



ROCK EAGLE 4-H CENTER

ARCHAEOLOGY

VOCABULARY

Rock Eagle's Environmental Education Field Study

- Archaeology:** the study of historic and prehistoric cultures by analyzing their artifacts, inscriptions and monuments. Usually uses other areas of science such as zoology, botany and geology.
- Artifacts:** objects that are made or modified by man. Examples are arrowheads, pottery, stone tools and glass or metal objects.
- Anthropology:** the study of the origin, behavior, physical, social and cultural developments of human beings.
- Culture:** a people's way of life
- Excavation:** method of exposing past cultures and artifacts by removing layers of soil.
- Feature:** cultural remains that are more complex than single artifacts. Examples are fireplaces, brick walls, cooking pits, burials and house floors.
- Historic:** means that there is written records from that time period or for the site that is being excavated.
- In situ:** refers to an object that is in its original place.
- Pre-historic:** means that it was before written records. That things were passed on orally and written about later on.
- Site:** any place having remains of past human activity. Usually contains several different features.
- Superposition:** a principal that states that artifacts found in an upper layer of soil will be younger than those found in deeper layers of soil. This rule also assumes that the area has not been disturbed by any major geological processes.
- Surface survey:** a walk of the site before excavation when artifacts lying on the ground and any sites are identified and written down.

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ARCHAEOLOGY PRE-POST TRIP ACTIVITIES

Time Capsule

Objective: Students decide what things from today's society would best represent our culture if those items were found in the future.

Materials: scratch paper, pencils or pens, clipboards or a small bulletin board.

Procedure: Divide students into 3-5 small groups. Give each group paper and pencils and clip boards. Tell students that they must choose objects from today's society and put them in a time capsule. These items would be examined in the future to give others and idea of what our society was like today. Each group must choose five things they think represent our culture well. When they are done making their lists have them read them out to the class, justifying why they chose the artifacts that they did. When all the groups have shared, have them vote on the five items that should go in the time capsule to represent their class. (Note- this can be done just as a written activity or you can make an actual time capsule out of the five items that were chosen.)



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