



YLMS

Archaeological Dig

Name:

Date:

Period:

Assign. #

Scenario:

Imagine you are part of a team of archeologists (people who locate and study things left behind by people). Your job, as a member of the team, is to find fossils (or artifacts) left by the ancient people who once lived in Redding. Each member will be responsible for one section of the one square mile excavation site. The fossils (or artifacts) that you find in your area of responsibility (one chocolate chip cookie) may be big or small, but in order to remove all of them (without damaging them) you will have to use great care. In order to preserve and protect your precious findings (whole chocolate chips) you must carefully extract each item by sorting through the layers of rock and sediment (cookie) surrounding them. Using your archaeological tools (toothpick digger and Q-tip brush), you must carefully extract (remove), clean, and record your findings on your graph paper. The data we collect today may change all that archaeologists have hypothesized about the lives of early people in Redding!! Let's make history, Team!!

Materials:

- Paper plate
- Excavation site (chocolate chip cookie)
- Digging pick (toothpick)
- Brush
- Graph paper
- Pencil



Directions:

1. Collect all materials and organize them neatly on your desk
2. Place excavation piece (cookie) on top left hand side of graph paper and trace it's exact size on the paper with your pencil
3. Return excavation site (cookie) to paper plate and begin using tools to carefully remove fossils, and/or artifacts (chocolate chips) from the sedimentary material (cookie). Attempt to remove whole artifacts as breaking will destroy them for further study.
4. After each fossil/artifact is removed,:
 - a. record your find on your graph paper by drawing its approximate size on the top right hand side of your paper (next to the traced outline of the cookie)
 - b. number each find in the order you find it
 - c. plot the approximate location where each fossil, or artifact, was found on the traced outline of the excavation site (cookie)
5. Working carefully and slowly, continue to excavate your site to extract as many whole fossils, or artifacts, as possible during the time allowed.
6. When time expires you may EAT your excavation site!!!
7. Clean your area and dispose of all trash.
8. When you're finished, try and figure out the Dig It! worksheet on the back!

DIG IT!

Here's what *future* archaeologists might be saying about some of the everyday items that we use *today*! Read each description and then write what object it is talking about.

1. This metal protective headgear was perforated for use during warm weather. The rigid hats were probably worn by fruit-pickers who harvested summer crops and were in constant danger from falling fruit.
2. This slim bar of plastic was the portable shrine used by devoted people of the Fluoride cult. Thirty-three pillars at one end, balanced by a russet spire at the other, served as sources of meditation as the individual recited the inscribed chant: "Py-co-pay - Colgate."
3. This flexible leather unit with its unique rolling apparatus was used to transport otherwise slow objects from one area to another. The "leg" of the object slipped easily into the boot of the unit, and laces aided in binding the leather around the leg to insure a safe, swift way of transportation.
4. Found in many cities and towns, these arches honored soldiers slain in the fatal War of the Burghers. Their stark dignity and simple beauty is believed to be the work of Ronald McDonald, obviously an architect of genius. "Over 35 Billion Served," referred to the unparalleled number of soldiers who fought in this war.

Answers :

1.

2.

3.

4.