



Protecting Archeological Resources



Archeology Activity Booklet 2014

National Park Service National Capital Regional Archeology Program

The National Park Service, National Capital Region's Regional Archeology Program (RAP) serves the archeological needs of national parks in portions of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and all of the District of Columbia.

Our mission is to provide for the study, protection, preservation, and interpretation of archeological sites and their collections located on or collected from NCR's parks. This mission is accomplished by the RAP archeologists assisted by student interns and volunteers or, as necessary, by project archeologists.

This booklet belongs to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

We hope you enjoy this booklet.

Marian Creveling	NPS, NCR Archeological Collections Manager
Karen Orrence	NPS, NCR Staff Archeologist
Kate Birmingham	NPS, NACE, Archeologist/Cultural Resource Specialist
Grace Gutowski	CESU Archeology Intern
Mary Furlong	CESU Archeology Intern
Tom Gwaltney	NPS, NCR Cultural Resource GIS Specialist
Camille Westmont	CESU Archeology Intern
Brooke Kenline	NCPE Archeology Intern 2013

Hey kids! Please help us preserve our cultural resources for everyone. Pass the word: Metal detecting and artifact collection without permission are strictly forbidden in all parks and on all other federal property. Thank you.

What is Archeology ?

Archeologist James Deetz defines archeology as “the study of past peoples based on the things they left behind and the ways they left their imprint on the world.” The items they leave behind are called artifacts. Archeologists **do not** dig dinosaurs.



Archeology is more than field work. Once the objects have been removed from the ground, they are sent to the lab where they are cleaned, identified, cataloged, and prepared for storage or display. The results of the excavation may take the form of a report, a book, an exhibit, or may be reported on a web page.



Protecting Archeological Sites

The remains of prehistoric and historic cultures belong to all of us. When artifacts are stolen and archeological sites are destroyed, we lose important clues about the past, forever. Once a site is disturbed, it becomes very difficult to learn what people did there. Without a detailed description of where an artifact was found and what it was associated with (its context), it remains merely a lone object and cannot give us meaningful information about past human behavior. Illegal surface collecting and excavation (looting), and malicious vandalism of sites and ruins, permanently destroys archeological resources, the non-renewable remains of America's heritage.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA), as amended, make it illegal to excavate, remove, damage, alter or deface the material remains of human life and activity over 100 years old on Federal or Indian lands. The only exception to this is if the person(s) has a valid permit to conduct professional archeological research (ARPA permit). In addition, there are **NPS-specific regulations** that provide protection to cultural resources. **Fines of up to \$500,000 and five years in jail are possible.**



Vandalized well in Northeast Washington, D.C.



Vandalized historic grave near Hancock, MD

Archeology in the Washington, DC area?

Humans have lived in this region for over 10,000 years! Archeologists from the Regional Archeology Program work within all of the National Parks in and around the Nation's Capital. Sites include: prehistoric Indian sites in Piscataway Park and along the C&O Canal, Civil War sites at Antietam, Manassas, and Monocacy, Colonial sites in Rock Creek Park and Harmony Hall, industrial sites in Harpers Ferry and Catoctin Mountain Park, and WWII era sites at Fort Hunt and Prince William Forest Park.

Where Do You Find the Sites?

Everyday human activities leave their mark in the ground and on the surface. Archeological sites are the result of these activities.

This site, on a river floodplain, is easy to spot in the aerial photograph. The dark soil stains are what remains of an Indian Village. This village had a wall around it. The soil stain shows the disturbance caused by the building and eventual decay of the wall.



However, sites can be found where you least expect them. For example:

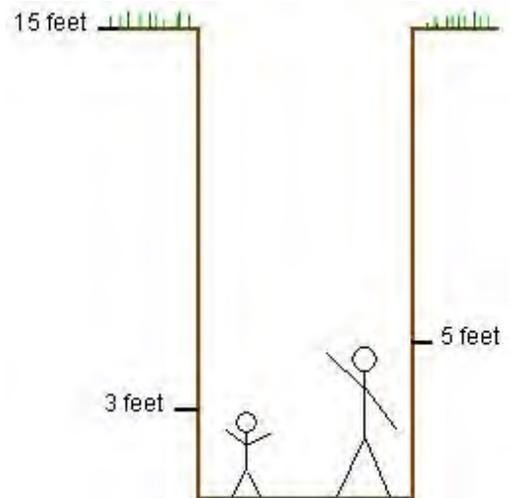


Archeological investigations were conducted under the floor in the Peterson House, immediately beneath the room where President Lincoln died.

Where Do You Find the Sites?



A prehistoric occupation layer, or floor, was excavated 15 feet below the ground during a project on the Whitehurst Freeway in Washington, DC.



Tools Left Beneath the Lincoln Memorial

An archeological survey under the Lincoln Memorial mapped and recovered objects left behind by the construction workers who built the Memorial.

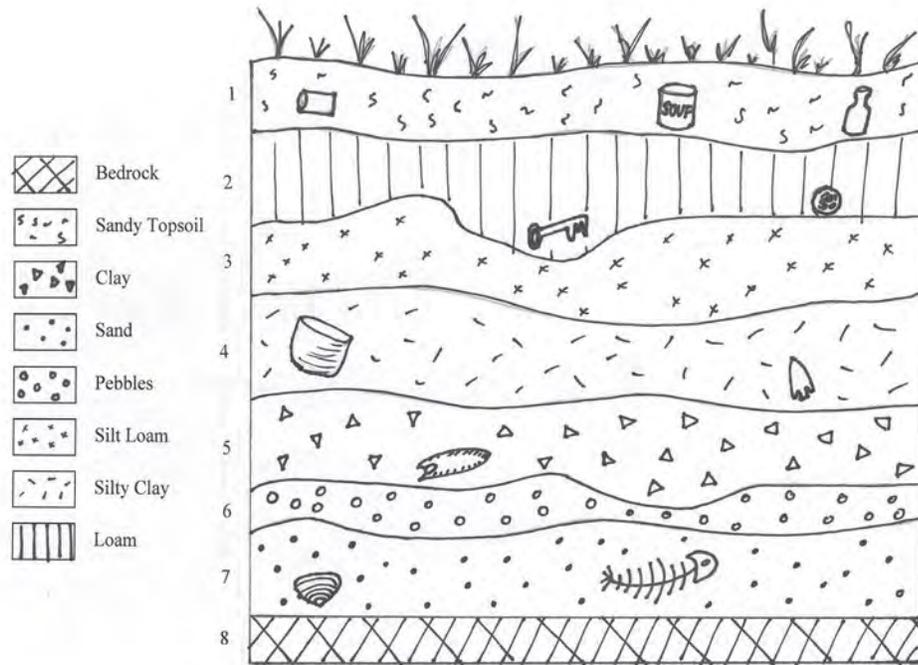


Exterior of the Lincoln Memorial

So... think about it as you walk through your neighborhood. Who else might have lived where you live? What evidence would they have left behind?

Stratigraphy

Stratigraphy and chronology are two very important concepts in archeology. Stratigraphy is the study of different layers or deposits in the soil. Soil builds up in layers over time due to both natural processes and the actions of humans. If we think of a cross-section of soil as a layer cake, the oldest layers will be found on the bottom and the younger layers will be found on top (unless the soil has been disturbed by other digging). Each soil layer (or stratum) provides clues about what happened at that site during a particular time period. Archeologists can interpret the chronology (events in the order in which they happened) of a site or artifacts by comparing two or more layers (or strata) where artifacts were found.



Using the picture above answer the following questions:

1. Identify what each layer is made of using the key to the left of the diagram.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

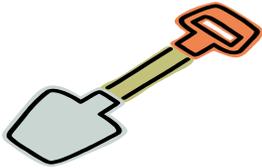
2. Which layer is the oldest? Which layer is the youngest?

3. At what layer did the fish appear?

4. According to this picture, are soup cans older or younger than keys?

Tool Matching

Archeologists use many different tools to gather information about the past. Draw a line to match the tool with the description of how it is used by archeologists.



Write notes and record information



Dig large holes or excavation units



Carry dirt away from the digging area



Measure excavation units and artifacts



Determine the color of soil or dirt



Clean dirt off of artifacts and from the bottom of excavation units after digging



Dig smaller areas of excavation units slowly and carefully

Word Search

Read the paragraphs below and then find the underlined words in the word search.

Archeological resources face many threats from nature and humans. A threat to an archeological site is anything that can disturb artifacts or the soil where they are found. Part of an archeologist's job is to identify possible threats and try to protect archeological sites from damage.

Natural threats include weather events, such as hurricanes, and animal activity. Hurricanes are storms with very strong wind that can damage buildings and uproot trees. When tree roots are pulled out of the ground, they can pull up artifacts and mix up the soil layers. Hurricanes and thunderstorms can also cause floods. Floods cause water damage, such as mold and rust. Mold can grow on almost any surface and can even be dangerous for people to breathe. When metal artifacts get wet, they start to rust and fall apart. Erosion is when the ground is worn away over time as soil is removed by wind and water. When soil is removed or disturbed, artifacts are mixed up or removed from their context. Wildfires are uncontrolled fires in areas with a lot of dry vegetation. They usually start when lightning strikes this vegetation. Animal activities that damage archeological sites include groundhogs digging tunnels underground and rodents chewing on artifacts.

Human threats are caused by human activity on archeological sites. Vandalism is the destruction or damage of property. Examples of vandalism are graffiti, fire, and breaking windows. Looting is stealing artifacts from a site. Construction projects can damage sites when planners are unaware of possible archeological sites in the area.



What is Missing?

Did you find the missing artifacts? Use the two pictures on the previous page to answer the questions below.

The site on the left has been used by historic and prehistoric people at different times. Underneath the grass and modern soil is a brick foundation of a historic house with two rooms. The artifacts in the soil layer inside and around the foundation can tell archeologists about the people who lived here. Underneath the foundation is a prehistoric layer, which shows that prehistoric people used this site before the historic house was built.

1) Which artifact tells us that prehistoric people lived here?

2) Pick one of the missing artifacts in the historic soil layer and explain what this could tell us about the people who lived in the house.

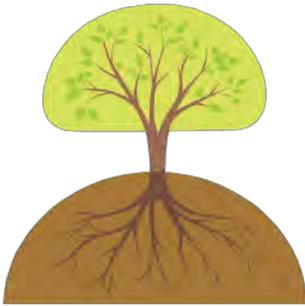
3) Based on Picture 1, what do you think the room on the left was?

Which artifacts helped you figure this out?

4) Now think about the objects in your room (posters, books, toys). What can someone learn about you from the stuff in your room?

Match the Threats

Archeological resources, such as artifacts, features, and sites, can be damaged or destroyed by natural or man-made forces. Below are pictures of different threats to archaeological resources. Draw a line connecting the picture of the threat to whether it is a man-made threat or a natural force.



Man-Made Threat



Natural Threat



Artifact Analysis



Archeologists work with many different types of **artifacts** (an artifact is anything made, used or modified by someone). Once they have been removed from the ground, they need to be cleaned and then described in order to help find out how they were made, how they were used, and who might have used them. Pick one artifact from the pictures above and circle it, then try to answer the questions below.

1. What material do you think your artifact is made of (wood, metal, glass, stone, clay, plastic, shell)?
2. Is the artifact whole or is it a piece of a larger artifact?
3. How and when do you think your artifact was made?
4. Who do you think made your artifact and what do you think it was used for?
5. Was it difficult to answer all of the questions using only a picture, or would it be easier if you could hold the artifact?

After the artifacts are studied, they are either placed in museum exhibits or are carefully packed away and put in special storage so that archeologists of the future may study them again.

Artifact Word Scramble

Figure out the scrambled words to learn more about the artifacts archeologists find. The names of the artifacts on the left are all mixed up. The underlined letters are the first letter of each word. Look at the artifact pictures on the right to help figure out the words. (The pictures are not in order, so you have to figure out which scrambled words go with each picture.)

lnai = _____



tnotbu = _____



aet upc = _____



hraworead = _____



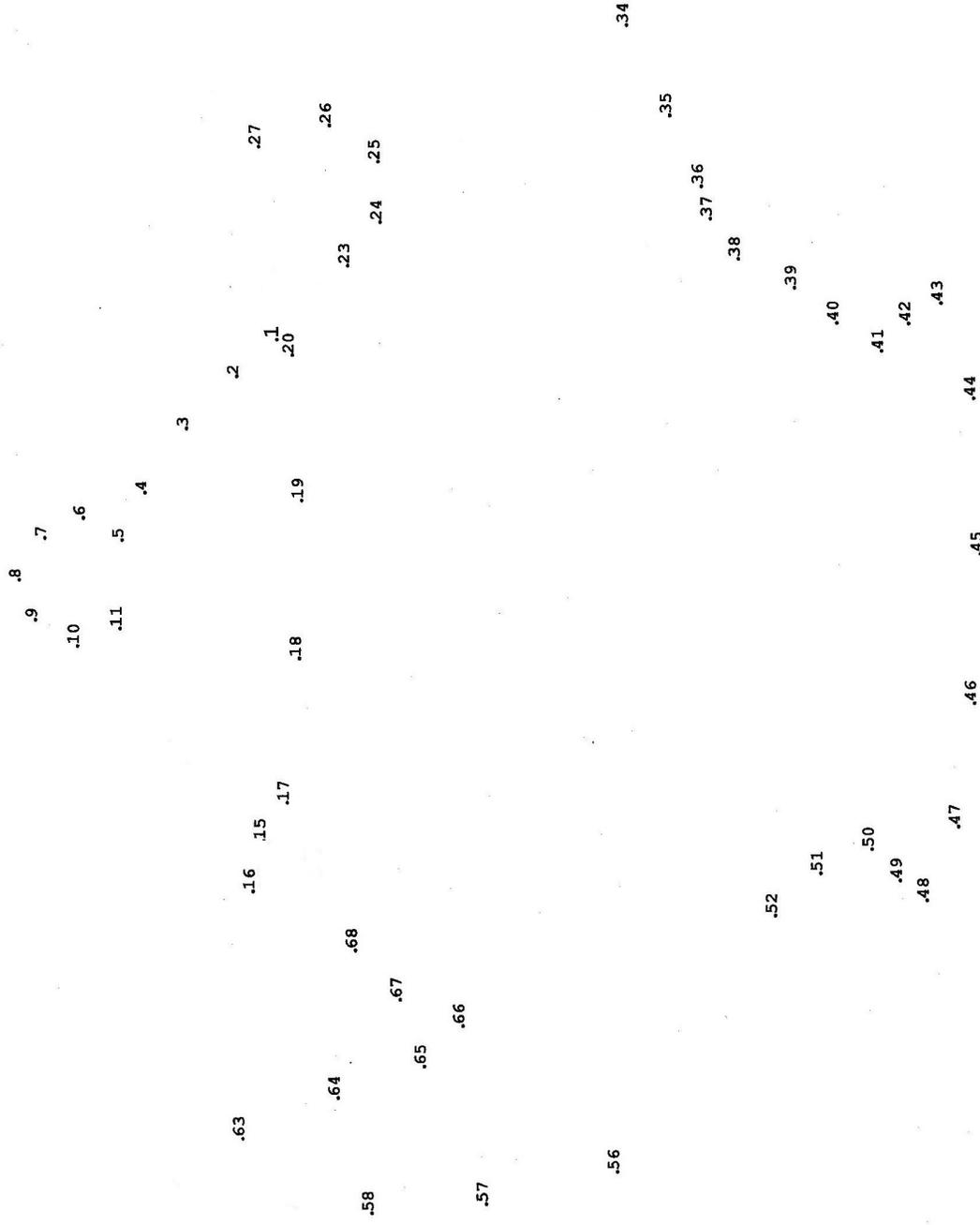
letb ckuleb = _____



hsoesrohe = _____

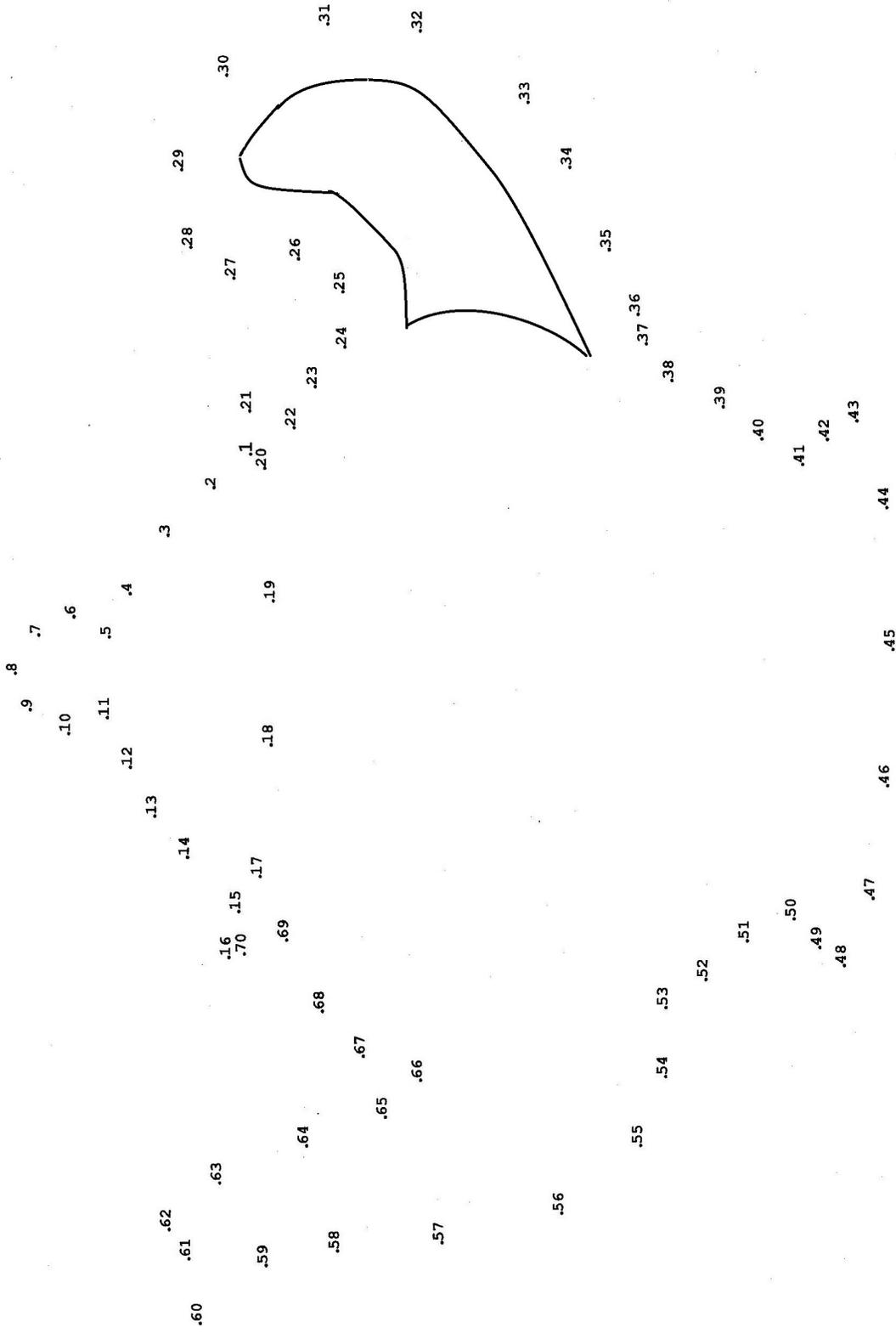


Connect-the-Dots



Oh no! Someone took some of the dots! We can't finish the picture. The dots are like artifacts on an archeological site. Every artifact has information that helps archeologists learn about a site. When an artifact is missing, we cannot see the whole picture of a site. *Turn to the next page and try to complete the picture with all of the dots.*

Connect-the-Dots



Now, we can see the whole picture! Every artifact contains valuable information about the archeological site it is found in. Decorations on artifacts can tell us when and where it was made. This information helps archeologists date a site and learn about the people who used it. Try drawing your own decoration on here after you have connected all of the dots.

What Do I Do if I Find an Artifact in a Park?



If you're visiting a National Park and find something interesting that may be an artifact, it's okay to be curious about it! You can discuss it with your family, but please don't remove the artifact from where you found it—it's location may be very important to archeologists.

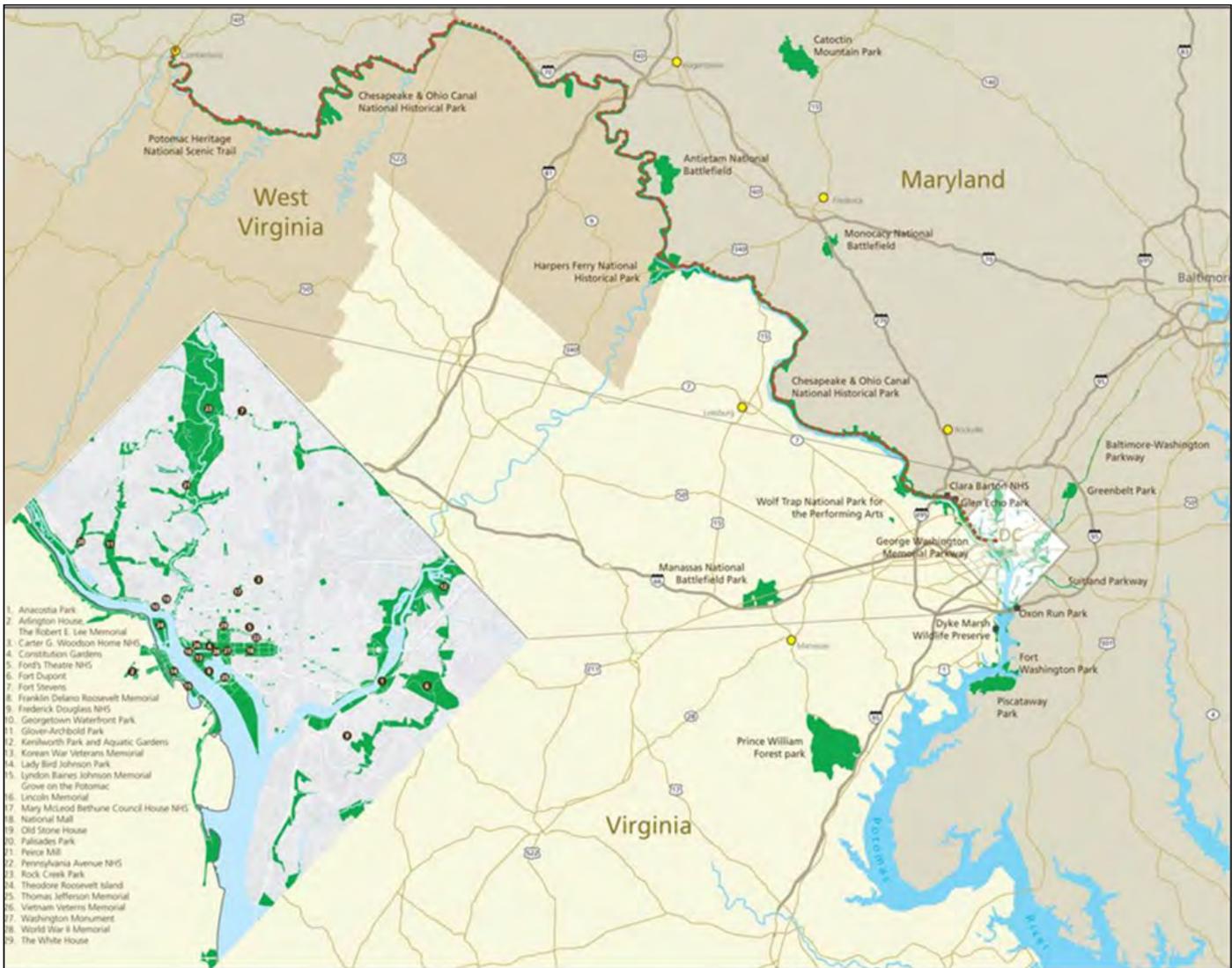
Instead of removing the artifact from its context, you should take a photo of the artifact and draw a map showing where you found it. You can also do what the visitors are doing in this photo—you can take a photo of the trail marker or other landmark.



After you've recorded the location of the artifact, you can show your map and photographs to a Park Ranger at the closest Visitor Center. The Park Ranger will record the information, and can provide your notes to the NPS Archeologist. You should leave your name and contact information with the Ranger, and the Park Archeologist can tell you what you found!

National Capital Region

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The National Capital Region (NCR) of the National Park Service (NPS) – headquartered in Washington, D.C. administers the National Mall and monumental core parks that were established at the same time the Nation’s Capital was founded in 1792. These national park areas, along with dozens of historic sites, natural areas, and Civil War battlefields (in the District of Columbia and portions of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia) make up NCR (above). The National Capital Region is one of seven National Park Service Regions which together administer over 400 NPS units.

To learn more about the National Capital Region, visit our website at:
<http://www.nps.gov/ncro>

To learn more about the Regional Archeology Program, visit our website at:
<http://www/nps.gov/rap>

To learn more about archeology in the National Park Service, visit:
<http://www.nps.gov/archeology>

We thank you for your interest in the archeology of the National Capital Region, and hope that this booklet sparks an interest for you to explore, learn, and protect your national parks!