

pleistocene Poo

Introduction:

Prehistoric humans were hunter-gatherers, that is, they hunted meat and gathered vegetables and fruits for food.

Many of the animals they hunted were migratory, such as deer, wild horses, and bison. The ability to find and track animals was very important for these groups, knowing how to identify poop could help them a lot!

Hunters hunt herbivores (eat plants), but they have to avoid carnivores (eat meat) and omnivores (eat plants and meat) or the hunt could end badly! Can you identify if the poop belongs to an herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore?

Instructions:

In this dossier, you will find pictures and descriptions of different poop, using the information about the poop of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Can you identify what type of animal the poop belongs to? Do you think you can identify the animals that have pooped? Look carefully at the description, don't forget to look at the measurement!

Optional activity: using play dough (brown), white play dough (for bones) and a variety of items such as: grass, sand, seeds, nut scraps, etc. Create your own poop, ask the rest of the class if they can identify the animal that has made your poop.

Learning objectives:

Children will learn about the different animals that lived in Europe during the Paleolithic. They will also learn to identify the differences between herbivores, carnivores and omnivores.

Additionally, children will practice their observation skills.



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Carnivore, herbivore or omnivore

Carnivore poop (they eat meat):

- Oily due to fat.
- Remains of fish's hair, bones, or scales.
- Black or dark brown color. (Except for the hyena, they eat so many bones that it can be white!).
- Stink.

Herbivore poop (eat plants):

Plant remains.

Seeds and shells.

It doesn't smell too bad.

Greenish-brown and light brown color.

Omnivore poop (they eat plants and meat):

A mixture of the two.

It can vary depending on the time of year, since their diet usually changes seasonally.



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Answers



Mammoth



Wild horse



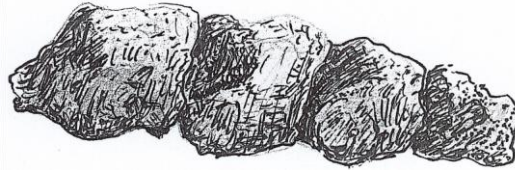
Brown bear



Hyena



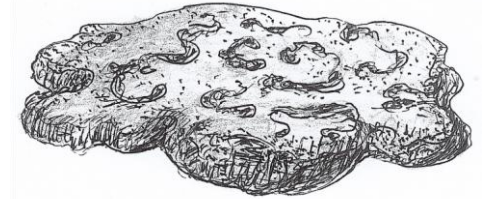
Wolverine



Lion



Deer



Bison



Wolf



Lynx



Lemming



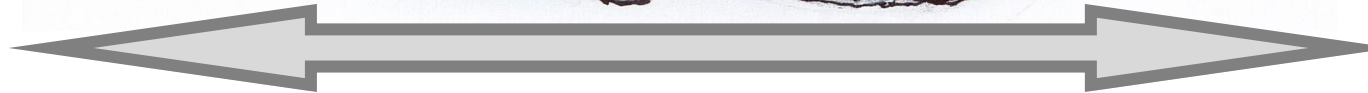
Shrew



Field Mouse

Diet:

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivorous
- ☐ Omnivorous



20cm

Animal:

Mammoth
Wild horse
Hyena
Wolverine
Lion
Deer
Bison
Wolf
Lynx
Lemming
Shrew
Field Mouse

Large, very heavy poop with grass, moss, lichens and seeds.



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Diet:

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivorous
- ☐ Omnivorous



22,5cm

Animal:

- ☐ Mammoth
- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Greenish-brown, moist and contains grass and straw.



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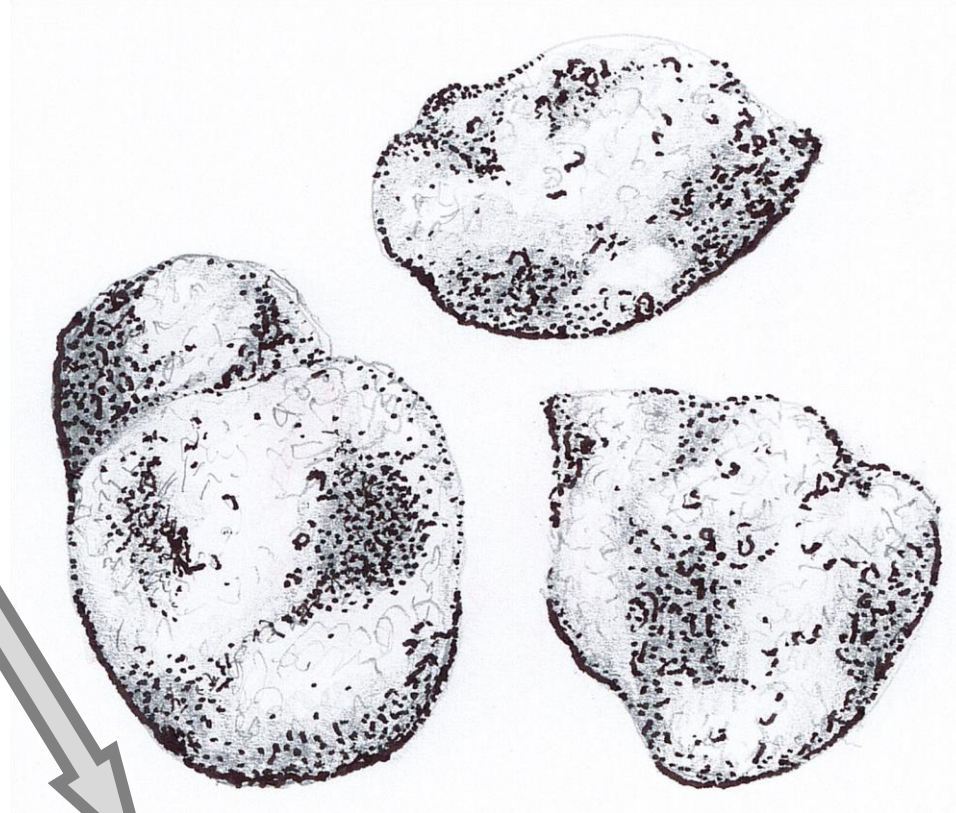
Diet:

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Animal:

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- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
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- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

5cm



Brown and white, round with pieces of bone.



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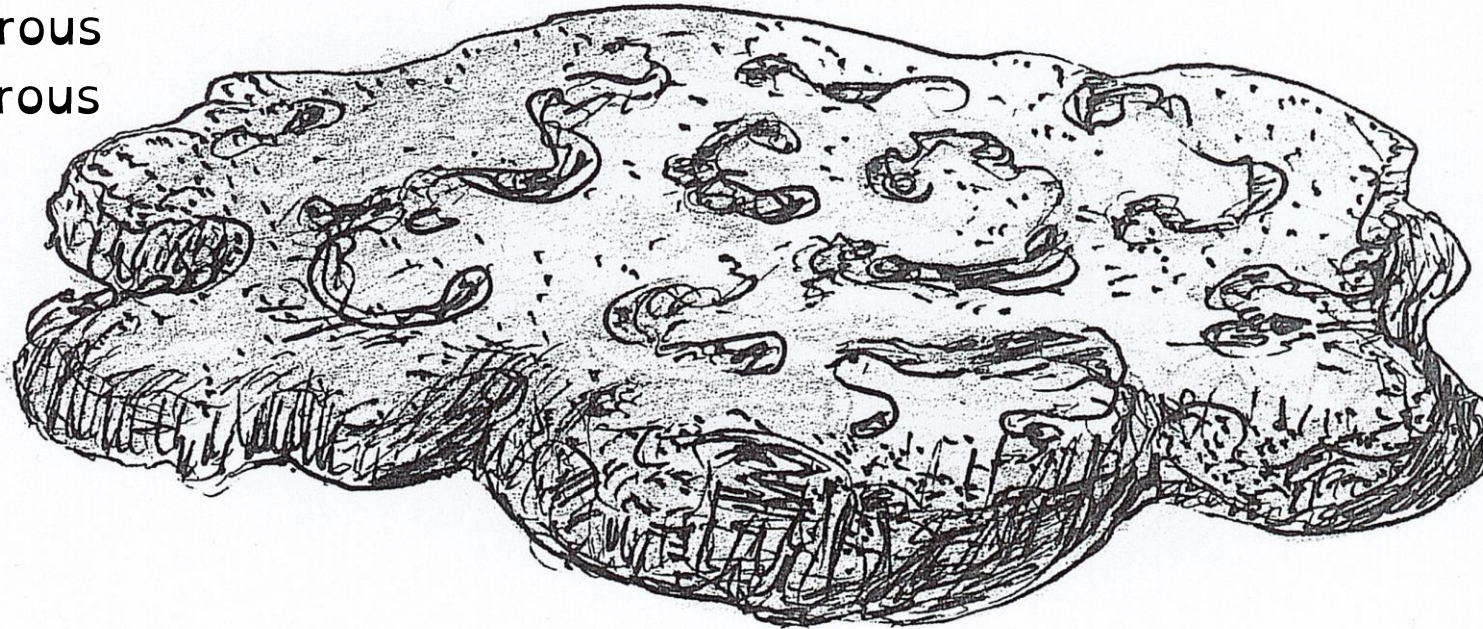
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- ☐ Field Mouse



20cm

Moist and fluffy, it sometimes contains traces of grass.



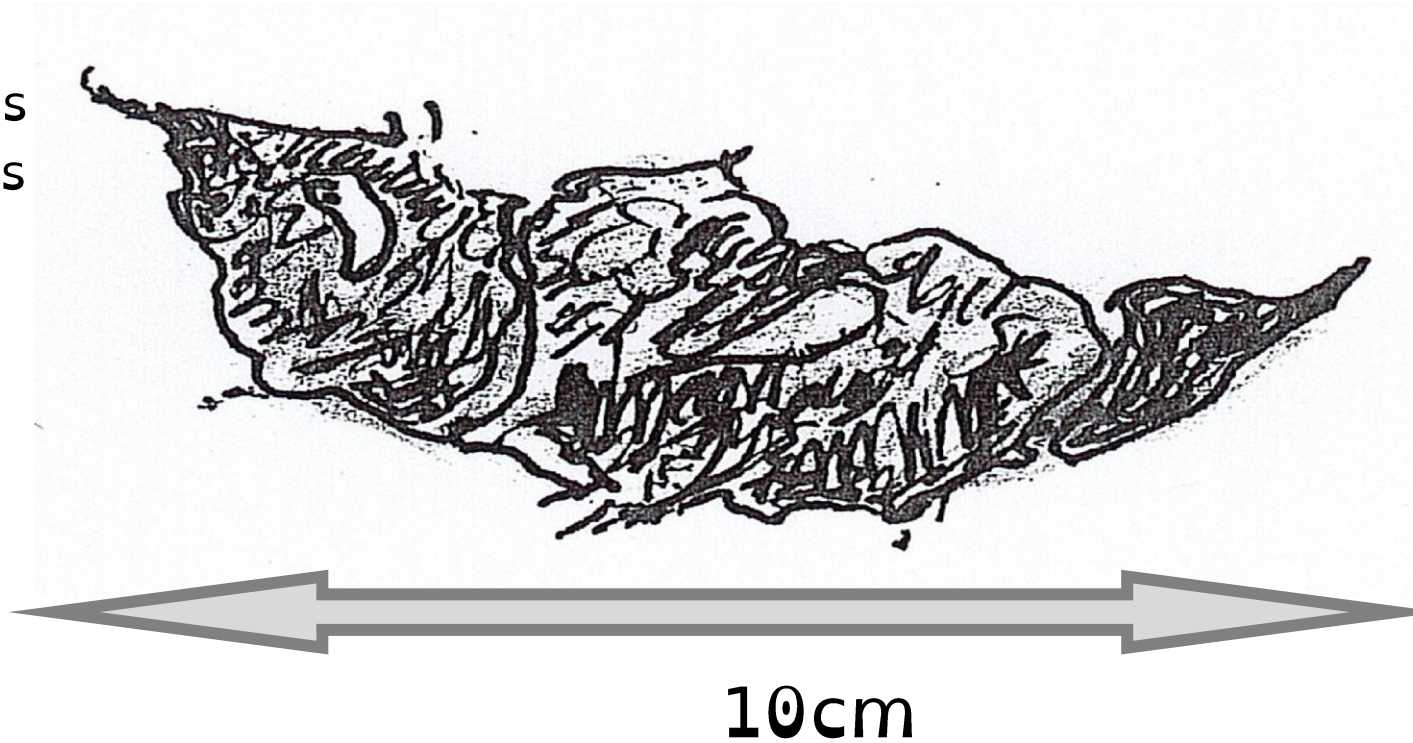
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Animal:

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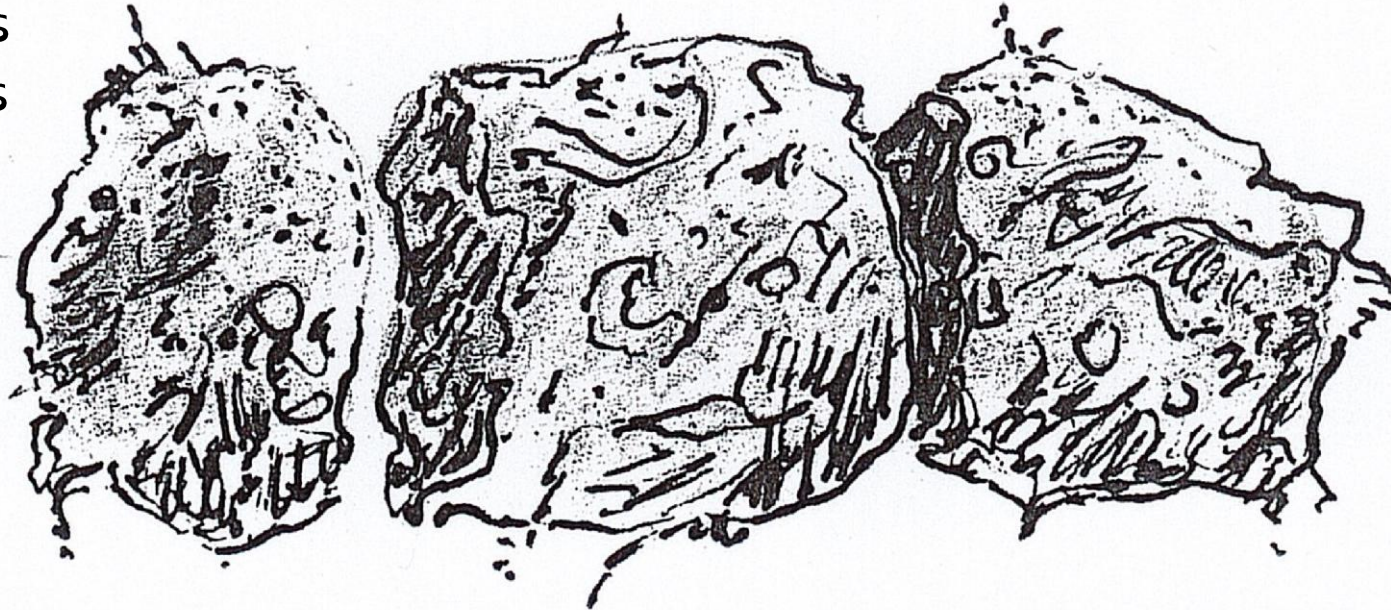
4-5cm thick, dark brown or black, with lots of hairs and pieces of bone.

Diet:

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivorous
- ☐ Omnivorous

Animal:

- ☐ Mammoth
- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☒ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse



It smells sweet, black, and sticky, with bone and hair traces, berries, and fish scales.



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10cm

Long, thin and pointed, dark brown and black with many hairs.



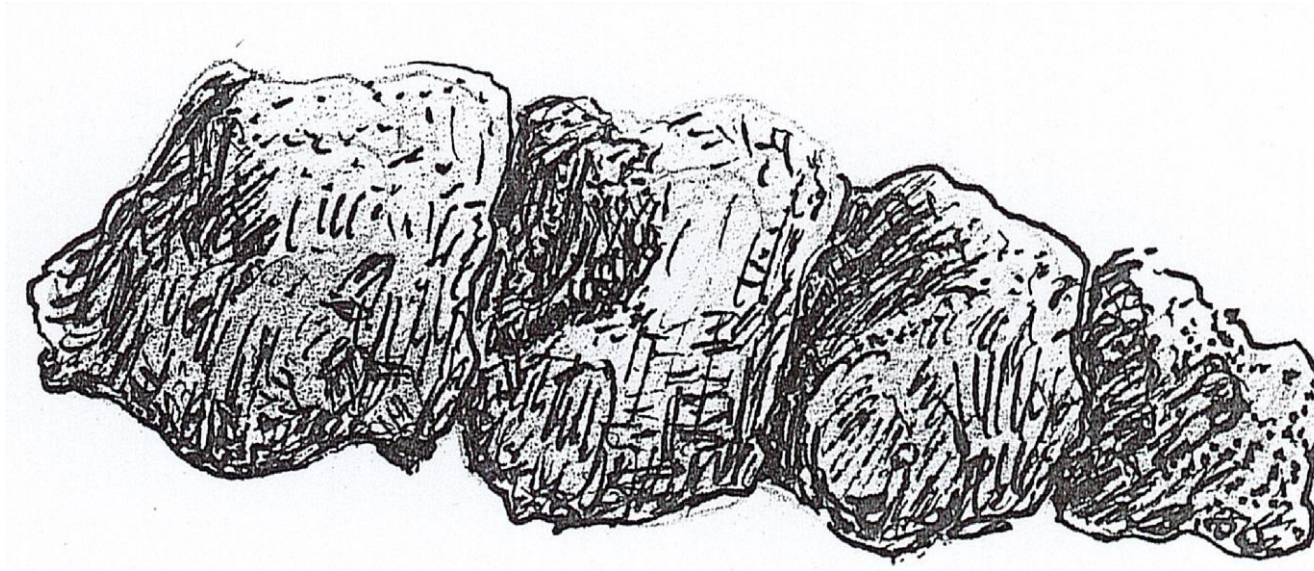
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Diet:

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14cm

Animal:

- ☐ Mammoth
- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Rounded, dry and with many hairs and pieces of bone.

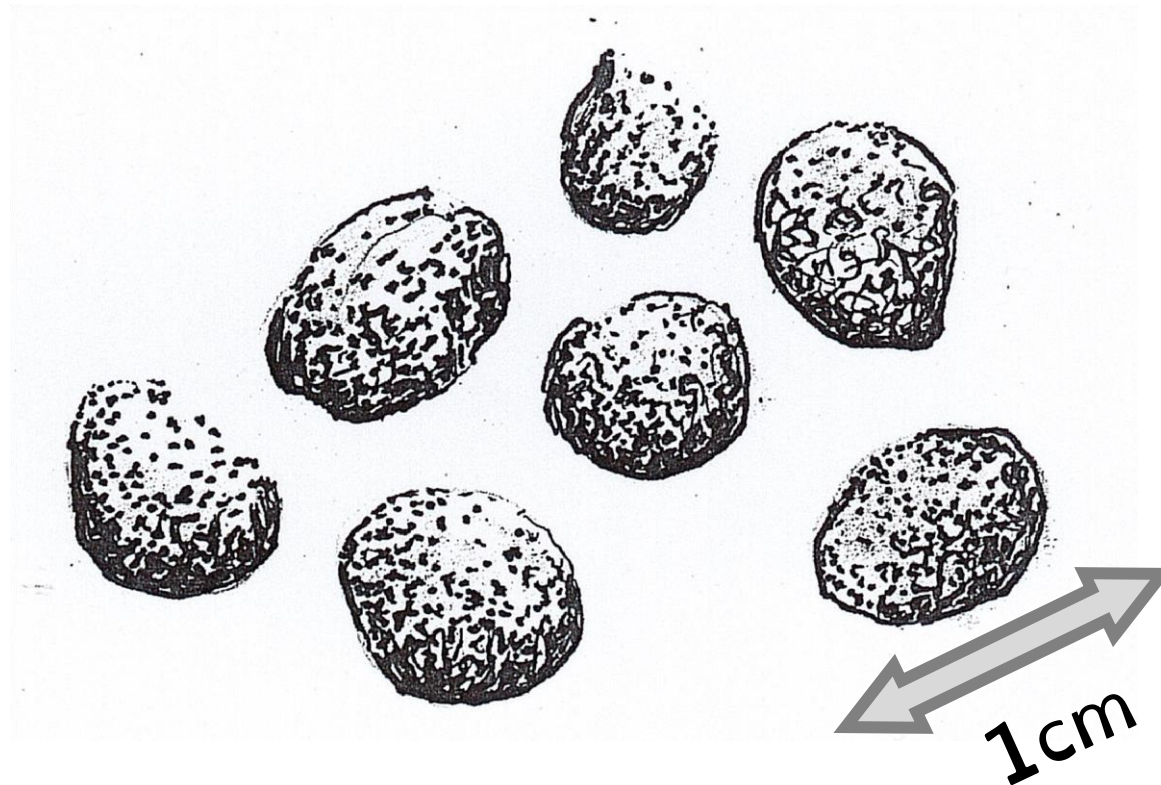


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Animal:

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- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Dry poop, many piled up, with traces of grass.

Diet:

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivorous
- ☐ Omnivorous



11,5cm

Animal:

- ☐ Mammoth
- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Rounded, dry and with many hairs and pieces of bone.

Diet:

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivorous
- ☐ Omnivorous



0,5cm

Animal:

- ☐ Mammoth
- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
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- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Small, pointed poop containing pieces of insects.

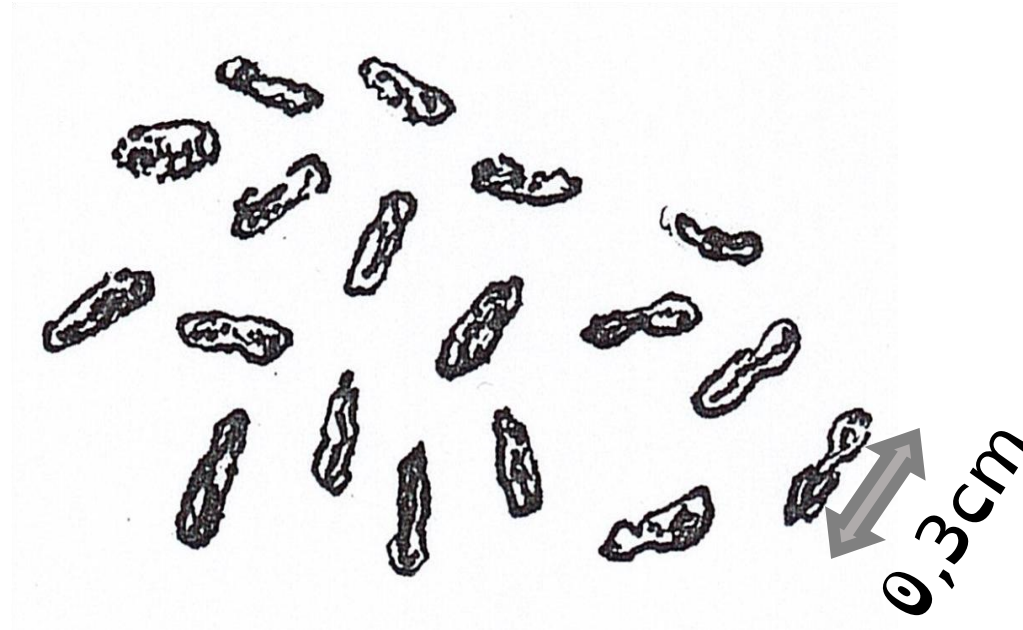


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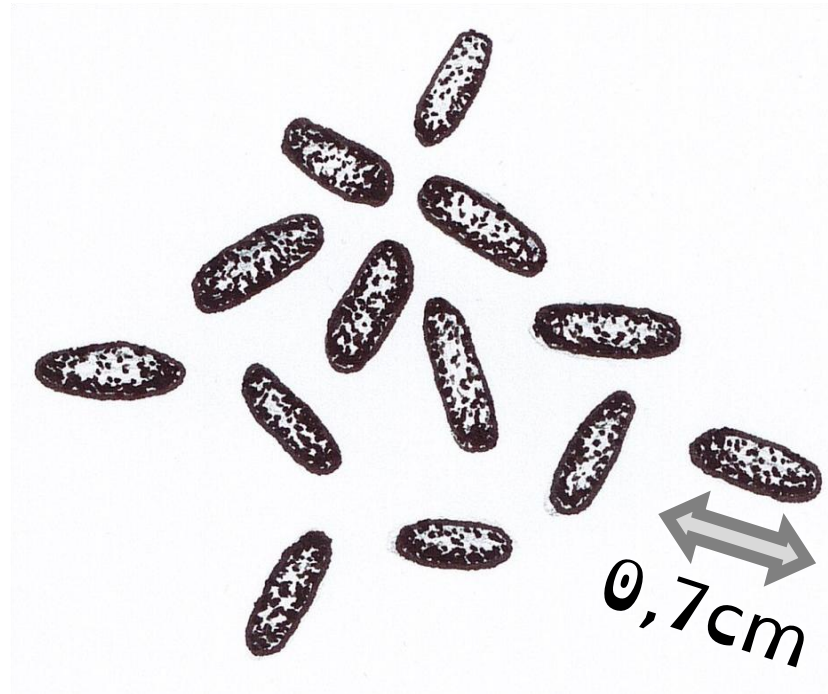
Animal:

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- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Many poops, dried, contain seeds.

Diet:

- ☐ Herbivore
- ☐ Carnivorous
- ☐ Omnivorous



Animal:

- ☐ Mammoth
- ☐ Wild horse
- ☐ Hyena
- ☐ Wolverine
- ☐ Lion
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Bison
- ☐ Wolf
- ☐ Lynx
- ☐ Lemming
- ☐ Shrew
- ☐ Field Mouse

Dry, light brown poop with seeds and herbs.

An idea inspired by the activities of Creswell Crags Archaeological Park

