

Could the Past be in your Future?



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY



- ✓ Are you curious about people who lived long ago?
- ✓ Do you like the outdoors?
- ✓ Would you enjoy being a time traveler?
- ✓ Ever wonder how spear and arrow points are made?

Why not consider a career in archaeology?



Archaeologists are scientists who study past cultures. They want to know how people lived long ago – at any time and in every place.

They study artifacts—the things people left behind—at sites where people once lived. Tiny seeds or massive monuments: all hold clues to the people and places of the past. Like detectives, archaeologists use these clues to figure out when people lived, what they ate, what their tools and homes were like, and what became of them. Artifacts are important for the information they hold.

Archaeologists share what they have learned and work to protect sites. That way, everyone will understand the many different ways there are to be human.



Photo: Courtesy NPS

Pieces of the Past – the artifacts that archaeologists discover are often found in many pieces. These pitchers help archaeologists know what was in fashion 200 years ago.



Not sure what archaeology is all about? Test your Archaeology IQ

Circle your answer:
Example: **Fact** Fiction

Archaeologists dig up dinosaurs.	Fact	Fiction
Archaeologists spend all of their time digging.	Fact	Fiction
Archaeologists help protect the past.	Fact	Fiction
Archaeologists get to keep everything they find.	Fact	Fiction

(check your answers on the back)



Photo: Courtesy Florida Public Archaeology Network

Archaeologists excavate in small areas called units. They measure and record the location of everything they find. Left – Students in Kentucky excavate a Civil War site. Right – Students in Florida set up an excavation unit.



Guess What? The U.S. government defines an artifact as anything older than 50 years!

Archaeology ... it's not what you find, it's what you find out.

— David Hurst Thomas, Archaeologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City

Be a detective!

Find out how many archaeological sites are in your state.

HINT: Search for archaeological sites in the U.S. by state.

Let us know what you find out! Send your answer to public_edu@saa.org.

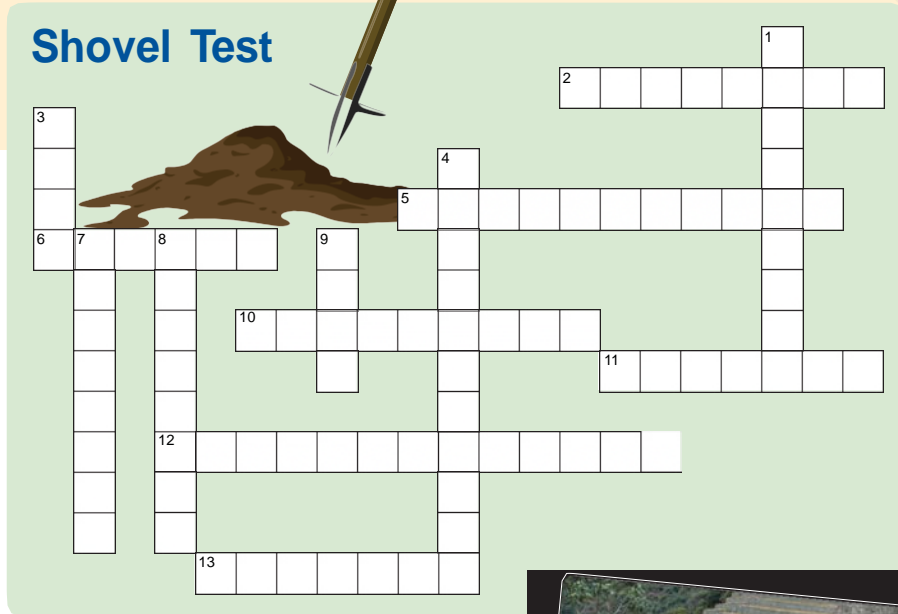
Think archaeology is only about digging? Well, think again!

Archaeologists use many methods to study the past! How many can you find in the puzzle? Check your answers on our web page!
<http://www.saa.org/publicftp/PUBLIC/fun/puzzle.html>



Did you know the first White House was not in Washington, D.C.? Here archaeologists are excavating the site of the Philadelphia house where George Washington lived. The President's household included nine enslaved Africans and 15 indentured servants.

Shovel Test



ACROSS

- 2 Data used to answer questions (sometimes called "proof")
- 5 History that is passed down by word of mouth
- 6 A tool archaeologists use to sift dirt
- 10 Objects made or used by people
- 11 The relationship artifacts have to each other
- 12 A scientist who studies past cultures
- 13 Objects made from clay, like vases or dishes

DOWN

- 1 A conclusion made from observations
- 3 Archaeologists draw these to show the location of things they find
- 4 The scientific study of past human cultures
- 7 To arrange objects in groups
- 8 A careful way of digging to remove soil
- 9 A place where people left objects behind



Tools of the Trade: Left—Archaeologists use screens to sift soil and find artifacts. Right—Laser scanners help archaeologists create 3-D images of sites. This is Machu Picchu in Peru.

Ask an Archaeologist!

We can answer your questions about careers in archaeology! Contact us at public_edu@saa.org or 202-559-5709



Archaeologists clean, sort, and classify the artifacts they find. Students can volunteer to help!

Explore archaeology on your own!

Visit our web page to find archaeology summer camps, cool videos, books and magazines, online archaeology games, and more!
<http://www.saa.org/publicftp/PUBLIC/fun/middleschool.html>

Archaeology 10 answers from the front:
 Frontiers: Archaeologists study the fossil remains of extinct animals, including dinosaurs. Archaeologists study people of the past through their material remains.
 Frontiers: Archaeologists spend more time in the lab analyzing what they found than they do outside digging it up!
 Frontiers: Archaeologists follow strict rules that protect archaeological sites from being damaged or destroyed.
 Frontiers: Archaeologists don't keep what they find, no matter how cool it is. They believe that objects found on an archaeological site should be kept together for study and display.



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