Unit 11 GeoClip: Ancient Bee's Nests

[MUSIC PLAYING]

What you'll find in here, too, is you'll actually find insect traces, where they were underneath the bark, burrowing in just like modern ones do. This log, they call it the discovery log. This is actually a pretty important discovery.

What you're looking at here are insect traces and actual nest-- like little capsules here. You can see they're lined up. Little capsules of some nests of some kind of insect that actually lived in this log. You can see them here and here, coming out.

Now, these have been interpreted to be bees' nests. And if that's true, these would be the earliest record of bees by about 130 million years. Some entomologists disagree and say that this is very similar to some of the traces that modern beetles make, rather than bees.

But what they did is, some of these capsules in here, they went in and they found some preserved resins. And they actually tested them for geochemically, and they found the chemical that bees secrete. So some more work needs to be done on these to verify these results. But they were definitely made by some kind of insect. And it's a great example of how insects lived in these logs and used them as a food source and as a home.

[MUSIC PLAYING]