

Tools of the Trade

Topic: Anthropology
Subtopic: Tools and Methods
Type: Activity
Level: for grades 3 and up
Time: Less than 1 period
Origin: OLogy

Keywords:

Archaeology--Field work • Excavations (Archaeology) • Microscopes • Saint Catherines Island (Ga.) • Scientific apparatus and instruments • Thomas, David Hurst • magnetometers • trowels

MORE ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This OLogy activity offers kids a fun way to get firsthand knowledge of how archaeologists find lost sites.

Lead Question: Which tool is most appropriate for an archaeologist to use to solve a problem?

- In Tools of the Trade, kids are given six cartoon frames, each illustrating a problem the archaeology team faced in locating a lost mission on St. Catherines Island.
- When kids select a frame, they are given details about the problem; they are then asked to pick which tool they think helped the team solve the problem.
- Each time they correctly identify a tool, they are given additional details of the story and the cartoon frame is "colored in."
- After correctly identifying the tools for all six cartoon frames, they have the option of printing a PDF of the full-color cartoon.

TEACHER TIPS

Supplement a study of archaeology with a classroom project drawn from this look at finding lost sites.

1. Divide the class into small groups, and have each group answer the following questions: If you had to find a place that's been lost for more than 300 years, how would you approach the challenge? What would you do first?
2. Send the groups to this Web site to play Tools of the Trade.
3. Have the groups write a one-page report that lists both their initial ideas for finding a lost site and the new ideas the group developed after completing the online activity.

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

Earth and Space Science CONTENT STANDARD D:

- properties of earth materials

Science and Technology CONTENT STANDARD E:

- abilities of technological design

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives CONTENT STANDARD F:

- 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

Science and Technology CONTENT STANDARD E:

- abilities of technological design

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:

- structure and properties of matter

Science and Technology CONTENT STANDARD E:

- abilities of technological design

Science in Personal and Social Perspectives CONTENT STANDARD F:

- environmental quality

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 5.2.6 – (Later Elementary)** – Gather and analyze information, using appropriate information technologies to answer the question posed.
 - **Benchmark 5.2.10 – (Middle School)** – Gather and analyze information using appropriate information technologies to answer the question posed.
 - **Benchmark 5.2.12 – (Middle School)** – Report the results of their investigation including procedures followed and possible alternative conclusions.