

STEAM Activity: Explore Archaeology

Type of Teacher Tool: Small Group Activity

Targeted Grade Level(s): 5-8, 9-12

Targeted Curriculum Areas: Science, Music

Learning Objectives:

The learner will:

1. engage in critical and creative thinking.
2. build on their current understanding of, and develop new insights into, archaeology and how it helps us understand our past.
3. be able to identify and explain the use of different methods, tools, and equipment used in an archaeological dig.
4. create an original rap song

National Standards:

1. Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects

Grades 3-6 College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally

2. Science MS-ESS3-4 Earth and Human Activity Construct an argument supported by evidence for how increases in human population and per-capita consumption of natural resources impact Earth's systems.

3. Music Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
 MU:Cr1.1.5a—Improvise rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic ideas, and explain connection to specific purpose and context (such as social, cultural, and historical).

Resources/Materials Needed:

- Archaeology 3: Working at an Archaeological Dig 1
- Archaeology 4: Finding and Recording Artifacts
- Archaeology 5: Working at an Archaeological Dig 2
- Archaeology 6: Tools and Equipment Used at an Archaeological Dig
- Archaeology 7: Work Conditions at an Archaeological Dig
- Archaeology 8: How do you spot a place to dig?
- Archaeology 9: Tools Used at a Dig
- Archaeology 10: Setting Up and Using the Grid to Record Artifacts
- Archaeology 11: How Rain Can Affect a Dig Site
- Archaeology 12: Chain of Evidence for Artifacts from a Dig Site
- Archaeology 13: How careful do you have to be when digging?
- Archaeology 14: Is there a sequence to how a dig is explored?
- Archaeology 15: Why be an archaeologist?

Archaeology 16: The Interdisciplinary Nature of Being an Archaeologist

Archaeology 17: Does the process or tools used for a dig change depending on where the dig is located?

Archaeology 18: What an Artifact Can Tell You—An Example of Finding a Medieval Coin

Archaeology 19: What is the process for recording a found artifact?

Archaeology 20: What is the process for closing a dig site appropriately?

Teacher Instructions:

1. Assign the groups to watch the videos listed in the **Resources/Materials Needed**.
2. Divide the class into five groups.
3. Each group draws from a bowl which of the un-narrated videos (3-7) they will watch and from a second bowl which two of the narrated videos (8-20) they will also watch.
4. Students will use what they have observed and learned from watching their videos to create a verse of a rap song about Archaeology.
5. Give the groups time to brainstorm ideas and then create the rap.
6. Have each group perform their verse of the rap for the other groups.

Extension Activity:

1. Invite another class and have all groups perform their complete rap.
2. For students interested in learning more about archaeology, have them view either of two archived programs available on the Educate.Today website:
 Archaeology 1: Explore! Archaeology (grades 3-6)
 Archaeology 2: The Science Behind Archaeology (grades 7-12)

Assessment/Evaluation Option

1. Have the class discuss how well the objectives of the assignment were met.
2. Have the class list the archaeological vocabulary used in each verse.
3. Have the class discuss the musical value of the rap lyrics

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