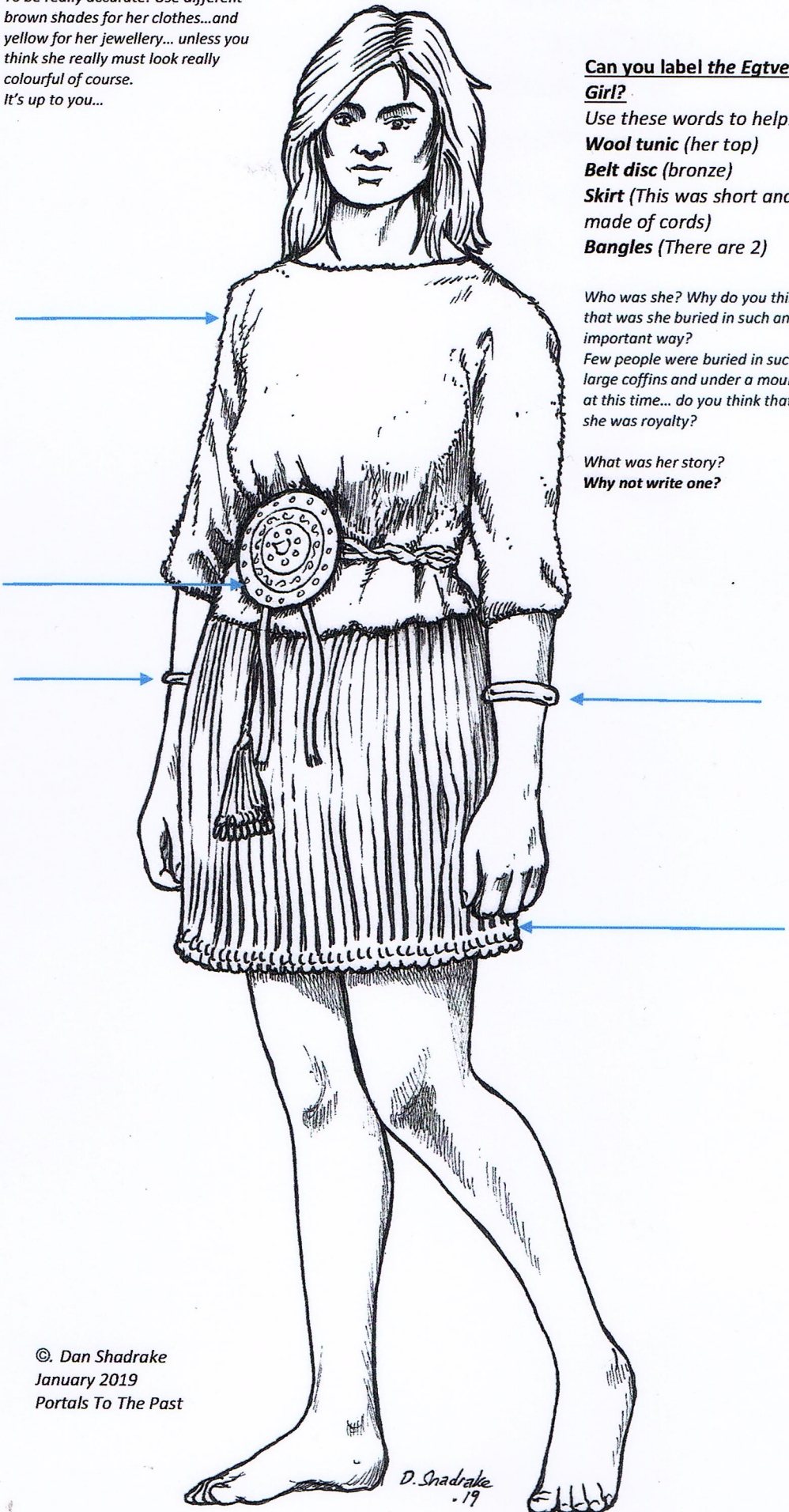
Bangles (There are 2)

Who was she? Why do you think that was she buried in such an important way?

Few people were buried in such large coffins and under a mound at this time... do you think that she was royalty?

What was her story?

Why not write one?



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