

# Archeology

## Pre-Visit Activities

1. Encourage children to think about what is under the dirt in the schoolyard, or under the foundation of the school. Draw pictures of what is above the ground and what is under the ground.
2. Look at a map of the area your school is in. (It will be covered with roads, houses, stores, etc.) Have the children think about what it looked like in the time of the dinosaurs, what it looked like in the time of Columbus' discovery of the North American continent, what it looked like in 1830 when Texas was settled and what it looks like now.
3. Make a class list of what we know about the past. Brainstorm ways we can learn about the past, and some of the things that can be learned about early people in Texas.
4. Bring to class a bag of trash that would represent a typical day at your house. Go through the bag and see what inferences the students can make based on the artifacts found in the trash. Draw comparisons between the activity and the way archeologists discover information about the cultures of the past.
5. Archeology is a slow moving activity. Talk to the children about being careful. In an actual archeological dig situation, one little quick movement could destroy an important artifact.
6. Review the facts on the sheet "Texas Archeology at a Glance." This will give students a picture of some of the information we have learned about early Texans through the study of their past.

# Archeology

## Post-Visit Activities

1. Have the students write a story for the school newspaper about the archeological dig and what they discovered. The article should cover time periods, methods and the discoveries.
2. Design a poster for Archeology Awareness Month, held in October of each year in Texas. Create a slogan and decorate the posters to educate others about the importance of archeology in our world.
3. From shipwrecks of the early explorers to trunks of the pioneers, archeology is a hot topic in the news. Begin a scrapbook or bulletin board with current events concerning archeology around the world. Plot the location of the stories on a world map.
4. The discovery and subsequent excavation of LaSalle's ship, *La Belle*, has led to a new interest in maritime archeology in Texas. There is a wealth of information available for classroom use, including a newsletter for teachers called "Journeys." Contact the Texas Historical Commission at [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us) or P O Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. The phone number is 512-463-6100.
5. Role-play a scenario between a landowner, county officials, and the Office of the State Archeologist. The landowner has found artifacts near the location of his new home in progress. Have students research the laws, rights and responsibilities of each party in this situation. Act out the scene so that everyone will understand what takes place. (Use the website for the Texas Historical Commission)