

Archaeology or Not

You will need

- Printed copy of 'Archaeology or Not' Resource

This activity could count towards

Beavers - Requirement 1, Cubs - Requirement 1,
Scouts - Requirement 1, Explorers - Requirement 1,
Network - Requirement 1

Activity Details

Time: 5 minutes

£ £

Indoors & Outdoors

Individuals & Teams

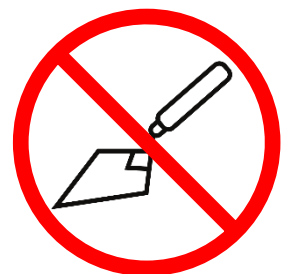
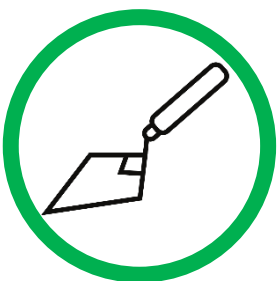
B / C / S / E / N

Before you begin

- Print out the 'Archaeology or Not' resource
- Introduce the group to the concept of archaeology
 - It can be helpful to think of the three words - Things · People · Past
 - Archaeology is 'the study of *things* related to *people* in the *past*'
- It would be a good idea to check that the young people have some knowledge of other related subjects/fields of study, for example history and geology, so that they can begin to understand what archaeology is and how other subjects relate to it. This learning can also be acquired during the game.

Activity

1. Explain to the group that you have nine images, some of which show archaeology and some of which do not. Those that do not represent other subjects, such as history or geology.
2. Ask the group to stand in the middle of the room or outside space.
 - a. Tell the young people that one side of the room or area is for 'Archaeology' and the opposite side is for 'Not Archaeology'.
3. Mix up the images so they are in no particular order.
4. Show one image. Ask the young people whether they think it shows Archaeology or not. If they think it does show Archaeology, tell them to move to the side of the room/space representing 'Archaeology'. If they think it does not, they should move to the opposite side, representing 'Not Archaeology'.
5. Once everyone has moved, ask each side why they think it is archaeology or not.
6. After you have heard their opinions, tell them the answer, and explain.
7. Repeat stages 4 – 6 for all the images.
8. At the end of the activity, ask the young people: 'what are the three key words?' - *Things · People · Past* These key words help to cement the idea of archaeology.





Reflection

What do you understand archaeology to be? Have your ideas changed after this activity?

Archaeology is all about material culture, better known as 'stuff'. If you're ever unsure, ask yourself whether humans made or used the 'stuff'. A good example is rocks – the study of rocks is called Geology, but if a fancy rock was picked up by someone in the past and turned into jewellery, and then found in the future, it comes within the field of archaeology.

Change the level of challenge

You can use as many of the images as you like; to make the task a little easier you could use only four or five of the images.

If you want to make the activity more challenging you could add images of your own to explore other fields of archaeology.

Make it accessible

If required the activity can be done sitting down or without movement and you can ask the young people to raise their hands for archaeology or not. You could also choose to ask the young people to close their eyes whilst voting; this can help them to make their own decisions rather than just following the rest of the group, and might also help any young people who are concerned about 'making a mistake'.

If any of your young people are visually impaired, you can describe each picture as you show it, print out larger pictures, or project the picture onto a large screen.

Safety

The young people can be very passionate about their decisions so just make sure there are no trip hazards when they are moving around.

