**Test1 Part4**

Part 4. You will hear an archaeology student giving a presentation on an important site in Ireland called the Cagie Fields. First you have some time to look at questions 31 to 40. Now listen carefully and answer questions 31 to 40.

For my presentation today, I'm going to talk about the Cajee Fields in the north -west of Ireland, one of the largest Neolithic sites in the world. I recently visited this site and observed the work that is currently being done by a team of archaeologists there.

The site was first discovered in the 1930s by a local teacher, Patrick Caulfield. He noticed that when local people were digging in the bog, they were constantly hitting against what seemed to be rows of stones.

He realised that these must be walls, and that they must be thousands of years old for them to predate the bog which subsequently grew over them. He wrote to the National Museum in Dublin to ask them to investigate, but no one took him seriously.

It wasn't until forty years later when Patrick Caulfield's son, Seamus, who would become an archaeologist by then, began to explore further. He inserted iron probes into the bog to map the formation of the stones, a traditional method which local people had always used for finding fuel buried in the bog for thousands of years.

Carbon dating later proved that the site was over five thousand years old and was the largest Neolithic site in Ireland. Thanks to the bog which covers the area, the remains of the settlement at kg fields, which is over 5 ,000 years old, are extremely well preserved.

A bog is 90% water, its soil so saturated that when the grasses and heathers that grow on its surface die, they don't fully decay but accumulate in layers. Objects remain so well preserved in these conditions because of the acidity of the peat and the deficiency of oxygen.

At least 175 days of rain a year are required for this to happen. This part of Ireland gets an average of 225 days. Thank you. The Neolithic farmers at Keiji would have enjoyed several centuries of relative peace and stability.

Neolithic farmers generally lived in larger communities than their predecessors, with a number of houses built around a community building. As they lived in permanent settlements, Neolithic farmers were able to build bigger houses.

These weren't round, as people often assume, but rectangular, with a small hole in the roof that allowed smoke to escape. This is one of many innovations and indicates that the Neolithic farmers were the first people to cook indoors.

Another new technology that Neolithic settlers brought to Ireland was pottery. Fragments of Neolithic pots have been found in Keiji and elsewhere in Ireland. The pots were used for many things, as well as for storing food.

Pots were filled with a small amount of fat, and when this was set alight they served as lamps. It's thought that the Keiji fields were mainly used as paddocks for animals to graze in. Evidence from the Keiji fields suggests that each plot of land was of a suitable size to sustain.

stain an extended family. They may have used a system of rotational grazing in order to prevent overgrazing and to allow for plant recovery and regrowth. This must have been a year -round activity, as no structures have been found which would have been used to shelter animals in the winter.

However, archaeologists believe that this way of life at Keiji ceased abruptly. Why was this? Well, several factors may have contributed to the changing circumstances. The soil would have become less productive and led to the abandonment of farming.

The crop rotation system was partly responsible for this, as it would have been very intensive and was not sustainable. But there were also climatic pressures too. The farmers at Keiji would have enjoyed a relatively dry period, but this began to change, and the conditions became wetter as there was a lot more rain.

It was these conditions that encouraged the bog to form over the area which survives today. So now I'd like to show you some...