



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Protecting Our Archeological Past

Activity: Dilemmas in Archeology

Directions for Teachers: Print enough dilemma cards for each group to have a set. Use the grid lines to cut apart the cards.

Dilemma 1

You are hiking in a national park with friends and family. You stop to see some petroglyphs located along the trail. A man and a woman pass by with a bag. A little further down the trail, you see fresh red paint over the petroglyphs. What do you do?

- Accuse the man and woman of vandalism.
- Do nothing. Mind your own business.
- Write a description of the people and note the time. Give the information to a ranger.
- Call the park emergency phone number to report vandalism.
- Other:

Dilemma 2

You are camping in a remote section of a national wildlife preserve. While exploring a nearby cave, you discover a large Native American pot wedged in between two rocks. It hasn't been disturbed for a long time. What do you do?

- Leave the pot alone and forget about it.
- Throw rocks at the pot.
- Remove the pot and take it to a ranger.
- Remove the pot and take it home.
- Leave the pot alone, photograph it, note the location on a map.
- Tell the ranger what you found.
- Other:

Dilemma 3

You are a judge in a case where a man has been charged with digging up and selling archeological artifacts through an illegal market. He testifies that he is unemployed and the income feeds his family. What do you do?

- Find him not guilty and set him free.
- Sentence him to prison for five months.
- Fine him \$5,000.
- Release him with a warning.
- Sentence him to community service to talk about protecting archeological sites.
- Other:

Dilemma 4

You are at a state historic site known for its adobe ruins. Signs say, "Careful: Do not enter the ruins. Do not walk on the walls. Do not collect artifacts. These activities are illegal." Another family starts walking on the walls and you watch them pick up things from the ground and put them in their pockets. What do you do?

- Ask them if they can read the sign.
- Ignore them and keep eating.
- Take photographs of the ruins while the people are inside.
- Call the park emergency number and leave detailed descriptions of what you see.
- Confront the family and tell them they are breaking the law.
- Other: