



Acheology at Petrified Forest

Petrified Forest National Park protects over 13,000 years of human history. Archeologists want to learn as much as they can about the people who used to live here, including their culture, what they ate, and how they survived.

Why is it important to protect the archeology in Petrified Forest National Park?

Artifacts are objects that have been made or used by humans. Artifacts can show archeologists many things about the people who left them behind. What kinds of things do you use every day that a future archeologist might find? Write or draw them below.



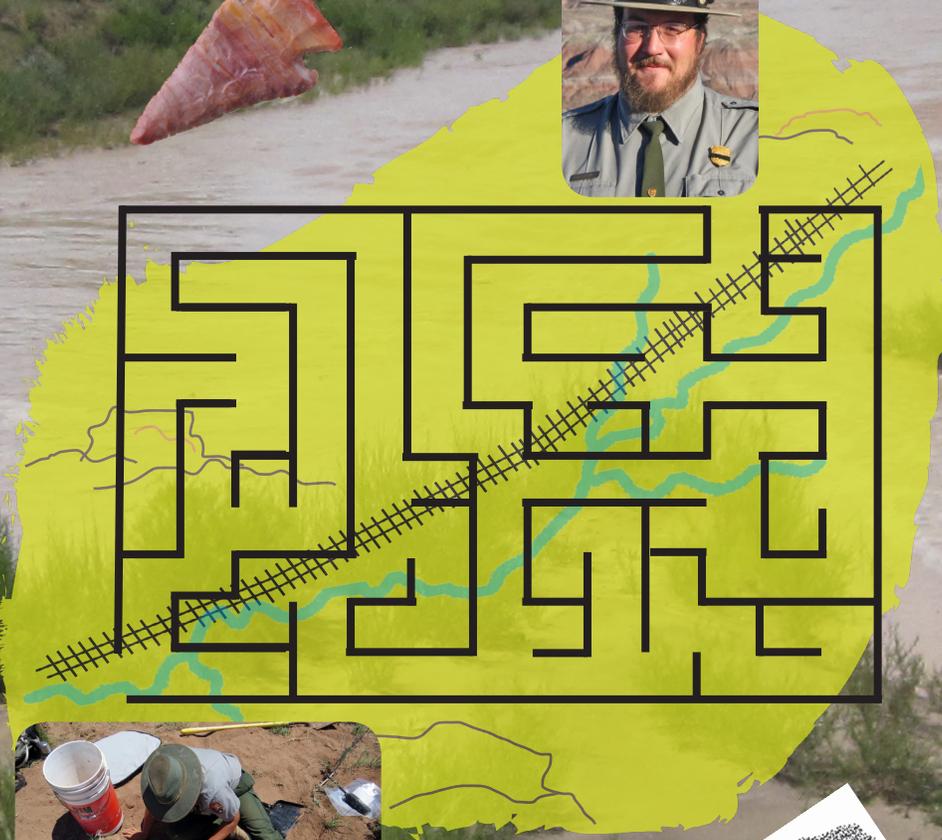
Imagine if some of these things were missing. What would a future archeologist NOT be able to learn about you?

The more artifacts that go missing from the park, the less information archeologists can learn about the people who used to live here. You can help by leaving all artifacts exactly where you find them so archeologists can see all the pieces to the puzzle.

Acheology is A-Maze-ing!

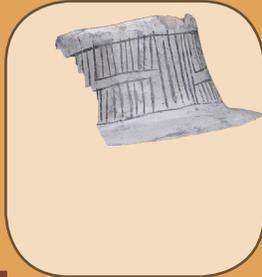
The Puerco River Valley cuts across the middle of Petrified Forest National Park. People have been living and traveling along this route for thousands of years. Even today the railroad and Interstate 40 are aligned with this ancient corridor.

Help archeologist Bill find his way across the landscape to discover a new archeology site.



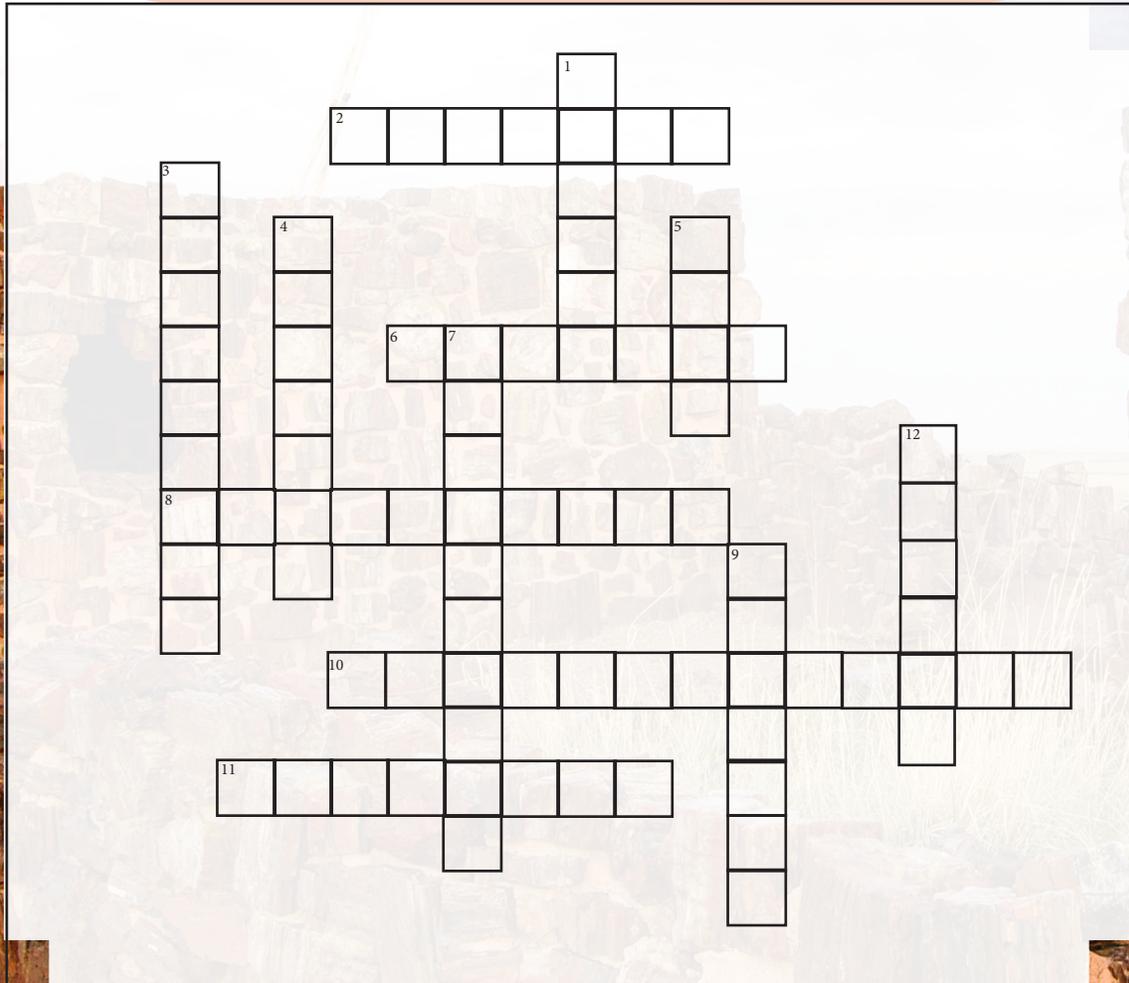
Pottery in Pieces

Ceramics, or pottery, are the most common artifact left behind by past humans. Small pieces of pottery are called 'sherds' but sometimes archeologists find enough large pieces to put the pottery back together. Draw a line between each 'sherd' and its matching hole in the water jug to the right.



Prehistoric Words

Park rangers (and you) help protect America's special places so that future generations can see, enjoy, and learn from them too. By protecting the history and the artifacts within national parks we can help pass on the stories of humans on this land.



ACROSS

- 2 The Junior Ranger Motto: Explore, Learn, _____
- 6 What the Puebloan people made from turquoise and shells
- 8 Bringing water to crops using ditches
- 10 A material in the park that was used to make arrowheads
- 11 A kind of very early house dug into the ground

DOWN

- 1 A flat stone for grinding corn
- 3 Dating artifacts based on their style
- 4 Clay containers often found in prehistoric sites
- 5 A major food source farmed by the Puebloan people
- 7 Another name for an archeology dig
- 9 The name of the river going through the middle of the park
- 12 A chemical element found in all living things

Answers: 1-metate, 2-protect, 3-seriation, 4-pottery, 5-corn, 6-jewelry, 7-excavation, 8-irrigation, 9-Puerco, 10-petrified wood, 11-pithouse, 12-carbon.