



Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
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This lesson was created by a teacher participating in a Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality grant entitled Inquiry Based Technology-Mediated Teacher Professional Development and Application.

- Title: Mapping an Artifact
- Submitted by: Patty Finger
- Grade Level: 4th -8th
- Subjects: Math
- Objectives: Students will be able to accurately map an artifact and draw it to scale
- Duration: Two to three 45-minute class periods
- Materials/Supplies: Graph paper, cm rulers, “artifact photos”
- Setting the Stage: Show students photos of feature with artifacts visible. Ask students for ideas on ways to preserve the information at each level.
- Procedure:
- Day 1
1. Copy a present day artifact (milk carton, DVD case, candy bar wrapper, etc) on paper with rulers on both the X and Y axis. Place dots at graphing points.
 2. Distribute copies to students along with graph paper.
 3. Determine scale to be used (example: 1 square = 1 cm)
 4. On overhead, demonstrate how to graph the object using the graphing points.
 5. Assign students further practice.
- Day 2
1. Students receive an artifact photo without graphing points. Students are directed to place points on the photo where he/she believes a measurement should be taken. Teacher circulates assisting students.
 2. Students begin mapping artifact.
- Day 3 (optional)
- Additional work time or assignment with increased difficulty.
- Closure: Why do you think archaeologists take both photographs and draw maps of

a level? What information is important to place on our maps?

Evaluation: Collect student's artifact photos and maps.

Links/Extension: Activity could continue with multiple artifacts to be mapped.