

ARCHAEOLOGY 101

Questions Explored in this Lesson

What is archaeology?
What do archaeologists do?
How can I think like an archaeologist?
What tools do archaeologists use?
What happens on an excavation?
Who goes on an excavation?

Procedures

- Before you begin anything, please hang up the no dinosaur zone sign. Paleontologists study dinosaurs, archaeologists study ancient people! This can be very confusing for children so, a visual reminder might help.
- As a class watch the archaeology 101 PowerPoint. This is a basic introduction to what archaeologists do. This will lead your students into activities to build understanding regarding how archaeologists think.
- To get your students thinking like archaeologists guide them in the Archaeology of Your Recycling Activities. The PDF for these can be found on our website.
- After completing the school activities, send home the home activity where students get the opportunity to analyze their own home recycling bins and those of their peers to make inferences about each other.
- Now that your students are thinking like archaeologists, let's introduce them to an archeologist and find out how they become one.
- On an excavation there are many different experts. Watch the Who is on a Dig video to find out who is on our excavation team.
- Have your students complete the Archaeology Expert Trading Card activity. The PDF for this activity is found on our website.
- One of the most fun parts of being an archaeologist is getting your hands dirty excavating. Watch the Tools Archaeologists Use video to learn about the large and small tools archaeologists use each day.
- If you have access to a sandbox/sand table, set up a mock excavation so students can practice using some of the tools archaeologists use. Be sure the objects you place in the sandbox/sand table are a similar shade to the sand.
Tools you will want to include:
 1. Small Broom and Dust Pan
 2. Hand Trowel
 3. Children's Size hoe
 4. Buckets***Please don't use a shovel. Archaeologists in Ashkelon do not use shovels to excavate!***