



# Archaeology

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook is not required but is designed to help you with this merit badge. No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Use page backs & add pages as needed. Please send comments to: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 1997, Workbook Updated: January 2004.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain what relative dating is. \_\_\_\_\_

4) Do **TWO** of the following: (*Hint: This requirement is not to submit internet printouts. You may note findings below.*)

A) Gather research on three archaeological sites located *outside* the United States.

Site 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Point out each site on a world map. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how each site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from 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 for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Site 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Point out each site on a world map. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how each site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from 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 for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Site 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Point out each site on a world map. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how each site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from 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 for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites. \_\_\_\_\_

Site 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Site 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Site 3: \_\_\_\_\_

B) Gather research on three archaeological sites that are *within* the United States.

Site 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Point out each site on a world map. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how each site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from 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 for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Site 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Point out each site on a world map. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how each site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from 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 for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Site 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Point out each site on a world map. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how each site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from 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 for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites. **Site 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Site 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Site 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

C) Visit an archaeological site and gather research on it. Explain how the site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Explain how the information gained from the study of this site answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Compare the age of this site with other sites you have researched. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Choose ONE of the research projects you completed for requirement 4. Present your findings to your Scout troop, school class, or other group. *(Per National, "troop" means "unit".)*

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.

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Discuss with your merit badge counselor what archaeologist 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. (Hint: list up to 28 items below. Add pages as needed.)**

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<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

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 and 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 my 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

**9) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do ONE of the following:**

- A) Help prepare an archeological 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. (Hint: you can attach a separate page or use the back of a workbook page.)

**10) Identify three career opportunities in archeology and tell what education and experiences are required for each.**

Career 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Experience \_\_\_\_\_

**Career 2.** \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Experience \_\_\_\_\_

**Career 3.** \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Experience \_\_\_\_\_

**11) Do ONE of the following:**

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

Find out about traditional lifeways, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

dwelling, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_