

Camp Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARCHAEOLOGY

### Merit Badge Requirements



- 1) Tell what archaeology is and explain how it differs from anthropology, geology, paleontology, and history.
- 2) Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process: site location, site excavation, artifact identification and examination, interpretation, preservation, and information sharing.
- 3) Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts. Explain what relative dating is.
- 4) Do **TWO** of the following:
  - A) Learn about three archaeological sites located outside the United States.
  - B) Learn about three archaeological sites located within the United States.
  - C) Visit an archaeological site and learn about it.

For **EACH** site you research for options a, b, or c, point it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. Describe some of the information about the past that has been found at each site. Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important to modern people. Compare the relative ages of the sites you research.
- 5) Choose **ONE** of the sites you picked for requirement 4 and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group.
- 6) Do the following:
  - A) Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites.
  - B) Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact.
  - C) Describe ways in which you can be a protector of the past.
- 7) Do **ONE** of the following:
  - A) Make a list of items you would like to include in a time capsule. Discuss with your merit badge counselor what archaeologists a thousand years from now might learn from the contents of your capsule about you and the culture in which you live.
  - B) Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists finding that trash a thousand years from now might learn from it about you and your family.
- 8) Do **ONE** of the following:
  - A) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours helping to excavate an archaeological site.
  - B) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours in an archaeological laboratory helping to prepare artifacts for analysis, storage, or display.
  - C) If you are unable to work in the field or in a laboratory under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, you may substitute a mock dig. To find out how to make a mock dig, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor. Plan what you will bury in your artificial site to show use of your "site" during two time periods.
- 9) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do **ONE** of the following:
  - A) Help prepare an archaeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.
  - B) Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice skills from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.
- 10) Do **ONE** of the following:
  - A) Research American Indians who live or once lived in your area. Find out about traditional lifeways, dwellings, clothing styles, arts and crafts, and methods of food gathering, preparation, and storage. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people.
  - B) Research settlers or soldiers who were in your area at least 100 years ago. Find out about the houses or forts, ways of life, clothing styles, arts and crafts, and dietary habits of the early settlers, farmers, ranchers, soldiers, or townspeople who once lived in the area where your community now stands. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people.
- 11) Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and tell why this profession might interest you.

## Requirement 1

What is archaeology? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*By defining each item you have been able to tell how each of them differs from archaeology**

Define anthropology: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Define geology: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Define paleontology: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Define history: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Requirement 2

Define each of the following steps of the archaeological process:

Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Site Excavation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Artifact Identification: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Artifact Examination: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Interpretation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Preservation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Information Sharing: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 3

Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts:

Method 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Method 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain what relative dating is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 4

For this requirement you have been given three options. Select and complete **TWO** of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Gather research on three archaeological sites located **outside** the United States. Use the space below to record information about these three sites:

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Information found at site: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check here after you have pointed this site out on a world map.

\_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Information found at site: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check here after you have pointed this site out on a world map.

\_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Information found at site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ Check here after you have pointed this site out on a world map.

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important for modern people: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you selected **Option B**:

Gather research on three archaeological sites located **within** the United States. Use the space below to record information about these three sites:

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Information found at site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ Check here after you have pointed this site out on a map.

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Information found at site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ Check here after you have pointed this site out on a map.

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Information found at site: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_ Check here after you have pointed this site out on a map.

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important for modern people: \_\_\_\_\_

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If you selected **Option C**:

Visit an archaeological site and gather research on it. Provide the following information:

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

How was this site discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important for modern people: \_\_\_\_\_

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Approximate age of archaeological site: \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 5

Choose **ONE** of the research projects you completed for requirement 4. Present your findings to your Scout troop, school class, or other group.

Research Project Presented: \_\_\_\_\_ Presented To: \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 6

Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe ways in which you can be a protector of the past: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Requirement 7**

You have been given two options for this requirement. Select and complete **ONE** of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Make a list of items you would include in a time capsule.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What might an archaeologist a thousand years from now possibly learn from the contents of your capsule about you and the culture in which you live? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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If you selected *Option B*:

Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. Use an additional piece of paper if necessary.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What might an archaeologist finding that trash a thousand years from now possibly learn from it about you and your family?

## Requirement 8

If you selected **Option A**:

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If you selected **Option B**:

Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours in an archaeological laboratory helping to prepare artifacts for analysis, storage, or display. Give a summary of your experience: \_\_\_\_\_

If you selected **Option C**:

If you are unable to work in the field or in a laboratory under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, you may substitute a mock dig. To find out how to make a mock dig, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor. Plan what you will bury in your artificial site to show use of your "site" during two time periods: \_\_\_\_\_

## Requirement 9

You have been given two options for this requirement. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, select and complete **ONE** of them.

If you selected **Option A**:

Help prepare an archaeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area. Describe your experience: \_\_\_\_\_



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If you selected **Option B**:

Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice skills from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Requirement 10

You have been given two options for this requirement. Select and complete **ONE** of them.

If you selected **Option A**:

Research American Indians who live or once lived in your area.

Describe their traditional lifeways: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe their dwellings: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe their clothing styles: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe their arts and crafts: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe their methods of food gathering: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe their methods of food preparation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe their methods of food storage: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people: \_\_\_\_\_

If you selected **Option B**:

Research settlers or soldiers who were in your area at least one hundred years ago.

Describe their houses or forts: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe their ways of life: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe their clothing styles: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe their arts and crafts: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the dietary habits of the early settlers, farmers, ranchers, soldiers, or townspeople who once lived in the area where your community now stands: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people: \_\_\_\_\_

## Requirement 11

Career: \_\_\_\_\_ Career: \_\_\_\_\_ Career: \_\_\_\_\_

Education	9	1	1

Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Why does this profession interest you?

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