

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# ARCHAEOLOGY



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# Requirements

1. Tell what archaeology is and explain to your counselor how it differs or relates to other fields of study such as anthropology, geology, paleontology, and history. Explain how archaeology is different than artifact collecting or treasure hunting.
2. Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process: site location, development of background research and a research design, site survey and fieldwork, artifact identification and examination, interpretation, preservation, and information sharing.
3. Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts. Explain what absolute dating and relative dating are.
4. Learn about a combined total of five archaeological sites located both within and outside the United States.
  - a. For EACH site you research, point it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. Describe some of the information about the past that has been found at each site. Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important to modern people. Compare the relative ages of the sites you research.
  - b. Choose ONE of the sites you picked and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group.
5. Do the following:
  - a. Learn about the federal laws and international conventions that protect archaeological sites. Find out if your

state, county, or local government has regulations that apply to archaeological or historic sites.

- b. Identify a national, international, or local organization that helps to protect archaeological sites.

6. Do the following:

- a. Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites.
- b. Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact.
- c. Describe the ways in which you can be a protector of the past.

7. Do ONE of the following and discuss your findings with your counselor:

- a. Visit a museum to observe how artifacts aid in conveying history.
- b. Present to your counselor a significant family artifact/heirloom and discuss its history.
- c. Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists might learn about you and your family if they found your trash a thousand years from now.

8. Research a group of people who lived in your area more than 100 years ago. Find out about their ways of life, including housing, clothing, arts and crafts, tools, trade and markets, rituals and religions, and diets, and their relationships with other groups of people in the area. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site where these people lived. Explain how these people influenced your current community.

9. Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.

10. Do either A or B of the following:

- a. With your parent's and counselor's permission, assist a qualified archaeologist for at least eight hours with a project being worked on. Projects may include surveying, site monitoring, site stabilization, excavation, laboratory analysis, use of digital archaeological technology, or public outreach. Describe your involvement in the project, what you learned about archaeology, and the steps of archaeological inquiry.

*Note: Visiting an archaeological site will require advance planning. An archaeological site during study can be a dangerous place. While there, you will need to closely follow the archaeologist's directions and comply with all the safety procedures. Be aware of the changing conditions at the site.*

- b. With your counselor's approval, take part in a simulated archaeological project designed by a qualified archaeologist. The project must include the use of a simulated archaeological site including artifacts and features for the site. Using the steps of archaeological inquiry, analyze the "artifacts and features" and document the spatial relationships of the "artifacts and features" at the simulated site.

Explain how the environment and time can affect the interpretation of an artifact and the overall archaeological site. Tell how you would share the results of your analysis with other researchers and the public.

*Note: To find out how to make a simulated archaeological site, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor.*

11. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do ONE of the following:

- a. Help prepare an archaeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.
- b. Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice a skill from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.

# Archaeology Resources

## Scouting Literature

*American Cultures, American Heritage, Archery, Architecture, Art, Astronomy, Basketry, Chemistry, Genealogy, Geology, Indian Lore, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Pioneering, Pottery, Scouting Heritage, Sculpture, Surveying, Textile, and Wood Carving* merit badge pamphlets

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org), for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

Barnes, Trevor. *Archaeology*. Kingfisher, 2004.

Constable, Nick. *World Atlas of Archaeology*. Thalamus Publishing, 2009.

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life*. Anchor Books, 1996.

Devereux, Paul. *Archaeology: The Study of Our Past*. Gareth Stevens, 2002.

Dubowski, Mark, and Cathy East

Dubowski. *Ice Mummy: The Discovery of a 5,000-Year-Old Man*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000.

Fagan, Brian M. *Archaeologists: Explorers of the Human Past*. Oxford University Press, 2003.

———. *The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America*. University Press of Florida, 2004.

———. *Time Detectives: How Scientists Use Modern Technology to Unravel the Secrets of the Past*. Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Folsom, Franklin, and Mary Elting Folsom. *America's Ancient Treasures*, 4th ed. University of New Mexico Press, 1993.

Giblin, James Cross. *Secrets of the Sphinx*. Scholastic, 2004.

Greenberg, Lorna, and Margot F. Horwitz. *Digging Into the Past: Pioneers of Archeology*. Scholastic, 2001.

Greene, Meg. *Buttons, Bones and the Organ-Grinder's Monkey: Tales of Historical Archaeology*. Linnet Books, 2001.

- Hansen, Joyce, and Gary McGowan. *Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence: The Story of New York's African Burial Ground*. Henry Holt, 1998.
- Harrison, Peter D. *The Lords of Tikal: Rulers of an Ancient Maya City*. Thames & Hudson, 2000.
- Hawass, Zahi. *Curse of the Pharaohs: My Adventures With Mummies*. National Geographic Society, 2004.
- James, Simon. *Eyewitness: Ancient Rome*. DK Publishing, 2008.
- Kelly, Robert L., and David Hurst Thomas. *Archaeology: Down to Earth*, 5th ed. Cengage Learning, 2013.
- Laubenstein, Karen J. *Archaeology Smart Junior: Discovering History's Buried Treasure*. Random House, 1997.
- Lauber, Patricia. *Who Came First? New Clues to Prehistoric Americans*. National Geographic Society, 2003.
- Lerner Geography Department. *Sunk! Exploring Underwater Archaeology*. Lerner, 1994.
- Letts, Cali A. and Jeanne M. Moe. *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter*. Montana State University, 2009.
- Lister, Robert H., and Florence C. Lister. *Those Who Came Before: Southwestern Archeology in the National Park System*, 2nd ed. Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1994.
- Lourie, Peter. *The Lost World of the Anasazi: Exploring the Mysteries of Chaco Canyon*. Boyds Mills Press, 2007.
- McIntosh, Jane R. *Eyewitness: Archeology*. DK Publishing, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Practical Archaeologist: How We Know What We Know About the Past*. Thames & Hudson, 1999.
- Putnam, James. *Eyewitness: Pyramid*. DK Publishing, 2011.
- Rathje, William L., and Cullen Murphy. *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage*. University of Arizona Press, 2001.
- Samford, Patricia, and David L. Ribblett. *Archaeology for Young Explorers: Uncovering History at Colonial Williamsburg*. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1995.
- Sharer, Robert J., and Wendy Ashmore. *Archaeology: Discovering Our Past*, 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill, 2002.
- Smith, K.C. *Exploring for Shipwrecks*. Franklin Watts, 2000.
- Thomas, David Hurst. *Exploring Ancient Native America: An Archaeological Guide*. Routledge, 1999.
- Walker, Sally M., and Douglas W. Owsley. *Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World*. Carolrhoda Books, 2012.
- Wheatley, Abigail, and Struan Reid. *The Usborne Introduction to Archaeology*. Scholastic, 2005.
- Yeager, C.G. *Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts: A Practical Guide for the Amateur Archaeologist*, 3rd ed. WestWinds Press, 2016.

**Organizations and Websites****American Anthropological Association**

2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 1301  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Telephone: 703-528-1902  
Website: [www.aaanet.org](http://www.aaanet.org)

**Archaeological Conservancy**

1717 Girard Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
Telephone: 505-266-1540  
Website:  
[www.archaeologicalconservancy.org](http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org)

**Archaeological Fieldwork****Opportunities Bulletin**

Website:  
[www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/afob](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/afob)

**Archaeological Institute of America**

44 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02108  
Telephone: 857-305-9350  
Website: [www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org)

**Canyon Country Discovery Center**

1117 N. Main St.  
Monticello, UT 84535  
Toll-free telephone: 800-525-4456  
Website:  
<https://ccdiscovery.org/>

**Center for American Archeology**

P.O. Box 366  
Kampsville, IL 62053  
Telephone: 618-653-4316  
Website: [www.caa-archeology.org](http://www.caa-archeology.org)

**Center for the Study of  
the First Americans**

Department of Anthropology  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843-4352  
Telephone: 979-845-4046  
Website:  
[www.centerfirstamericans.com](http://www.centerfirstamericans.com)

**Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

23390 Road K  
Cortez, CO 81321  
Toll-free telephone: 800-422-8975  
Website: [www.crowcanyon.org](http://www.crowcanyon.org)

**Earthwatch Institute**

1380 Soldiers Field Road  
Boston, MA 02135  
Toll-free telephone: 800-776-0188  
Website: [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org)

**Elden Pueblo Archaeological Project**

1824 S. Thompson St.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Telephone: 928-527-3452

**International Council on Monuments  
and Sites (ICOMOS)**

Website: [www.icomos.org/en/](http://www.icomos.org/en/)

**Mississippi Valley  
Archaeology Center**

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
1725 State St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Telephone: 608-785-8463  
Website: <http://mvac.uwlax.edu>

**National Association of  
State Archaeologists**

Website:  
<https://archaeology.uiowa.edu/national-association-state-archaeologists>

**National Conference of State  
Historic Preservation Officers**

Suite 342 Hall of the States

444 N. Capitol St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

Telephone: 202-624-5465

Website: [www.ncshpo.org](http://www.ncshpo.org)

**National Park Service**

1849 C St. NW

Washington, DC 20240

Telephone: 202-208-6843

Website: [www.nps.gov/history](http://www.nps.gov/history)

**Project Archaeology**

2-128 Wilson Hall

Montana State University

Bozeman, Montana 59717

Telephone: 406-994-6925

Website: <https://projectarchaeology.org>

**Society for American Archaeology**

1111 14th St. NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20005-5622

Telephone: 202-789-8200

Website: [www.saa.org](http://www.saa.org)

**Society for Historical Archaeology**

13017 Wisteria Drive, No. 395

Germantown, MD 20874

Telephone: 301-972-9684

Website: <https://sha.org>

**UNESCO World Heritage Center**

Website: [whc.unesco.org/en](http://whc.unesco.org/en)