



Excavation and Tools

Activity: Archeological Sites

Grade Level: 3rd – 5th

Time Requirement: 30-60 minutes

Essential Questions

What do archeologists do after they have located a site?

What methods and tools do they use to investigate the past?

Lesson Overview

Excavations and excavation tools are designed to answer greater questions about the past. Students will review a working excavation, and see some of the methods that archeologists employ at active dig sites. The discussions are built around the ethics of stewardship and can expand to topics on the environment, sustainability, and responsibility.

Learning Objectives

Students will develop a knowledge base of the archeological tool kit.

Students will analyze the ethics of invasive excavation.

Students will assess tool choices and participate in decision-making in archeology.

Students will discuss the development of primary data in archeology, and how it is used for research.

Procedure

Prior to the program:

Contact the Midwest Archeological Center education staff to schedule lesson time and schedule via videoconferencing. Lesson plan materials can be requested by the teacher as informational material. All pertinent material (activities, videos, handouts) is available through this packet or on the website page, and must be downloaded and prepared prior to the program. We recommend setting up a practice session to coordinate videoconferencing technologies, and to clarify any questions before the actual session.

During the program:

Act as a secondary facilitator while MWAC education staff conduct lesson.

Materials

Prior to program (downloadables):

All necessary activities are provided by MWAC, and are downloadable under the “Materials” heading on website page

The “Tools” PowerPoint can be downloaded off of the website page.

The “Tool Match” Activity can be downloaded off of the website page.

Videos can be downloaded beforehand and accessed through provided links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcT1vGyJzyg>
