

POTTERY IDENTIFICATION

Questions Explored in this Module

How do archaeologists know what objects are if you only find a piece of the object?
What are the features of pottery found in Ashkelon?
What conclusions can you make about how people in Ashkelon lived based on what has been found?

Archaeology Word Wall

Pottery: Pots, bowls, and plates, both whole and in pieces

Sherds: The pieces of broken pottery

Rim: The outside edge of a piece of pottery

Base: Bottom of a piece of pottery

Storage Jar: Jar used to store things in ancient Israel

Diagnostic Pieces: Diagnostic pieces of pottery allow an archaeologist to tell when, where, and what a piece of pottery was used for.

Field: The field is what archaeologist call the area they are digging.

Procedures

Log Book: What types of objects do you think we find in the houses/condos we excavate in Ashkelon?

Video: Diagnostic Pottery

Log Book: Pick a piece of pottery archaeologist Kate showed you and draw a picture/write about how you think it was used in ancient Ashkelon.

Interactive Homework

Have students find things in their homes that have bases, rims, bumps on the sides, and are painted. Have them record what they find on a data sheet. Have them discuss their findings with their parent and have the parent record any conclusions the child came to regarding the features of the objects. Collect all of the data as a class and come to conclusions about the types of objects that have bases, rims, bumps on the sides and are painted as a class.

Junior Archaeology Assignment

Have students practice identifying whole pieces of pottery based on the pieces. Collect a variety of colors of pottery (plate, cup, bowl), be sure to have 2 of each piece of pottery as one will be broken and the other will remain whole. Break 1 of the pieces pottery and use it as your "found pottery." Students will use the unbroken piece of pottery as a point of reference to determine what the broken pieces come from.