

Looking for a way to engage with your learner more deeply through our videos? Use these guiding questions to dig a little deeper as you explore Field Museum collections and research at home!

EVIDENCE IN THE UN-WRITTEN

Run time: 3:56

Suggested age level: tweens and teens

Essential question: How do objects tell us about people and civilizations of the past?

Key vocabulary:

Archaeology – the study of past human life and activities

Artifact – an object made by a human being

Guiding questions:

1. Why do you think archeology is important?
2. What is the difference between survey archaeology and excavations?
3. What does archaeological evidence tell us that we can't learn from written sources?
4. What limits does archaeology have in painting a picture of the past?

Take action:

Examine your home like an archeologist.

1. Pretend you are an archaeologist five thousand years in the future studying our civilization.
2. **Survey:** Examine artifacts around your home.
 - Which objects would survive five thousand years? Based on just these objects, what conclusions might you draw about the people who lived in your home?
 - Based on the material that would not survive, what important information might be missing from your understanding of the people who lived there?
3. **Excavate:** examine artifacts more deeply from one room of your home, such as the kitchen or bathroom. What do the objects that would survive five thousand years tell you about the way people lived in this specific space? What questions would you have about this civilization?