



What we leave behind

You will need

- Logbook
 - Could be as basic as a piece of paper, notebook, whatever is available

This activity counts towards

Scouts - Requirement 3

Activity Details

Time: One week

£ £

Indoors

Individuals

C / S / E / N

Before you begin

Discuss with the young people what rubbish can tell us. Archaeologists look at material left behind by people in the past to help them find out about their lives. A great example of this is rubbish: it can tell us what people ate, what clothes they wore, where they travelled and much more.

Activity

1. Keep a log of things that are thrown out at home over the period of a week.
It is not essential that every piece of rubbish is logged as not all rubbish will be preserved and last 100 years, so don't worry if you miss a few bits.
2. Highlight anything different or interesting.
3. At the end of the week, look at your log. Which items stand out? Are there any trends? Do you love baked beans?
Try to identify which items are thrown away the most and what creates the most rubbish. What do you think would stand out to an archaeologist?

Reflection

Was there more or less rubbish than you expected?

Rubbish can be really helpful in telling archaeologists about the past, but we should still try and reduce how much rubbish we create and recycle as much as we can.

Safety

The young people do not need to handle the rubbish at any point in this activity. They should log items before they are put in the bin. They should be made aware of some basic rules, to keep things clean and prevent any contamination.

Make it accessible

If a young person can't do this activity at home, they could track the rubbish produced at their school or at the scout hut.

This activity can also take place over a shorter or longer time period.

