

Digging Into an Archaeological Dig

Learning Objectives:

1. The student will gain a greater understanding of the nature of archaeology and the processes, tools and equipment used at an archaeological dig.
2. The student will explore methods used to test, date, and catalog artifacts found at an archaeological dig.
3. The student will engage in critical thinking and creative thinking.

Type of Teacher Tool: Individual/Differentiation Activity, Small Group Activity, and Whole Class Activity

Targeted Grade Level(s): 3-6, 7-12

Targeted Curriculum Areas: Science, Social Studies, STEM

Videos/Resources/Materials Needed:

1. Archaeology 1: Explore! Archaeology
2. Archaeology 2: The Science Behind Archaeology
3. Archaeology 3: Working at an Archaeological Dig 1
4. Archaeology 4: Finding and Recording Artifacts
5. Archaeology 5: Working at an Archaeological Dig 2
6. Archaeology 6: Tools and Equipment Used at an Archaeological Dig
7. Archaeology 7: Work Conditions at an Archaeological Dig
8. Student Tool 64: Digging Into an Archaeological Dig Worksheet

Teacher Instructions:

1. Working individually or in small groups have students watch the videos below as they complete Student Tool 64: Digging into An Archaeological Dig Worksheet
2. Videos to view are Archaeology 3, Archaeology 4, Archaeology 5, Archaeology 6, and Archaeology 7. Each of these videos includes only natural sound so students can respond to what they see based only on what they notice in the video.
3. After completing the student worksheets, have students share their responses with each other in a whole class or small group setting to see what each other noticed and what questions each developed.
4. Then have students, individually, in small groups, or as an entire class watch either Archaeology 1 or Archaeology 2. Archaeology 1 is targeted to students in grades 3-6, and Archaeology 2 is targeted to students in grades 7-12. As they view the video, have them check for information that applies to questions from their worksheet and questions they developed for their worksheet. Feel free to stop the video at any of these points and invite more class discussion or questions.
5. After viewing the video, do students have any unanswered questions from their worksheet? If so, have students explore them with additional research online or by asking an archaeologist in your area.

Assessment/Evaluation Option

1. Review of the student worksheets
2. Assessment of class discussion contributions
3. Create a quiz asking students to explain three important concepts they learned about archaeology as a result of engaging in the activity and evaluate their responses on clarity and accuracy.