



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Activity: What Is (and Isn't) Archeology?

Directions for Teachers: Print out and cut apart the sentence strips.

TRUE

Archeologists study people who lived in the past.

Archeologists study artifacts.

Archeologists study past cultures.

Archeologists are anthropologists.

Archeologists excavate graves only if they must.

Archeologists dig in very old trash.

Archeologists study fossilized human remains.

Archeology is a science.

Archeologists & geologists both study rocks and soil.

Archeologists care most about the context of sites and artifacts in place and time.

Archeology is done on land.

Archeology is done under water.

Archeologists do careful research to decide where to excavate.

Archeological evidence provides first-person perspectives, like letters or diaries.

Archeologists study shipwrecks.

Archeologists work in museums.

Archeology provides information that we can't know any other way.

Not all archeologists do fieldwork.

An archeologist's toolkit typically includes a trowel, measuring tape, pencils, and flags.

Many people volunteer to excavate with professional archeologists.

New information changes archeologists' knowledge about the past.

Archeologists use the scientific method.

Archeologists study ecofacts, like plants and bones, which people modified.

Archeologists study rocks and soils.

Archeologists study petrographs and pictographs.

The collections from archeological excavations are kept forever.

FALSE

Indiana Jones represents a typical archeologist.

Lara Croft represents a typical archeologist.

People used to hunt dinosaurs.

Archeologists hunt for treasure.

Archeologists and graverobbers have the same goals.

Archeologists study dinosaurs.

Archeologists keep anything valuable for themselves.

Archeologists and pothunters have the same goals.

Anyone with a shovel and a trowel, or a metal detector, is a professional archeologist.

Archeologists spend most of their time digging.

Archeologists look for valuable, special items that they can sell.

Archeologists primarily investigate Native American sites.

Archeologists get to keep what they find.

Archeologists only care about finding artifacts.

Archeologists find gold all the time.

Archeologists flip a coin to decide where to dig.

Ancient aliens left many of the oldest archeological finds.

An archeologist's toolkit typically includes a gun, bullwhip, and fedora.

Archeologists and paleontologists study all of the same things.

Archeology never changes.

Archeologists throw away artifacts after they're done with them.