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: 6th

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.
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<th>Artifact</th>
<th>What It Is Made Of</th>
<th>What It Could Be Used For</th>
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