Make Your Own Sifting Screen

**Topic:** Anthropology  
**Subtopic:** Archaeology  
**Type:** Activity  
**Level:** for grades Kindergarten and up  
**Time:** Less than a week  
**Origin:** Petra

**Keywords:**
Antiquities--Collection and preservation • Archaeology--Field work • Scientific apparatus and instruments • sifting screens

This activity is a supplement to the Petra Educator’s Guide. Here, students construct a sifting screen and look for artifacts. It includes:

**Lead Question:** What possible artifacts might we find in our environment?

- list of required materials and instructions for constructing the screens
- step-by-step directions
- do’s and don’ts when digging

**STANDARDS**

**National Science Education Standards**

Grades K-4:
Science as Inquiry CONTENT STANDARD A:
• abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry  
Physical Science CONTENT STANDARD B:
• properties of objects and materials  
Earth and Space Science CONTENT STANDARD D:
• properties of earth materials  
Science and Technology CONTENT STANDARD E:
• abilities of technological design  
• understanding about science and technology  
History and Nature of Science CONTENT STANDARD G:
• science as a human endeavor

Grades 5-8:
Science as Inquiry CONTENT STANDARD A:
• abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry  
Physical Science CONTENT STANDARD B:
• properties and changes of properties in matter  
Science and Technology CONTENT STANDARD E:
• abilities of technological design  
• understandings about science and technology  
History and Nature of Science CONTENT STANDARD G:
• science as a human endeavor

Grades 9-12:
Science as Inquiry CONTENT STANDARD A:
• abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry  
Science and Technology CONTENT STANDARD E:
• abilities of technological design  
• understandings about science and technology  
History and Nature of Science CONTENT STANDARD G:
• science as a human endeavor

**Michigan Framework for Social Studies Education**

Strand 5 – Inquiry
• **Standard 5.2 – (Conducting Investigations)** – Students will conduct investigations by formulating a clear statement of a question, gathering and organizing information from a variety of sources, analyzing and interpreting information, formulating and testing hypotheses, reporting results both orally and in writing, and making use of appropriate technology.
  • **Benchmark 5.2.2 – (Early Elementary)** – Gather and analyze information in order to answer the question posed.
  • **Benchmark 5.2.3 – (Early Elementary)** – Construct answers to the questions posed and support the answer with evidence.
  • **Benchmark 5.2.7 – (Later Elementary)** – Construct an answer to the question posed and support it with evidence
• *Benchmark 5.2.8* – *(Later Elementary)* – Report the results of their investigation including the procedures followed.
• *Benchmark 5.2.11* – *(Middle School)* – Construct answers to the questions posed and support their answers with evidence.
• *Benchmark 5.2.14* – *(High School)* – Report the results of their investigation including procedures followed and a rationale for their conclusions.