**Assembling Pottery Vessels**

Archaeologists conduct their excavations by excavating in arbitrary layers of 5-10 cm. depending on the density of artifacts in the pit. The locations of all artifacts found in the pit are recorded. Pottery sherds from excavations may be washed but some sherds that are fragile or with paint or slip decoration must be cleaned with soft brush before being sorted into pottery types.

The pottery conservation process begins with assembling broken pottery vessels by gluing pottery sherds together piece by piece with special glue that is easy to remove and does not damage the pottery. The glue must be completely dry before adding another pottery piece. Assembled pottery pieces can be held together by adhesive tape or placed in a sand box during glue drying. After finishing assembling the broken pottery, if the assembled vessel is not complete or needs to be strengthened, clay or reversible material that does not damage the artifact can be used to reconstruct the remaining part of the vessel.

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