

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.

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

Student Instructions:

1. Following instructions given by your teacher, watch the videos below as you complete the worksheet beginning on the second page of this document.
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 your worksheet, your teacher may ask you to share ideas you have included with other classmates.
4. Once you've completed your worksheet, your teacher will instruct you to view either the video entitled Archaeology 1 or the video entitled Archaeology 2. Archaeology 1 is targeted to students in grades 3-6, and Archaeology 2 is targeted to students in grades 7-12. As you view the video, check for information that applies to questions from your worksheet and questions you developed for your 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 you have any unanswered questions from your worksheet? If so, explore them with additional research online or by asking an archaeologist in your area.

Student Worksheet

Student Name: _____

Section 1: Processes of an Archaeological Dig

As you view the videos listed in Step 2 of your instructions, use this section to write notes about what you notice about the processes used at an archaeological dig. How is the work done? What tools do you notice being used? How deep is the dig? What types of artifacts are being found? How does the weather affect the work? How big does the dig site look to you? How much time do you think it would take to dig as much as they did? Do you notice any recording of artifacts? If so, what does it look like they do to record where an artifact was found? What else do you notice?

Section 2: Questions You'd Like to Ask About What You Saw

As you view the videos and write your notes above, do you have any questions about archaeological tools, the process of the dig, or any other topics you'd like to ask the archaeologist and historian who worked at this dig site? If so, write them in this section of your worksheet.

Section 3: Comparing Your Notes to What You Learned Watching the Archived Program

After completing section 2 of your worksheet, you will view either video Archaeology 1: Explore! Archaeology or Archaeology 2: The Science Behind Archaeology. As you view the archived program, look over your notes to see what information the expert provides that goes along with what you noted or provides more detail on what you noted. Also check to see if the expert answers any of the questions you wrote in Section 2 of the worksheet. Take additional notes in this section as well that build on your previous work in the first two sections. After viewing the archive, pick three specific points you learned about archaeology through all the videos you watched that you would like to share with others. Write a short paragraph explaining each of these points and why you think they are interesting and/or important.