

Introducing Archaeology (Grades K-6)

Archaeology is the study of the ancient and recent human past through material remains. From million-year-old fossilized remains of our earliest human ancestors in Africa to 20th century buildings in present-day New York City, archaeology analyzes the physical remains of the past in pursuit of a broad and comprehensive understanding of human culture.

Archaeology 101: What is archaeology? An overview of the field of archaeology provides basic information about:

- (a) Culture vs. Material Culture
- (b) Types of Archaeology
- (c) Excavation and the Process of Archaeology
- (d) Techniques and Tools
- (e) Looting and Destruction

www.archaeological.org/education/archaeology

Simulated Digs: Information and videos to help you create your own stimulated digs in layer cakes, shoeboxes, and even schoolyards.

www.archaeological.org/education/lessons/simulateddigs

Beyond Artifacts: Activities and resources for teachers from the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

www.flpublicarchaeology.org/resources/BeyondArtifacts2011.pdf

What is Archaeology?: An interview with St. Augustine's archaeologist, Carl Halbirt.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xh5TI6teUbg

Draw an Archaeologist: A great pre- or post-unit activity to determine your students' understanding or misconceptions about archaeology.

www.saa.org/publicftp/PUBLIC/educators/PDF/Draw_an_Archaeologist.pdf

Recommended Reading: [Archaeologists Dig for Clues](#) by Kate Duke

Find many more resources on AEC education pages:

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Archaeological Institute of America

www.archaeological.org/

Society for American Archaeology

www.saa.org/

Society for Historical Archaeology

www.sha.org/



Introducing Historical Archaeology (Grades K-6)

Historical Archaeology is the study of post-ancient cultures that uses physical remains, oral and historical resources, and a range of multidisciplinary techniques to study the human condition. Historical archaeologists are trained in the fields of anthropology and history and tend to focus on the migrations, contacts, and changes of various cultures throughout the world over the past 500 years.

Archaeological Sites:

- Interactive Dig Johnson's Island: Unlocking a Civil War Prison interactive.archaeology.org/johnsonsisland
- Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate heritage.ky.gov/kas/projects/Ashland.htm
- St. Augustine: American's Ancient City online exhibit by Florida Museum of Natural History www.flmnh.ufl.edu/staugustine

Lesson Plans:

- Discovering the Past through Archaeology: A Classroom simulation, kit available through Colonial Williamsburg. www.williamsburgmarketplace.com
- What Artifacts Reveal About the Past (Jamestown) www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/what-artifacts-reveal-about-the-past.cfm
- Beyond Artifacts, Florida Public Archaeology Network www.flpublicarchaeology.org/resources/BeyondArtifacts2011.pdf

Recommended Reading:

- *Shipwreck* by Claire Aston and Peter Dennis
- *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* by Laban Carrick Hill
- *Archaeology for Young Explorers: Uncovering History at Colonial Williamsburg* by Patricia Samford

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Introducing Archaeology (Grades 6–12)

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www.archaeological.org/pdfs/education/Arch101.2.pdf

Trash Talks: Students learn to interpret modern trash in the same way that archaeologists interpret ancient refuse as evidence about past lifeways.

www.archaeological.org/sites/default/files/files/Trash%20Talks-edited.pdf

Using the Scientific Method in Undersea Archaeology: Students analyze data from the Black Sea, test two hypotheses, and create a research design for future study.

education.nationalgeographic.com/archive/xpeditions/lessons/17/g912/methods.html?ar_a=1

Revealing Archaeology: Instructional software designed to enrich learning about the theoretical and methodological approaches of modern archaeology, and the principles and practice of archaeological research using multimedia capabilities and the internet. Eight modules, which include a glossary and bibliography, address such topics as chronology, technology, and site preservation, and encourage analytical thinking.

Cost: \$69.95.

www.thinkingstrings.com/revealing-archaeology.php

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Introducing Archaeology: Western Civilizations

Much of the information presented in the Western Civilizations classroom comes from archaeological excavations and research. Archaeology provides the foundation for the study of Western Civilizations and is critical to our understanding of our human past.

Exploring archaeological sites:

- Explore online atlases of the Valley of the Kings and the Thebes Necropolis.
www.thebanmappingproject.com/atlas/index.html
- Take a virtual tour of Pompeii.
www.italyguides.it/us/napoli/ancient_roman_city/virtual_tour_of_pompeii.htm
- Explore Ancient Greece through artifacts held in the British Museum.
www.ancientgreece.co.uk/

Lesson Plans:

- *A Day in the Life of an Egyptian*: Grades 6–12
www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/educators/lesson6.html
- *The Queens of Ancient Egypt*: Grades 6–12
www.pbs.org/empires/egypt/educators/lesson3.html
- *A Day in Pompeii*: Grades 6-12
www.sdnhm.org/download_file/view/1671/479/
- *In Old Pompeii*: Grades 9-12
edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/old-pompeii#sect-thelesson
- *Archaic and Classical Style*: Grades 6–12
www.archaeological.org/sites/default/files/files/Archaic%20and%20Classical%20Style-edited.pdf

Recommended Reading:

- *The Great Pyramid: Ancient Egypt Revisited* by John Romer
- *Pompeii Awakened: A Story of Rediscovery* by Judith Harris
- *Ancient Cities: The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece and Rome* by Charles Gates

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Introducing Archaeology: North America before Columbus

Almost everything we know about the first Americans—who inhabited the continent before European contact—comes from prehistoric archaeology. The resources below focus on several prehistoric archaeological sites, including Cahokia—a UNESCO World Heritage site, and one of the most important archaeological sites in the United States.

Cahokia: Take a virtual tour of Cahokia, the largest prehistoric Native American city north of Mexico. A major cultural, economic, and religious center, at its peak (AD 1050 to 1200), Cahokia's population was 10,000 to 20,000 – and was larger than that of London in 1250. www.cahokiamounds.org/explore/

Lesson Plans:

- *Project Arch-ae-o: Six Investigations of Cahokia:* Grades 6–9 (bit.ly/Ymja2L)
- *From Cahokia to Aztalan:* Grades 9–12 (bit.ly/15Yelis)

Gran Quivira: A Blending of Cultures in a Pueblo Indian Village:

Examine the changing lifeways of the inhabitants of this village from the 7th century to the arrival of the Spanish in the early 17th century.

www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/www/tps/lessons/66gran/66gran.htm

Knife River: Early Village Life on the Plains: Discover the complex culture and trading economy of the Hidatsa and Mandan tribes in North Dakota.

www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/www/tps/lessons/1knife/1knife.htm

Intrigue of the Past: North Carolina's First Peoples: Lesson plans from Project Archaeology for middle school teachers. rla.unc.edu/lessons/Menu/title.htm

Native Americans and the Clash of Cultures: Then and Now: Lesson plans for high school teachers that cover Native American history, from their first arrival in the Americas through contact with Europeans, assimilation, and contemporary issues that face modern tribes. www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1999/3/99.03.03.x.html

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Introducing Archaeology: American History

Using archaeology to teach American history helps to bring the past to life in the classroom. Resources below include lesson plans and modules that deal with various topics within our nation's history.

Historic Jamestown: Two interactive archaeology modules that allow students to interpret artifacts and/or buildings at Historic Jamestown.

www.historicjamestowne.org/learn/interactive_exercises.php

Archaeology at the National Constitution Center: Learn about excavations conducted at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, on what is now part of Independence Mall. Excavations here recovered information ranging from the pre-contact Native American occupation through its late 19th century domestic and commercial use. The bulk of the material recovered dates from ca. 1750-1830, during the founding and the formative years of our nation.

www.nps.gov/inde/historyculture/arch-ncc.htm

Frederica: An 18th Century Planned Community: Discover why this British settlement was built and how it functioned as Great Britain and Spain each struggled to control land from Charleston to St. Augustine.

www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/www/ps/lessons/31frederica/31frederica.htm

New Philadelphia Archaeological Project: Information and a virtual tour of New Philadelphia, the first U.S. town founded and planned by an African American.

www.histarch.illinois.edu/NP/

Mammoth Cave: Its Explorers, Miners, Archaeologists, and Visitors: Tour Mammoth Cave, the longest cave in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site, and assess the ways it has been used and preserved as a historic resource.

www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/www/ps/lessons/35mammoth/35mammoth.htm

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Introducing Cultural Anthropology (Grades 6-12)

Anthropology is the study of humans, past and present. It draws from the social and biological sciences as well as the humanities and physical sciences. Cultural anthropology is the study of the learned behavior of groups of people in specific environments.

Fieldwork: three anthropologists share their research and methods

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhCruPBvSjQ

Anthropological Studies:

• Eggi's Village – an anthropologist discusses her work in Indonesia.

www.sas.upenn.edu/~psanday/eggi2.html

• The Hopi – includes lesson plans, cultural information and more.

www.nau.edu/hcpo-p/youth.html

Race:

• www.understandingrace.org/home.html

• <http://allrelated.syr.edu/index.html>

Teaching Resources organized by continent:

• www.aaanet.org/cmtes/commissions/aec/Continent.cfm

Activities:

• www.beyondthechalkboard.com/activities/?search=basic&category=culture

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