

## What archaeologist Do: The Archaeology Process Viewing Questions with Answers

Q. What are 2 groups who work to understand the human past?

A Historians and archaeologists.

Q What do historians primarily use for their study?

A Written records, photographs and maps.

Q What do archaeologists study?

A Physical culture. Things that re made or modified by people.

Q What are some types of physical culture studied?

A Artifacts and features.

Q. What is a feature?

A Physical culture that can not be easily moved

Q What happens before you excavate?

A You must create a research plan and research first.

Q What is the most important tool for an archaeologist?

A Their notebook.

Q What is the next step after creating a research plan?

A Completing a survey and surface study of the archaeological area and record the artifacts or features found.

Q What is the step after a survey?

A The excavation.

Q During the excavation stage, what kinds of tools and techniques do the archaeologists use?

A Trowels, backhoes, screens, units, mapping tools like measuring tapes, graph paper, total stations.  
Geophysical equipment

Q What happens after the excavation stage?

A Artifacts are taken to the lab, cleaned up and analyzed.

Q What is the final stage of an archaeological project?

Write a report and get the information out to the public

Q What is your research design centered on?

A Your research question

Q After you create your research question, what do you do?

A Learn about it! Find all the information you can find about your topic and research question.

Q What does “CRM” stand for?

A Cultural Resource Management

Q What are some characteristics of CRM archaeology?

A (Many possible answers) You have limited time and money. Often there is work being done on lots of different archaeological sites in preparation for some kind of development. It is often driven by construction. It mitigates damage to archaeological sites.

Q How is Academic Archaeology different?

A It is usually done purely as a research project and there is usually more time for completion. Projects tend to be research driven instead of time driven.

Q What is stratigraphy? (Use video description to help with answer)

A Stratigraphy is a way of relative dating archaeological sites. Unless disturbed the young artifacts are closer to the top.

Q What age is the top layer shown in the stratigraphy, in the video?

A Late 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century or about 40 years.

Q What is geophysics?

A It's the study of looking into the earth and looking at the physical properties of the earth.

Q What are some kinds of methods used in geophysics?

A Ground penetrating radar, magnetometry, and resistance survey.

Q Can archaeology sometimes destroy some of the things that are being looked at?

A Yes.

Q How does using these other methods help?

A They are more non-invasive methods.

Q What is one of the biggest advantages of using geophysical methods?

A 1 It preserves the sites or portions of the sites for future generations to investigate. 2 Can be used to narrow down where to excavate.

Q What does “provenience” mean?

A Where the artifacts came from on the site.

Q What is some of the provenience information written on artifact bags?

A Where and what year it was found, what day, who found it, and how far down in the ground it was found.

Q What reason might you have for avoiding washing an artifact with water?

A It might ruin the artifact like in the instance of the artifact having a label or some other information easily ruined by water.

Q If you can't identify an artifact right way in the lab, what can you do to try and find out more information on it?

A Look through books and other documents and send photographs of the artifact to other archaeologists for advice.

Q What are datums?

A Control points (location that can be precisely located on a map)

Q What are datums used for?

A To help archaeologists measure and map a site.

Q What kind of measurements do they look for on an artifact or feature

A Widths, lengths and thicknesses are some things they look for.

Q What other things do archaeologists do besides dig?

A They collect artifacts and data, map and analyze the artifacts, research and write a report.

Q Why are Reports important?

A They present the most recent information known about the site and give other people information about what was found.

Q How much more time does the report usually take than the digging?

A Usually 3 times the amount of digging.

**Video #11 Post Excavation Analysis and Reporting** (U.S.) laws require that when Native American burials are found, that “lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations” must be a major part of the decision on how *Cultural items* are treated. “Cultural items include human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony “

Q What is post-excavation analysis?

A Where the artifacts and data found in the excavation are analyzed by specialists.

Q How long can this stage take?

6 to 18 months

Q Why is it needed?

A Legal, ethical/ scientific

Q What are some ethical/ scientific reasons?

A Otherwise the excavation is incomplete and we won't have the gained knowledge and understanding of our past.

Q What types of information can you get from analysis?

A Types of activities happening at the site, the economic dynamics, trading, contacts, chronology, population demographics and more.

Q What is the final step?

A Dissemination. Sharing the knowledge with the public.

## What archaeologist Do: The Archaeology Process Viewing Questions

### Level One Questions. (ages 10 to 13) For ages (13 + add Level 2 Questions)

What are 2 groups who work to understand the human past?

---

Q What do historians primarily use for their study?

---

Q What do archaeologists study?

---

Q What are some types of physical culture studied?

---

Q. What is a feature?

---

Q What happens before you excavate?

---

Q What is the most important tool for an archaeologist?

---

Q During the excavation stage, what kinds of tools and techniques do the archaeologists use?

---

Q What happens after the excavation stage?

---

Q What is the final stage of an archaeological project?

---

## What archaeologist Do: The Archaeology Process Viewing Questions

### Level Two Questions. For ages 13 and up

Q What is your research design centered on?

---

Q After you create your research question, what do you do?

---

Q What does "CRM" stand for?

---

Q What are some characteristics of CRM archaeology?

---

Q How is Academic Archaeology different?

---

Q *What is stratigraphy related to Archaeology (Use video description to help with answer)*

---

Q What age is the top layer shown in the stratigraphy, in the video?

---

Q What is geophysics?

---

Q What are some kinds of methods or techniques are used in geophysics?

---

Q Can archaeology sometimes destroy some of the things that are being looked at?

---

Q What is one of the biggest advantages of using geophysical methods?

---

**Q What reason might you have for avoiding washing an artifact with water?**

**Q If you can't identify an artifact right way in the lab, what can you do to try and find out more information on it?**

**Q What are datum point?**

**Q What are datums used for?**

**Q What kind of measurements do they look for on an artifact or feature**

**Q What other things do archaeologists do besides dig?**

**Q Why are Reports important?**

**Q How much more time does the report usually take than the digging?**

A \_\_\_\_\_

**Video #11 Post Excavation Analysis and Reporting** (U.S.) laws require that when Native American burials are found, that "lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations" must be a major part of the decision on how *Cultural items* are treated. "Cultural items include human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony"

**Q What is post-excavation analysis?**

A Where the artifacts and data found in the excavation are analyzed by specialists.

**Q How long can this stage take?**

## What archaeologist Do: The Archaeology Process Viewing Questions

### Level Three Questions. (Ages 143 and up)

**Video #11 Post Excavation Analysis and Reporting** (U.S.) laws require that when Native American burials are found, that “lineal descendants and culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations” must be a major part of the decision on how *Cultural items* are treated. “Cultural items include human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony “

Q What is post-excavation analysis?

---

Q How long can this stage take?

---

Q Why is it needed?

---

Q What are some ethical/ scientific reasons?

---

Q What types of information can you get from analysis?

---

---

Q What is the final step?

---

---