

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# ARCHAEOLOGY



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## Archaeology

1. Tell what archaeology is and explain to your counselor how it differs or relates to other fields of study such as anthropology, geology, paleontology, and history. Explain how archaeology is different than artifact collecting or treasure hunting.
2. Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process: site location, development of background research and a research design, site survey and fieldwork, artifact identification and examination, interpretation, preservation, and information sharing.
3. Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts. Explain what absolute dating and relative dating are.
4. Learn about a combined total of five archaeological sites located both within and outside the United States.
  - (a) For EACH site you research, point it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. Describe some of the information about the past that has been found at each site. Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important to modern people. Compare the relative ages of the sites you research.
  - (b) Choose ONE of the sites you picked and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group.
5. Do the following:
  - (a) Learn about the federal laws and international conventions that protect archaeological sites. Find out if your state, county, or local government has regulations that apply to archaeological or historic sites.
  - (b) Identify a national, international, or local organization that helps to protect archaeological sites.

6. Do the following:
- (a) Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites.
  - (b) Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact.
  - (c) Describe the ways in which you can be a protector of the past.
7. Do ONE of the following and discuss your findings with your counselor:
- (a) Visit a museum to observe how artifacts aid in conveying history.
  - (b) Present to your counselor a significant family artifact/heirloom and discuss its history.
  - (c) Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists might learn about you and your family if they found your trash a thousand years from now.

8. Do either A or B of the following:

(a) With your parent's and counselor's permission, assist a qualified archaeologist for at least eight hours with a project being worked on. Projects may include surveying, site monitoring, site stabilization, excavation, laboratory analysis, use of digital archaeological technology, or public outreach. Describe your involvement in the project, what you learned about archaeology, and the steps of archaeological inquiry.

*Note: Visiting an archaeological site will require advance planning. An archaeological site during study can be a dangerous place. While there, you will need to closely follow the archaeologist's directions and comply with all the safety procedures. Be aware of the changing conditions at the site.*

(b) With your counselor's approval, take part in a simulated archaeological project designed by a qualified archaeologist. The project must include the use of a simulated archaeological site including artifacts and features for the site. Using the steps of archaeological inquiry, analyze the "artifacts and features" and document the spatial relationships of the "artifacts and features" at the simulated site.

Explain how the environment and time can affect the interpretation of an artifact and the overall archaeological site. Tell how you would share the results of your analysis with other researchers and the public.

*Note: To find out how to make a simulated archaeological site, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor.*

9. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do ONE of the following:
- (a) Help prepare an archaeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.
  - (b) Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice a skill from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.

10. Research a group of people who lived in your area more than 100 years ago. Find out about their ways of life, including housing, clothing, arts and crafts, tools, trade and markets, rituals and religions, and diets, and their relationships with other groups of people in the area. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site where these people lived. Explain how these people influenced your current community.
  11. Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.
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# Archaeology Resources

## Scouting Literature

*North American Indian; American Cultures, American Heritage, Archery, Architecture, Art, Astronomy, Basketry, Chemistry, Genealogy, Geology, Indian Lore, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Pioneering, Pottery, Sculpture, Scouting Heritage, Surveying, Textile, and Wood Carving merit badge pamphlets*

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

Archaeological Institute of America.

*Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin*. David Brown Book Company (P.O. Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779; toll-free telephone 800-791-9354; website <http://www.oxbowbooks.com>).

Barnes, Trevor. *Archaeology*. Kingfisher, 2004.

Bush, B. Jane. *If Rocks Could Talk*. Turtleback Books, 2001.

Constable, Nick. *The World Atlas of Archaeology*. Thalamus Publishing, 2009.

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*. Knopf, 1996.

Devereux, Paul. *Archaeology: The Study of Our Past*. Gareth Stevens, 2002.

Dubowski, Mark, and Cathy East Dubowski. *Ice Mummy: The Discovery of a 5,000-Year-Old Man*. Random House, 2009.

Fagan, Brian M. *Archaeologists: Explorers of the Human Past*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

———. *The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America*. University Press of Florida, 2004.

———. *Time Detectives: How Archaeologists Use Technology to Recapture the Past*. Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Folsom, Franklin, and Mary Elting Folsom. *America's Ancient Treasures*. University of New Mexico Press, 1993.

Giblin, James Cross. *Secrets of the Sphinx*. Scholastic, 2004.

- Greenberg, Lorna, and Margot F. Horwitz. *Digging Into the Past: Pioneers of Archeology*. Scholastic, 2001.
- Greene, Meg. *Buttons, Bones and the Organ Grinder's Monkey: Tales of Historical Archaeology*. Shoe String Press, 2001.
- Hansen, Joyce, and Gary McGowan. *Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence: The Story of New York's African Burial Ground*. Henry Holt, 1998.
- Harrison, Peter D. *The Lords of Tikal: Rulers of an Ancient Maya City*. Thames & Hudson, 2000.
- Hawass, Zahi. *Curse of the Pharaohs: My Adventures With Mummies*. National Geographic Society, 2004.
- James, Simon. *Eyewitness: Ancient Rome*. DK Publishing, 2008.
- Kelly, Robert L., and David Hurst Thomas. *Archaeology: Down to Earth*. Cengage Learning, 2013.
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- Lerner Geography Department. *Sunk! Exploring Underwater Archaeology*. Lerner, 1994.
- Lister, Robert H., and Florence C. Lister. *Those Who Came Before: Southwestern Archeology in the National Park System*. Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1994.
- Lourie, Peter. *The Lost World of the Anasazi: Exploring the Mysteries of Chaco Canyon*. Boyds Mills Press, 2007.
- McIntosh, Jane R. *Eyewitness: Archeology*. DK Publishing, 2000.
- . *The Practical Archaeologist: How We Know What We Know About the Past*. Facts on File, 1999.
- Putnam, James. *Eyewitness: Pyramid*. DK Publishing, 2011.
- Rathje, William L., and Cullen Murphy. *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*. University of Arizona Press, 2001.
- Samford, Patricia, and David L. Ribblett. *Archaeology for Young Explorers: Uncovering History at Colonial Williamsburg*. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1995.
- Sharer, Robert J., and Wendy Ashmore. *Archaeology: Discovering Our Past*. McGraw-Hill, 2002.
- Smith, K.C. *Exploring for Shipwrecks*. Franklin Watts, 2000.
- Thomas, David Hurst. *Exploring Ancient Native America: An Archaeological Guide*. Routledge, 1999.
- Walker, Sally M., and Douglas W. Owsley. *Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World*. Carolrhoda Books, 2012.
- Wheatley, Abigail, and Struan Reid. *The Usborne Introduction to Archaeology*. Scholastic, 2005.
- Yeager, C. G. *Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts: A Practical Guide for the Amateur Archaeologist*. Pruett Publishing, 2000.

**Multimedia**

Abler, Wayne. *Mounds of the Upper Mississippi Valley*. DVD. Mississippi River Valley Archaeology Center, 1997.

*The Archaeological Detective*. CD-ROM. Micro-Intel Inc., 1997.

Bullock, Tom, and Andy Burnham. *Stone Circles . . . and Stone Rows: Photographic Tours*. CD-ROM. Megalithic.co.uk, 2004.

Davis Jr., R. P. Stephen; Patrick C. Livingood; H. Trawick Ward; and Vincas P. Steponaitis, editors. *Excavating Occaneechi Town: Archaeology of an Eighteenth-Century Indian Village in North Carolina*. CD-ROM and booklet. University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Fox Jr., Richard A. *Archaeology, History, and Custer's Last Battle*. DVD. University of Oklahoma Press, 1995.

Sept, Jeanne M. *Investigating Olduvai: Archaeology of Human Origins*. CD-ROM. Indiana University Press, 1997.

**Organizations and Websites**

**American Anthropological Association**

2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 1301  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Telephone: 703-528-1902  
Website: <http://www.aaanet.org>

**Archaeological Conservancy**

5301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 902  
Albuquerque, NM 87108-1517  
Telephone: 505-266-1540  
Website:  
<http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org>

**Archaeological Institute of America**

Boston University  
656 Beacon St., Sixth Floor  
Boston, MA 02215-2006  
Telephone: 617-353-9361  
Website: <http://www.archaeological.org>

**Center for American Archeology**

P.O. Box 366  
Kampsville, IL 62053  
Telephone: 618-653-4316  
Website: <http://www.caa-archeology.org>

**Center for the Study of the First Americans**

Department of Anthropology  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843-4352  
Telephone: 979-845-4046  
Website:  
<http://www.centerfirstamericans.com>



**Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

23390 Road K  
 Cortez, CO 81321  
 Toll-free telephone: 800-422-8975  
 Website: <http://www.crowcanyon.org>

**Earthwatch Institute**

114 Western Ave.  
 Boston, MA 02134  
 Toll-free telephone: 800-776-0188  
 Website: <http://www.earthwatch.org>

**Elden Pueblo Archaeological Project**

1824. S. Thompson St.  
 Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
 Telephone: 928-527-3452

**Four Corners School of  
 Outdoor Education**

P.O. Box 1029  
 Monticello, UT 84535  
 Toll-free telephone: 800-525-4456  
 Website:  
<http://www.fourcornersschool.org>

**Mississippi Valley  
 Archaeology Center**

University of Wisconsin—La Crosse  
 1725 State St.  
 La Crosse, WI 54601  
 Telephone: 608-785-8463  
 Website: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac>

**National Association of  
 State Archaeologists**

Website:  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/nasa>

**National Conference of State  
 Historic Preservation Officers**

Suite 342 Hall of the States  
 444 N. Capitol St. NW  
 Washington, DC 20001-7572  
 Telephone: 202-624-5465  
 Website: <http://www.ncshpo.org>

**National Park Service**

1849 C St., NW  
 Washington, DC 20240  
 Telephone: 202-208-3818  
 Website: <http://www.cr.nps.gov>

**Society for American Archaeology**

1111 14th St. NW, Suite 800  
 Washington, DC 20005-5622  
 Telephone: 202-789-8200  
 Website: <http://www.saa.org>

**Society for Historical Archaeology**

13017 Wisteria Drive, No. 395  
 Germantown, MD 20874  
 Telephone: 301-972-9684  
 Website: <http://www.sha.org>