

Have You Ever Thought About Becoming a Detective? Can You Solve Puzzles?

If you answered yes to both questions you
could become an **ARCHAEOLOGIST**.

What is archaeology?

ar.chae.ol.o.gy is the scientific method used to study
artifacts and fossils that lie buried in the earth.

What is an artifact?

ar.ti.fact is an object from the past produced or shaped
by human workmanship

Archaeology involves hard mental and physical work. To be an archaeologist one must become a "detective" searching for clues about life in the past. Once clues are discovered by the archaeologist, they are pieced together like a puzzle.

LET'S BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

We are looking for a 200 year old plantation site located on a one mile area of land along the Cape Fear River. While plowing their fields, farmers found several Indian artifacts, so there is a possibility that Indians also lived on this site at one time. Let's explore this site to find out if there is an Indian site and a plantation site.

LET'S FOLLOW IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL STEPS TO EXPLORE OUR SITE

STEP I Archaeologists conduct **PRELIMINARY RESEARCH** before they begin to dig. They look for written records and other sources of information such as maps, which provide them with some knowledge of the site prior to excavation.

**FOR WHICH SITE ARE WE LIKELY TO FIND WRITTEN RECORDS
LEFT BY THE PEOPLE WHO OCCUPIED THE LAND?**

The Indian site? _____ The 200 year old plantation site? _____

Explain why? _____

STEP II Archaeologists dig **TEST PITS** in the area where they are likely to find clues about the site. Preliminary research helps archaeologists determine where to dig their test pits.

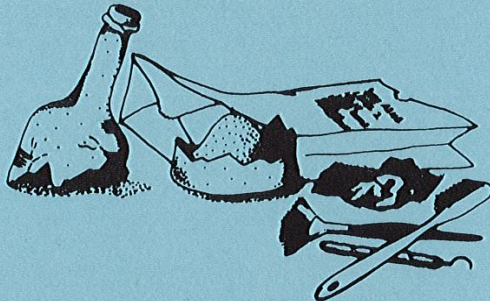
DRAW A LINE MATCHING THE TERM TO ITS DEFINITION

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| GRID | The spot where you choose to dig for artifacts hoping to find clues about your site. |
| TEST PIT | A series of crisscross lines forming squares used as reference points. |
| EXCAVATION | Careful removal of soil listing , mapping, photographing artifacts, and recording information as you dig. |

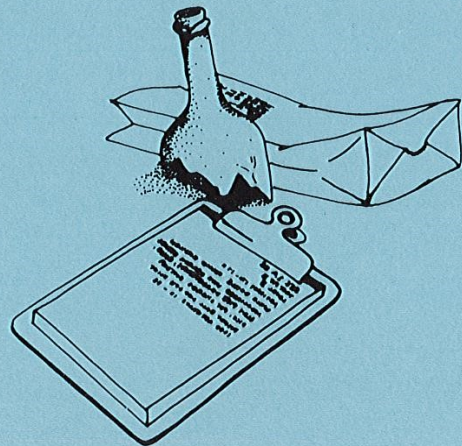
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STEP III After the archaeologist recovers artifacts from his/her test pits, he/she will do some **FIELD LABWORK**.

IN THE FIELD LABORATORY, THE ARCHAEOLOGIST FOLLOWS THESE PROCEDURES:



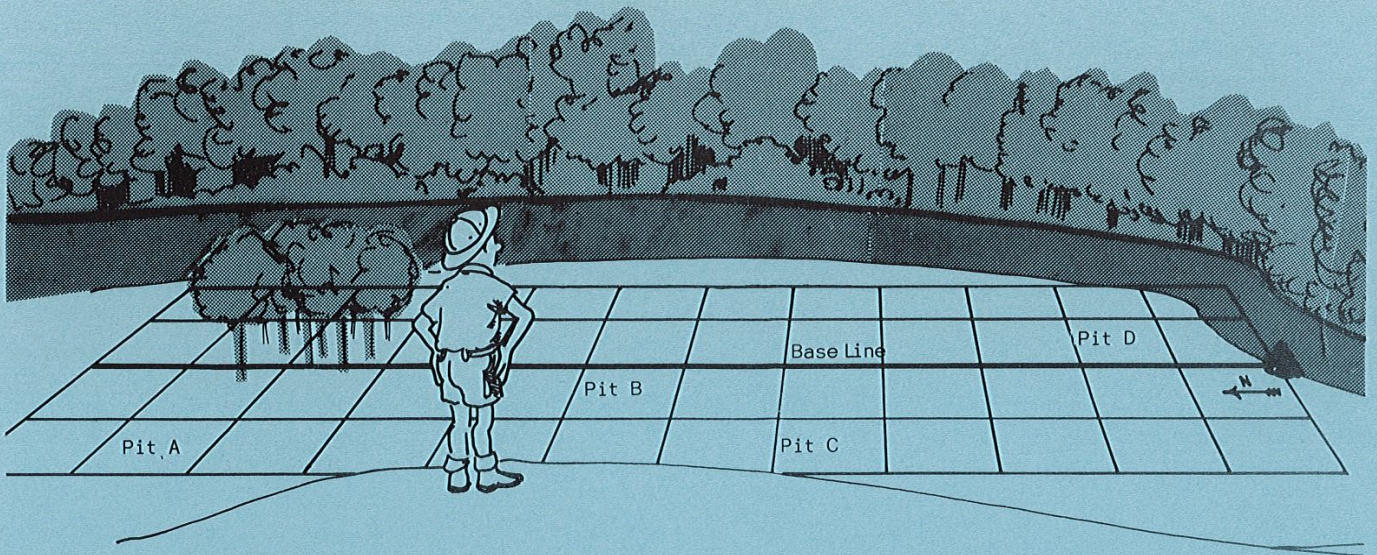
1. PREPARATION OF MATERIALS - cleaning and sorting artifacts



2. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS - checks the accuracy, consistency, and completeness of field records such as survey notes on a site report so that final analysis will be accurate.



3. CURATION - preserving, labeling and storage



TOOLS: To begin digging your test pits a few important tools are needed.

DRAW A LINE MATCHING THE TOOL TO ITS USE



SHOVEL

for keeping artifacts separated



CAMERA

for sifting dirt to keep from losing artifacts

WHEELBARROW



tool for digging used to open test pit



SCREEN

for taking photographs of the dig

BAGS



for careful digging and cleaning of artifacts

TROWEL



for transporting soil to a screen



PAINT BRUSH

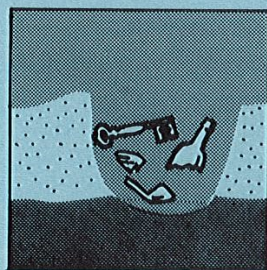
a triangular shaped tool with a handle for careful digging

OUR TEST PITS

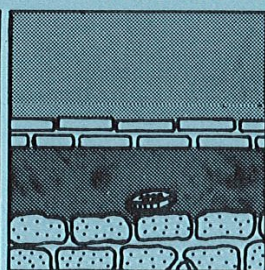
LEVEL I

LEVEL II

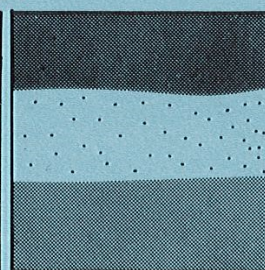
LEVEL III



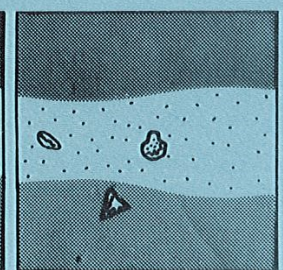
Test Pit A



Test Pit B



Test Pit C



Test Pit D

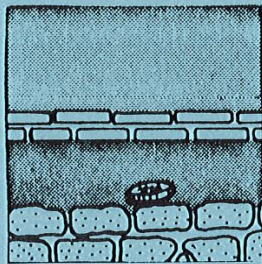
Stratigraphy is the study of the individual layers of earth or "strata" each representing a period of history, with each descending layer containing older artifacts. Each level represents a stratum.

AFTER OBSERVING THE TEST PITS ABOVE, RECORD YOUR FINDINGS

LEVEL I			
LEVEL II			
LEVEL III			
	Test Pit A	Test Pit B	Test Pit C

THINK LIKE A DETECTIVE

A coin dated 1858 was found between the brick floor and the stone foundation in test pit ____.



The stone foundation is older than the coin. Why? _____

Is the brick floor older than the coin? Why? _____

STEP IV A **SITE REPORT** is written by the archaeologist to tell the story of the site. It is written after all the preliminary research, test pits, and field labwork have been done. The archaeologist pieces all the clues together like a puzzle to tell his story.

OUR SITE REPORT

INDIAN SITE:

The Indian site is a prehistoric site and contains no written records. We did our preliminary research by studying artifacts discovered by farmers in the area. After looking over the land, we used good judgement to decide where to dig our test pits. Of the two test pits we dug, only one contained Indian artifacts. A projectile point (commonly called an arrowhead), a flake, and a stone tool were found in test pit ____.

PLANTATION SITE:

From our preliminary research we found a few written records and a map giving the exact location of the 200 year old plantation. This gave us the information we needed to dig our test pits. In test pit ____ we excavated a trash pit containing a wine bottle, a broken clay pipe, a key and part of a dish. In test pit ____ a coin dated 1858 was found between a brick floor (on top) and a stone foundation (below). We are unsure of the type of structure that the brick floor served, although we know it cannot be part of a 200 year old plantation building because of the location of the coin.

The artifacts found in the trash pit give us clues needed to date our site. The stone foundation in test pit ____ could be part of the plantation. Further archaeological work will be conducted to help answer many questions we have about the site.

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