



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: Archeological Thinking
- Submitted by: Anne Hagel
- Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup>
- Subjects: Science, Social Studies, Language Arts
- Objectives:
1. Identify “artifacts” from a contemporary setting
  2. Describe the function of each artifact
  3. Interpret possible association between artifacts
- WI Standards: Science C.
- Duration: 46 minutes – 1 class period
- Materials/Supplies:
- Six - eight small plastic bags (some may contain the same artifacts)
  - Artifacts (nontoxic refuse from the school building)
  - Copies of worksheet 1
  - Pencils
- Vocabulary: Archaeology, artifacts
- Background: Discuss the difference between historians and archaeologists and the various methods of recording past events.
- Setting the Stage: The students will be going on an archaeological expedition to a site at which several artifacts have been found. With their archaeological expertise, they will be looking at the artifacts and interpreting these items.

- Procedure:
1. Students will be grouped using a deck of playing cards for grouping. They will be placed in 6 groups of 4.
  2. Groups will be given a copy of the worksheet and a plastic bag containing artifacts. They need to fill out the worksheet by carefully examining each artifact and telling what it is made of and how it may have been used. They should also speculate where these objects may have been found.
  3. After each group has completed their examination, they will share their findings with the whole class.
- Closure:
- We will discuss how interpreting artifacts that they cannot immediately identify or date often challenges archaeologists.
- Evaluation:
- Through observation, information on the worksheets
- Links:
- This lesson plan can be used to help introduce the Scientific Method while also sharing information with students on the archaeological process. This lesson could be used in Social Studies while studying the pyramids in Egypt.

# Garbology



Group Members

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ARTIFACT	WHAT IT IS MADE OF	WHAT IT COULD BE USED FOR