# Activity: Pollen Analysis



**Step 1)** Imagine you are an archeologist working on an ancient site. You wish to know how people of the past utilized their natural resources. You have obtained a pollen core from the site, dated the stratigraphic layers you found, and created slides of pollen samples. When you examine the slides through a microscope, you see the following. Count the number of pollen for each species and fill in the following table.



| **Year** | **Maize Pollen Count** | **Pine Pollen Count** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1000 CE | 5 | 19 |
| Fill in year | Fill in maize pollen count | Fill in pine pollen count |
| Fill in year | Fill in maize pollen count | Fill in pine pollen count |
| Fill in year | Fill in maize pollen count | Fill in pine pollen count |
| Fill in year | Fill in maize pollen count | Fill in pine pollen count |

**Step 2)** Make a bar graph of your results. How does each plant species change over time? How do they compare with one another?

How did ancient peoples use these two resources? Use your answers to explain the patterns you see on your graph. What would their environment have looked like at different periods in time?

What environmental factors might have caused these trends within pine tree populations? How might ancient people have adapted to these changes?