

**Lesson Title :** Using observation to find and identify objects

**Lesson Topic:** Archaeology and artefact observation

**Objective :** Use techniques learned in previous classes to uncover artefacts at a dig site. Use practiced observation questions to determine the use of the artefacts.

5.1.1 Develop an understanding of how we learn about the past organize data with visual representation; interpret primary source artefacts

**Materials :**

- Premade clay 'digging sites' (plaster clay, toys, objects)  
see video on how to make them: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiPakwYa6O8>
- Popsicle sticks, Brushes
- Newspaper, garbage can and plastic bags for clean up
- Observation notes guidelines and dig site procedure (poster)
- Map and post-its
- Journal and or exit slips

**Procedure :**

Introduction - 3 min :

Opener - Pin the societies on the map- Use post its and find the societies we studied as a review.

Archaeology is the study of people of the past: their way of life and their relationships with the environment. It is the study of material remains (artefacts) left by past societies, the places people lived, and the changes people made to the landscape.

Begin by reviewing and demonstrating the steps on how to dig at an archaeology site, which we learned in a previous unit.

*Steps :* Section off the land, uncover soil layer by layer paying attention to what is uncovered.

Once the object is uncovered use the observation techniques to discuss and describe what you've uncovered.

*Observation :* What is it made of? What shape is it? What uses do you think it could have had? What society could it have been used in?

Activity - 5 min :

As a team have them dig and uncover an object at their dig site by using their checklist, tools and observation techniques. Guide students who require assistance, ask questions to further students understanding of techniques and artifacts found.

Closure - 2 min :

Have them write (or talk) about their techniques used to uncover what they found.

Have students write and discuss their findings and make educated guesses about the past societies. Clean up.

Exit slips / Journal entry - (optional possible evaluation)

How does this discovery help us understand a past society?

What is important about what we discovered today?

What did you like/not like about the process of archaeology?

**Post-Learning centre extension ideas :**

- Write a short story about the uncovered object.
- Write or present a report about the society.
- Draw and detail the object for a scientific journal.
- Make up a story about the society.

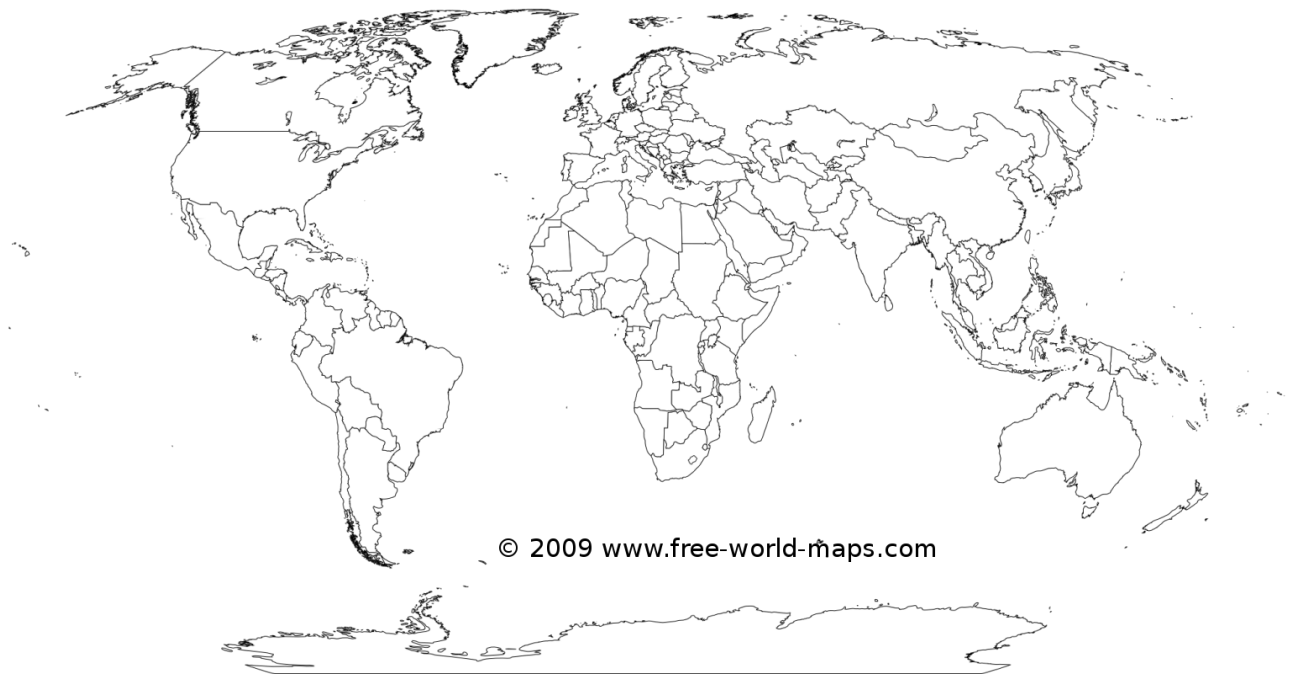
## Observation Notes :

	Artefact A	Artefact B	Artefact C
<b>During excavation</b>			
Draw how it looks when you first discovered it in the ground.			
What are some shapes you see?			
What materials is it made from?			
<b>Post- excavation</b>			
Draw a model of how it looks after excavated.			
Name or number			
Location			
Description :			
What does it look like? Colour Size Shape			
How is it made? Handmade Machine made			
What is it made of?			
What and who was it made for?			
Is it similar to anything you know today?			
Was it an important part of the culture's society?			
	Place artefact here	Place artefact here	Place artefact here

## Dig Site Checklist

- Did you mark off the area to be excavated?
- Did you use the layer by layer approach?
- Did you use the proper tools to uncover layers?
- After each step and layer uncovered, did you record your findings and observations?
- Did you journal your findings in the post-excavation observation notes and label the article?
- Did you clean up excavation site?

Map Activity :



List of past societies to pin on map:

Mesopotamia	Greece
Egypt	Rome
Incan Empire	Sudan
Mayan Empire	Nubian
Japan	India