

Archaeology Unit  
Lesson 1  
What is Archaeology?

Archaeology can be broken into two Greek words: **archaio** "ancient" and **logy** "science." Archaeology is the science of the ancient or, to put it another way, archaeology is the study of ancient people.



Archaeologists study what the ancient people have left behind. These items include pots, tools, and houses. All of these manmade items are called **artifacts**.



Most of the time artifacts have to be dug up or **excavated**. A site where artifacts are being dug up is called an excavation site.

Lesson 1  
Activity Page  
Word Definition Match



<p>_____ archaio</p> <p>_____ logy</p> <p>_____ excavate</p> <p>_____ artifact</p>	<p>A. science</p> <p>B. manmade item</p> <p>C. ancient</p> <p>D. to dig up</p>
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Archaeology Unit  
Lesson 2  
Tools of the Trade

Many of the tools used by archaeologists can be found around most homes. If you don't have all the items listed below, improvise by using what you do have.

Turf cutter, spade, pick, and hand pick. These tools are used for removing obstacles.

For finer uncovering work: knife, ice pick, sieve, and brushes.

To take measurements: graduated triangle with bubble levels attached, bubble level, plumb bob, measuring poles, and tape measure.

A notebook for taking notes and sketches.

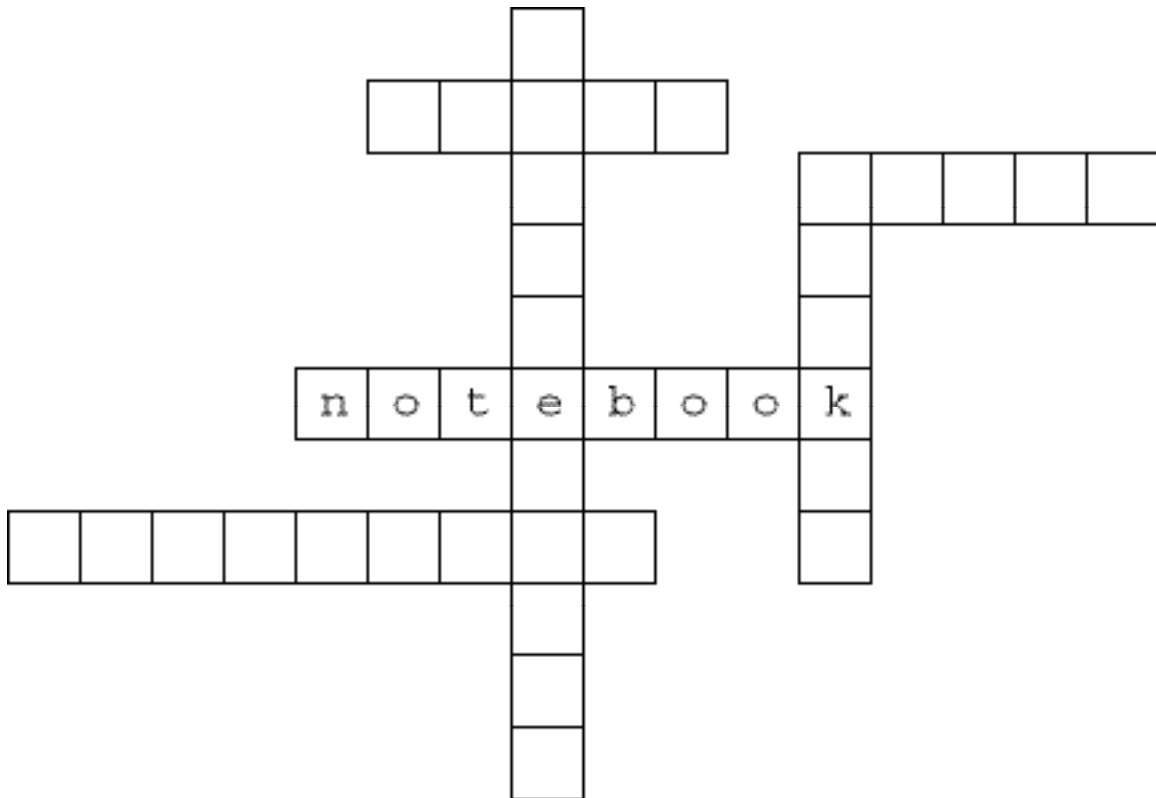
A basket is used to remove the dirt from the area.

Lesson 2  
Activity  
Tools of the Trade

Use the words below to complete the puzzle. Notebook is already done for you.

basket  
improvise  
spade  
notebook

tape measure  
brush



## Archaeology Unit

### Lesson 3

#### Finding a Site

Many excavation sites are found by accident. For example, when highways are being built large quantities of soil is cleared away. Sometimes workers will see parts of an old village being uncovered and they will contact an archaeologist to examine the find. Dinosaur fossils have also been discovered this way.

Sites can also be spotted from the sky. Air surveys can be used to discover ancient roads, depressions in the earth where old ruins might lie underneath, earthworks such as the Serpent Mound, and even pyramids that are camouflaged with vegetation.

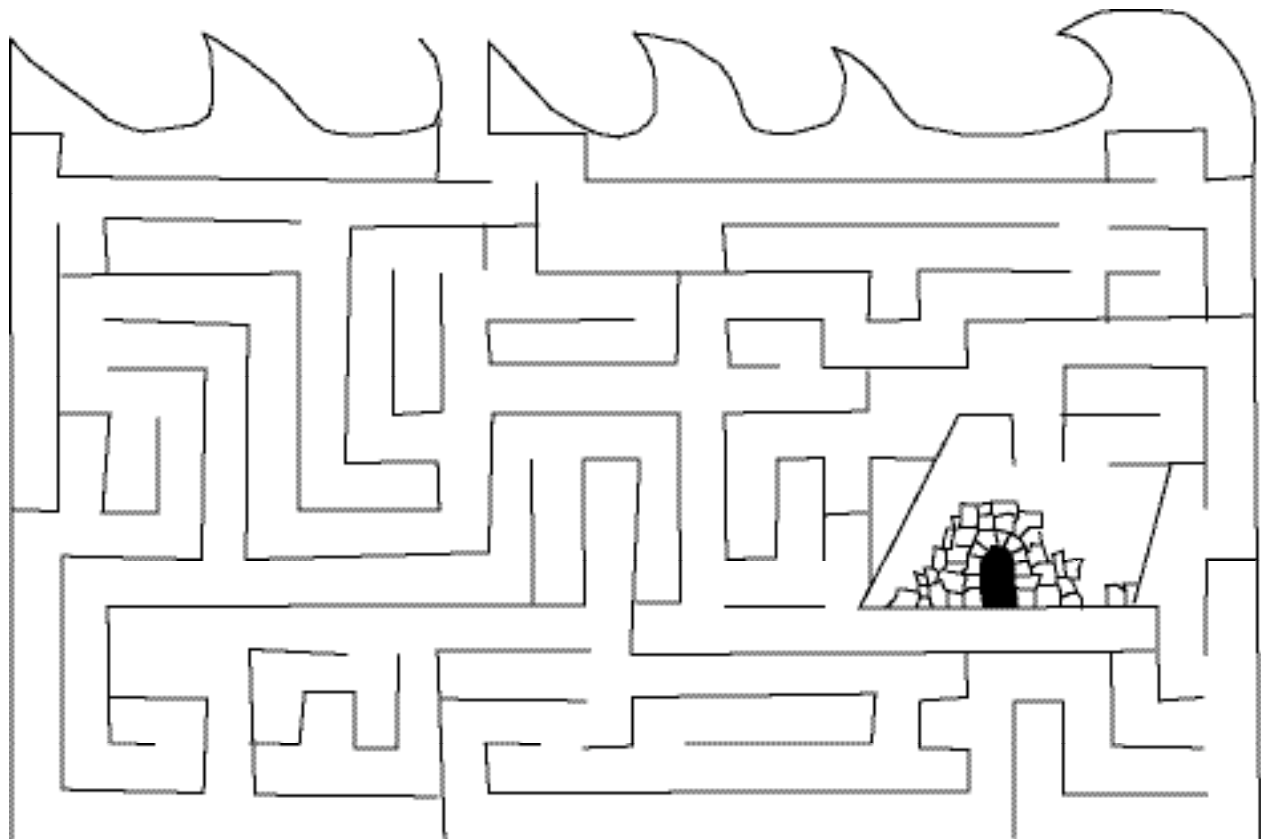
Some archaeologists study ancient manuscripts to locate the long buried ruins of temples and cities.

Archaeology Unit

Lesson 3

Activity: Maze

Neptune guards many ancient treasures under the sea. Can you find your way through the maze to one of Neptune's secret temples?



Archaeology Unit  
Lesson 4  
Chronology

Chronology is the dating system used by archaeologists. There are two kinds of chronology. The first is absolute chronology. This is when an item can be dated using written records. The second is relative chronology. Everything that cannot be dated using written records falls into this category.

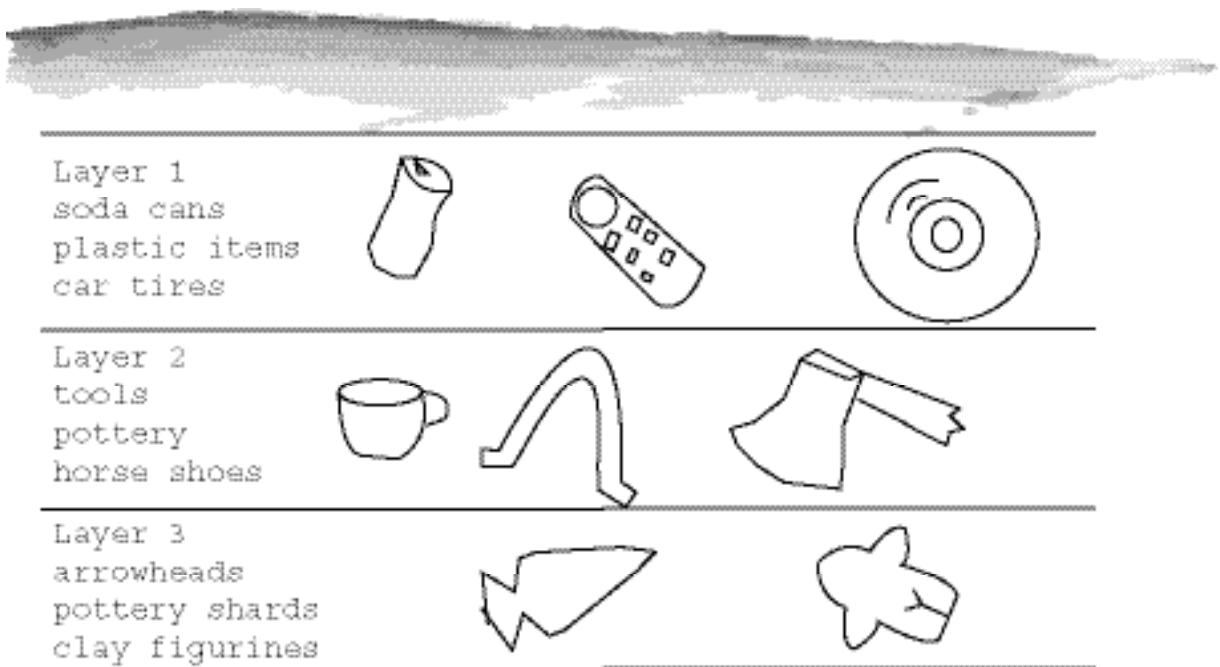
There are many ways to discover the approximate date of an excavation site. Coins found during the dig give the dates of when the coins were made. Plant pollen can be examined under a microscope by a botanist who will know when certain plants grew in different parts of the world. Radiocarbon dating can also be used to find the approximate date of an item. Dendrochronology is the method of tree ring dating and the varve system counts the layers of silt in glacial lakes.

# Archaeology Unit

## Lesson 4

### Chronology

Stratigraphy is studying the layers of soil where you expect to find certain items. For example, in the first layer of soil you'd expect to find items from today's world. If you dig down deeper, you'd expect to find items from the colonial times. Dig down even further and you'd expect to find items from when the Native American Indians lived across America.

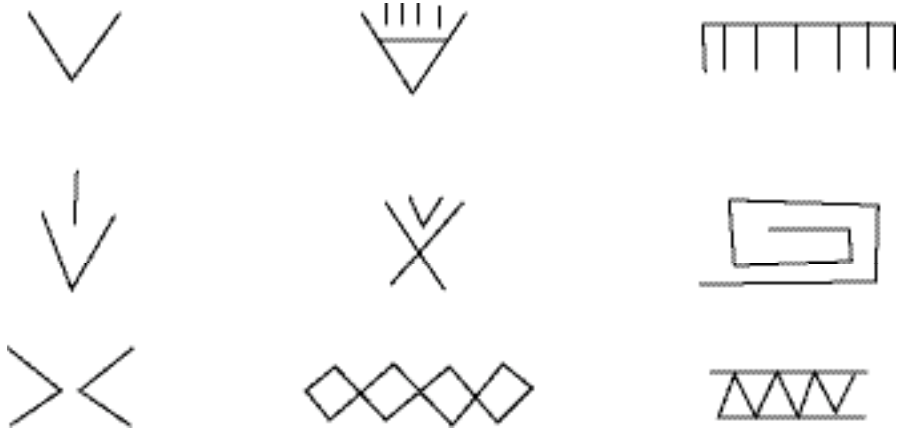


Archaeology Unit  
Lesson 5  
Pottery: Typology

Pottery finds are important to archaeologists because they help date the site.

Typology is the study of different shapes and symbols. In archaeology the shape of the pottery that is found is studied as well as the symbols on the pottery.

A few pottery symbols:



# Archaeology Unit

## Lesson 5

### Pottery: Typology Activity

1. Draw a pottery dish, bowl, or vase below.
  2. Decorate it with symbols.
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## Archaeology Unit

### Lesson 6

#### Be an Amateur Archaeologist

To become a full-fledged archaeologist you will need to go to a college or a university. However a great many discoveries have been made by amateur archaeologists. To become an amateur archaeologist:

1. Become involved at your local museum.
2. Get a membership in your local historical society. Volunteer when help is needed.
3. Seek out a local club for amateur archaeologists. If there are none, start your own.
4. Travel and take walks. You may stumble across a site worth further investigating by a professional archaeologist.
5. Learn the history of where you live. Learn to identify local plant life, rocks, and shells.
6. Always keep your eyes open!