

# Archaeological discoveries in 2025

## 1 TÜRKIYE:

A T-shaped pillar carved with a human face (left) is one of two remarkable discoveries made this year at the Neolithic site of **Karahantepe**.

The other is a group of carved stone animals – a fox, a vulture, and a wild boar (below) – which date back around 11,500 years and represent the earliest known example of objects being arranged to convey a narrative



Figurines found with each of their heads inserted into a separate stone ring

**4 UK:** Fire-cracked flint, hand axes and heated sediments found on a field in eastern England, revealed that humans mastered the art of creating fire 400,000 years ago, almost 350,000 years earlier than previously known



**6 ITALY:** Archaeologists in Pompeii uncovered nearly life-sized frescoes dating to 40-30 BC, depicting followers of **Dionysus** – the god of wine and ecstasy – engaged in secretive cult rituals. The frescoes, which cover three walls of an ancient banquet hall, offer rare insight into the religious practices of the Roman city



**2 BELIZE:** A team of researchers excavating the ancient Maya city of Caracol unearthed the 1,700-year-old tomb of its founding ruler, **Te K'ab Chaak**.

The burial chamber contained pottery, jadeite jewellery and an exceptional jade-and-shell mosaic death mask that once covered the king's face



**3 EGYPT:** Archaeologists identified an ancient tomb west of the Valley of the Kings as that of **King Thutmose II** – the first pharaoh's tomb

discovered in more than a century. Fragments of alabaster jars (right) bearing his name confirm it is the last missing royal tomb from Egypt's 18th Dynasty, which also included **Tutankhamun**



Thutmose II's name

## 5 SOUTH-EAST ASIA:

Skeletal remains from 57 people found at 11 sites across China, Vietnam and Indonesia, dating to the pre-Neolithic period, show signs of mummification through a smoke-drying process. Some burials date to around 10,000 years ago, making them the earliest known intentionally mummified individuals in the world



## 7 IRAQ:

Scientists working on the monumental task of digitising every cuneiform text fragment ever discovered, used AI to piece together clay fragments of a **Babylonian hymn** from 1000 BC that had been scattered across the world. The reconstructed text revealed a poetic tribute to the city's splendour and its people



**8 CRETE:** A labyrinth-like monument on a Cretan hilltop – consisting of eight concentric stone walls surrounding a vaulted central structure – is believed to have been built by members of the Bronze Age **Minoan** culture as early as 3000 BC – more than a millennium before the rise of the palace-based society that later dominated Minoan life

