

To Rot or Not to Rot

Topic: Anthropology

Subtopic: Archaeology

Type: Activity

Level: for grades 6 and up

Time: More than a week

Origin: Petra

Keywords:

Antiquities--Collection and preservation • Archaeology--Field work • Climate • Excavations (Archaeology) • Science--Methodology

MORE ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This activity is a supplement to the Petra Educator's Guide. Here, students explore the effect of environment on the preservation of organic materials. It includes:

Lead Question: What are the effects of the environment on organic materials?

- a list of materials
- step-by-step instructions
- observation worksheet

STANDARDS

National Science Education Standards

Grades K-4:

Science as Inquiry CONTENT STANDARD A:

- abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
- understanding about scientific inquiry

Physical Science CONTENT STANDARD B:

- properties of objects and materials

Life Science CONTENT STANDARD C:

- organisms and environments

Earth and Space Science CONTENT STANDARD D:

- properties of earth materials

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives CONTENT STANDARD F:

- types of resources
- changes in environments

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
- understanding about scientific inquiry

Physical Science CONTENT STANDARD B:

- properties and changes of properties in matter

Life Science CONTENT STANDARD C:

- diversity and adaptations of organisms

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives CONTENT STANDARD F:

- populations, resources, and environments

History and Nature of Science CONTENT STANDARD G:

- science as a human endeavor
- nature of science

Grades 9-12:

Science as Inquiry CONTENT STANDARD A:

- abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
- understanding about scientific inquiry

Physical Science CONTENT STANDARD B:

- chemical reactions

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives CONTENT STANDARD F:

- natural resources
- environmental quality

History and Nature of Science CONTENT STANDARD G:

- science as a human endeavor
- nature of scientific knowledge

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 5.2.3 – (Early Elementary)** – Construct answers to the questions posed and support the answer with evidence.
 - **Benchmark 5.2.4 – (Early Elementary)** – Report the results of their investigation.
 - **Benchmark 5.2.7 – (Later Elementary)** – Construct an answer to the question posed and support it with evidence.
 - **Benchmark 5.2.11 – (Middle School)** – Construct answers to the questions posed and support their answers with evidence.
 - **Benchmark 5.2.13 – (High School)** – Conduct an investigation prompted by a social science question and compare alternative interpretations of their findings.