

Learn about Louisiana's Past through Archaeology

Introduction to

Archaeology



Archaeology



Introduction to the field of archaeology.

Archaeology

- What is archaeology?
 - Language of archaeology
- Archaeology as a career
- The process of archaeology
- Why do archaeology?

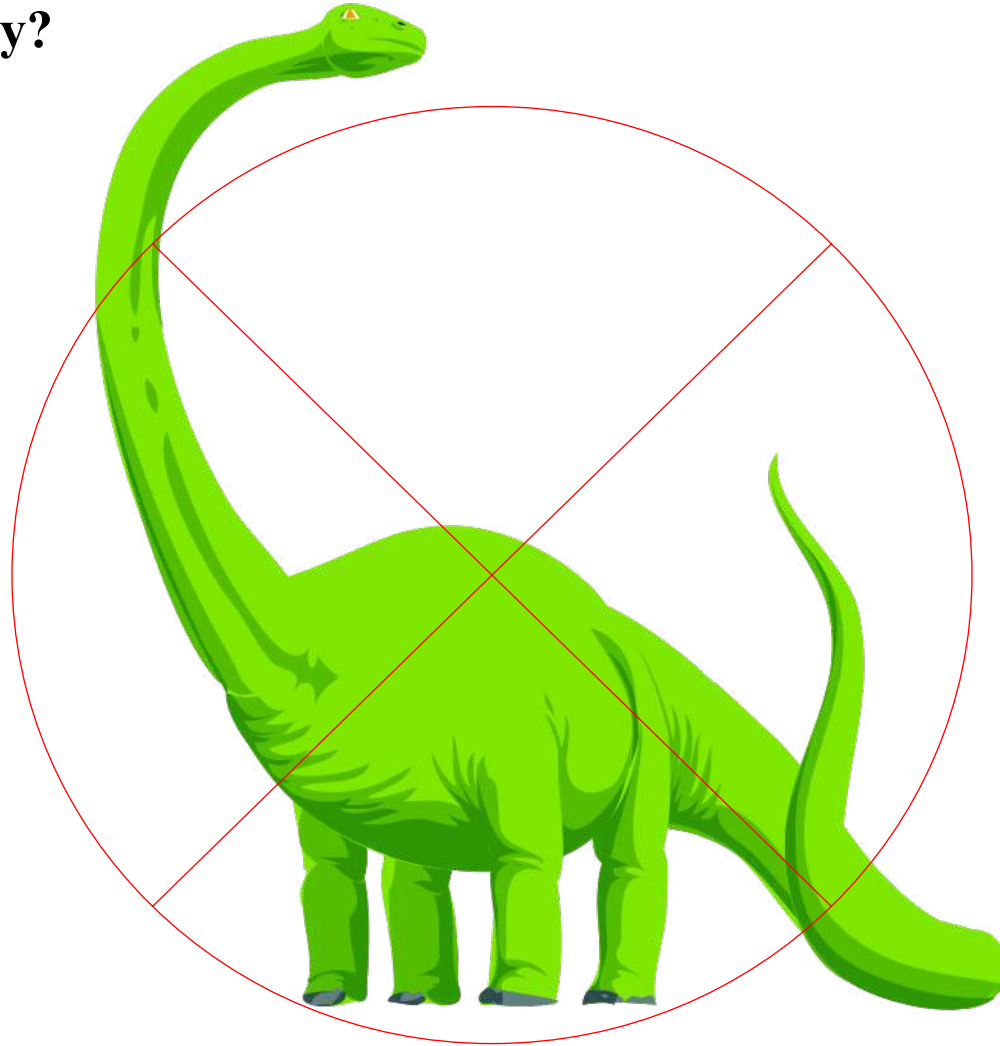
Archaeology

What I know about archaeology

List three things you know about archaeology.

Archaeology

What is archaeology?



Archaeology is the study of people who lived in the past.

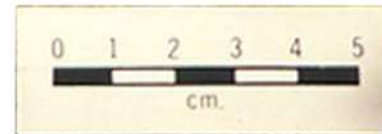
Archaeology

Artifacts

Catalogue Number 369041
Department of Anthropology
Smithsonian Institution



Catalogue Number 364275
Department of Anthropology
Smithsonian Institution



Artifacts are things people leave behind.

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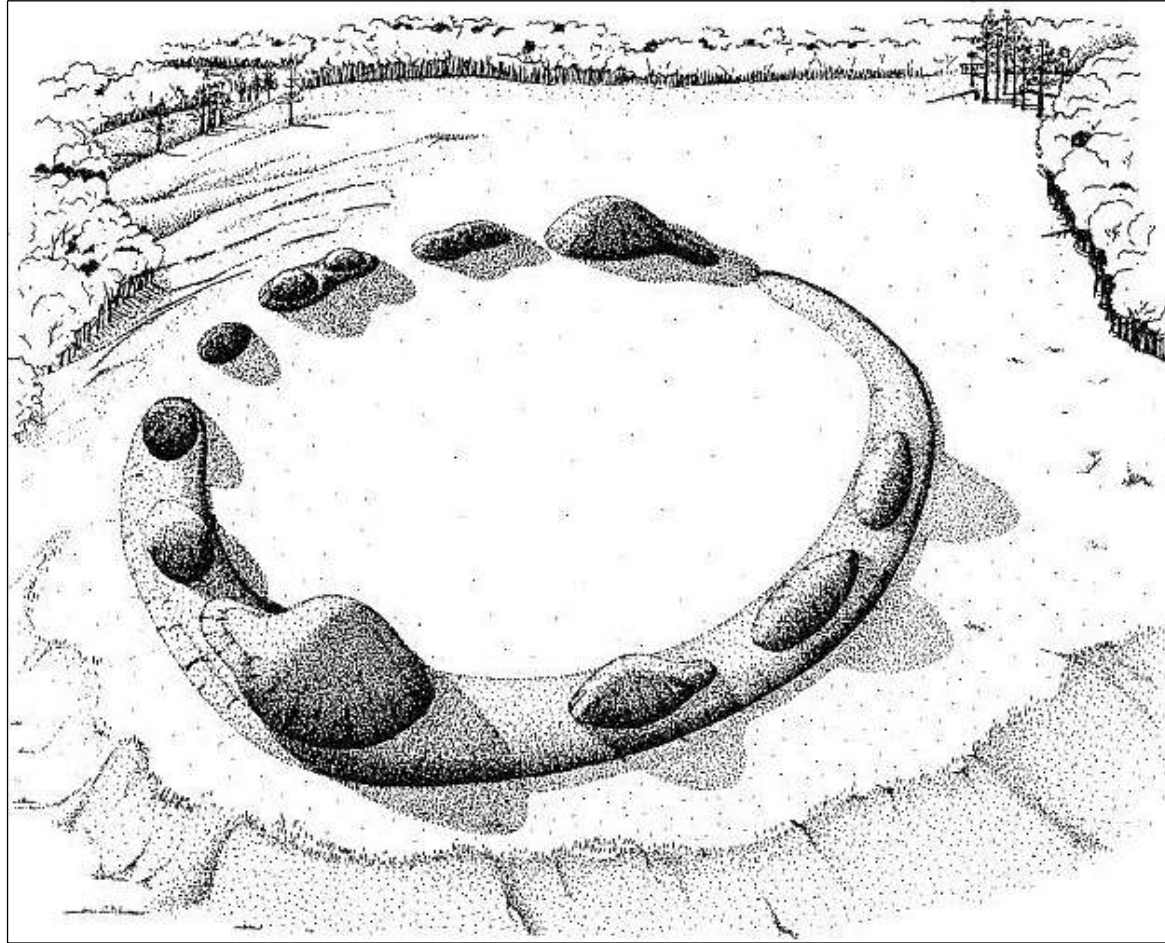
Landscape



People also leave behind changes to the landscape.

Archaeology

Time Periods of Archaeology



Drawing by Jon Gibson

Prehistoric means a time before writing was invented.

Archaeology

Time Periods of Archaeology



Historic means a time when there was writing.

Archaeology

Career in Archaeology



An archaeologist is a scientist who works in this field.

Archaeology

Career in Archaeology



An archaeologist goes to college.

Archaeology

Career in Archaeology



An archaeologist has career options and education options.

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Career in Archaeology



An archaeologist can work on land.

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Career in Archaeology



An archaeologist can work in the water.

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Career in Archaeology

Science:

Chemistry, Physics, Geophysics
Earth Sciences
Biological Sciences
Paleoclimatology

Technology:

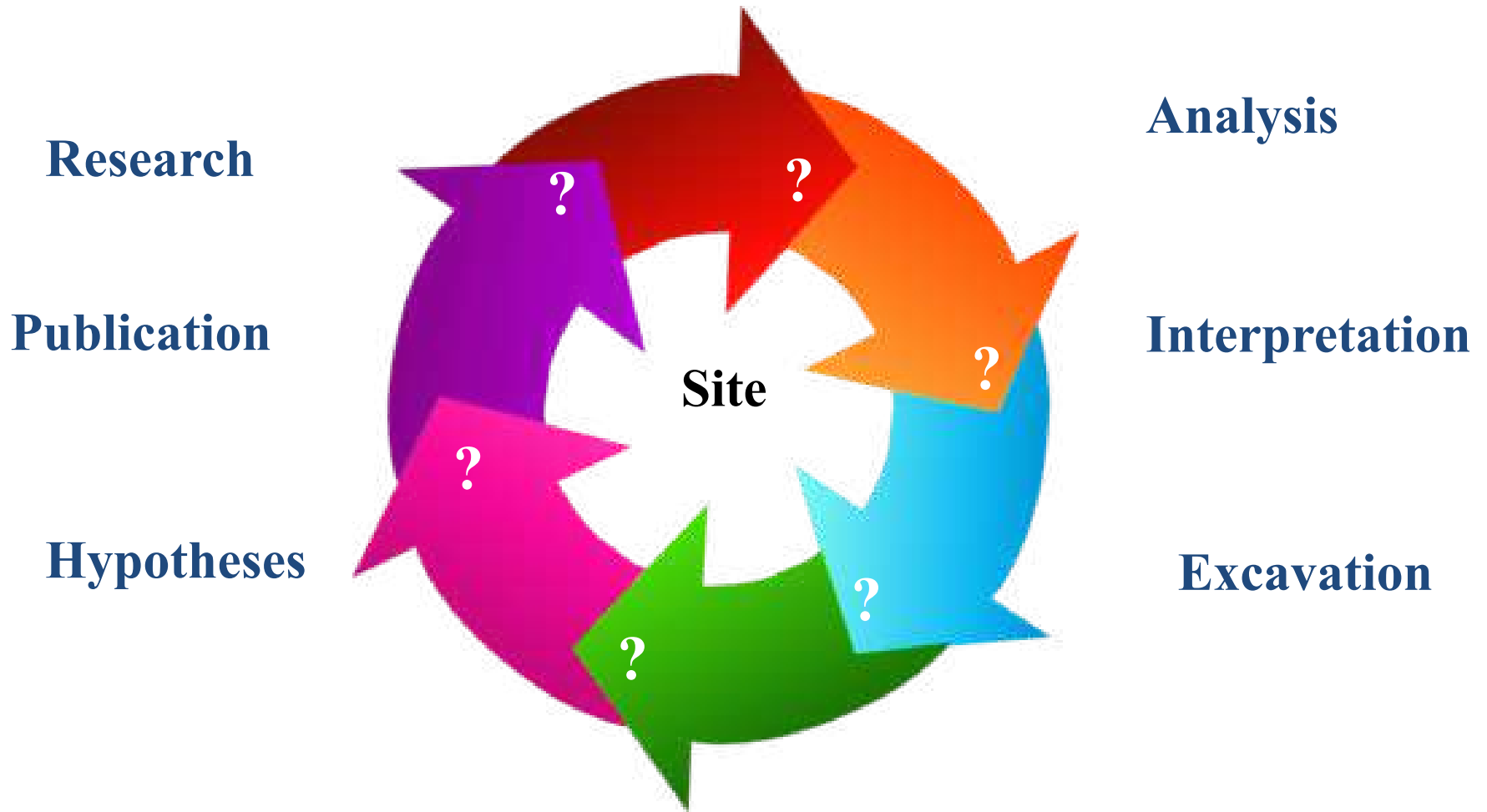
Mapping
Remote Sensing
Viewing/Imaging
Computer Science

You can learn more about other fields involved in archaeology by searching online for “science and technology fields in archaeology.”

Archaeologists are not the only scientists who work in this field.

Archaeology

Process of Archaeology



There are steps to follow in archaeology.

Archaeology

Process of Archaeology



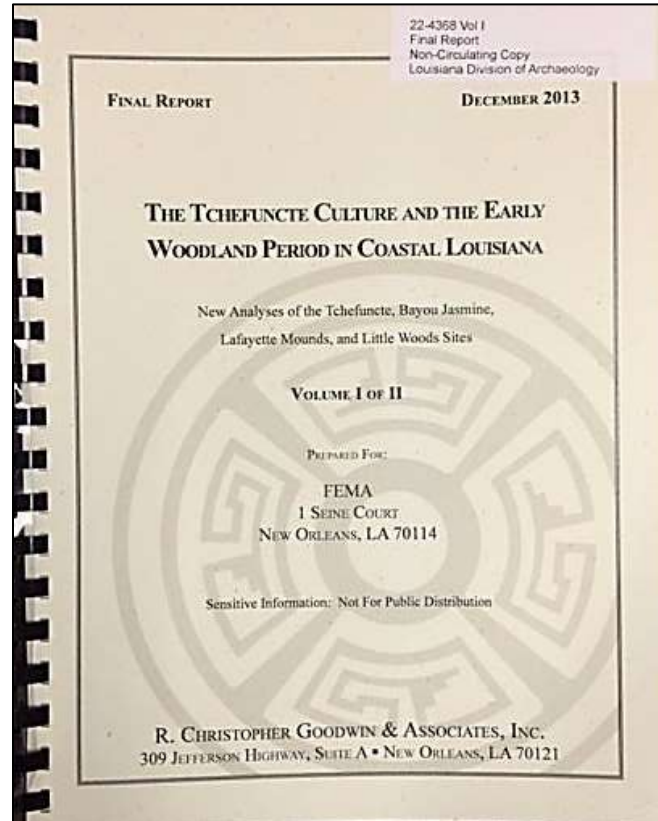
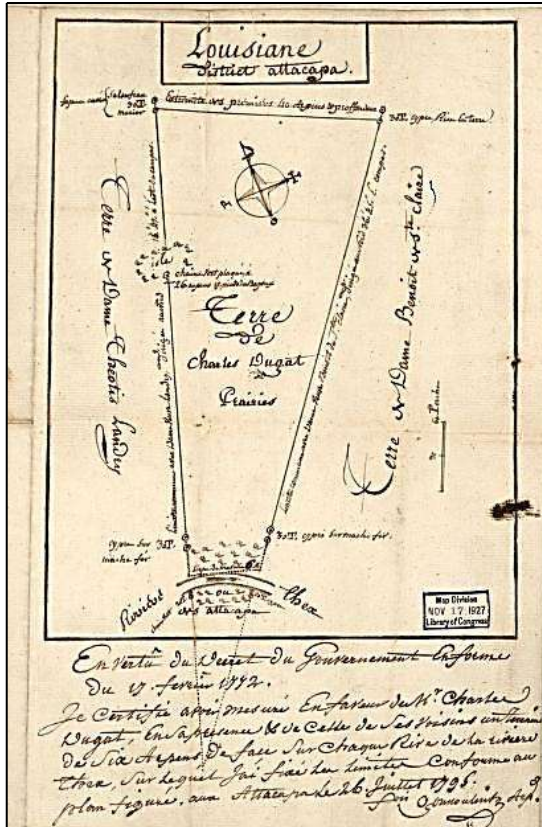
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

This archaeologist is recording details of a site.

Archaeology

Process of Archaeology

Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, g4012tm gct00213

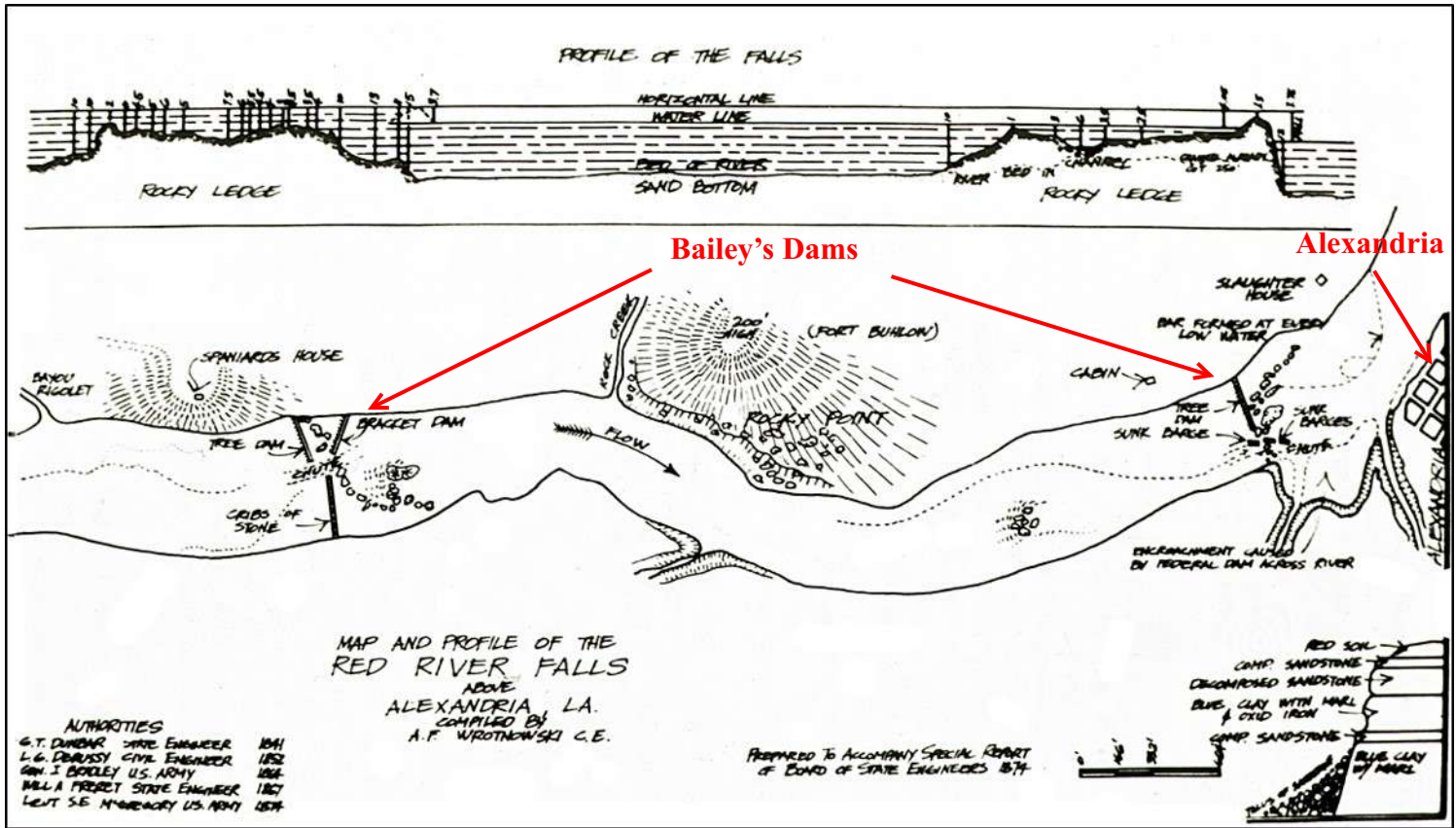


Research is the next step in the process.

Archaeology

Process of Archaeology

Profile View

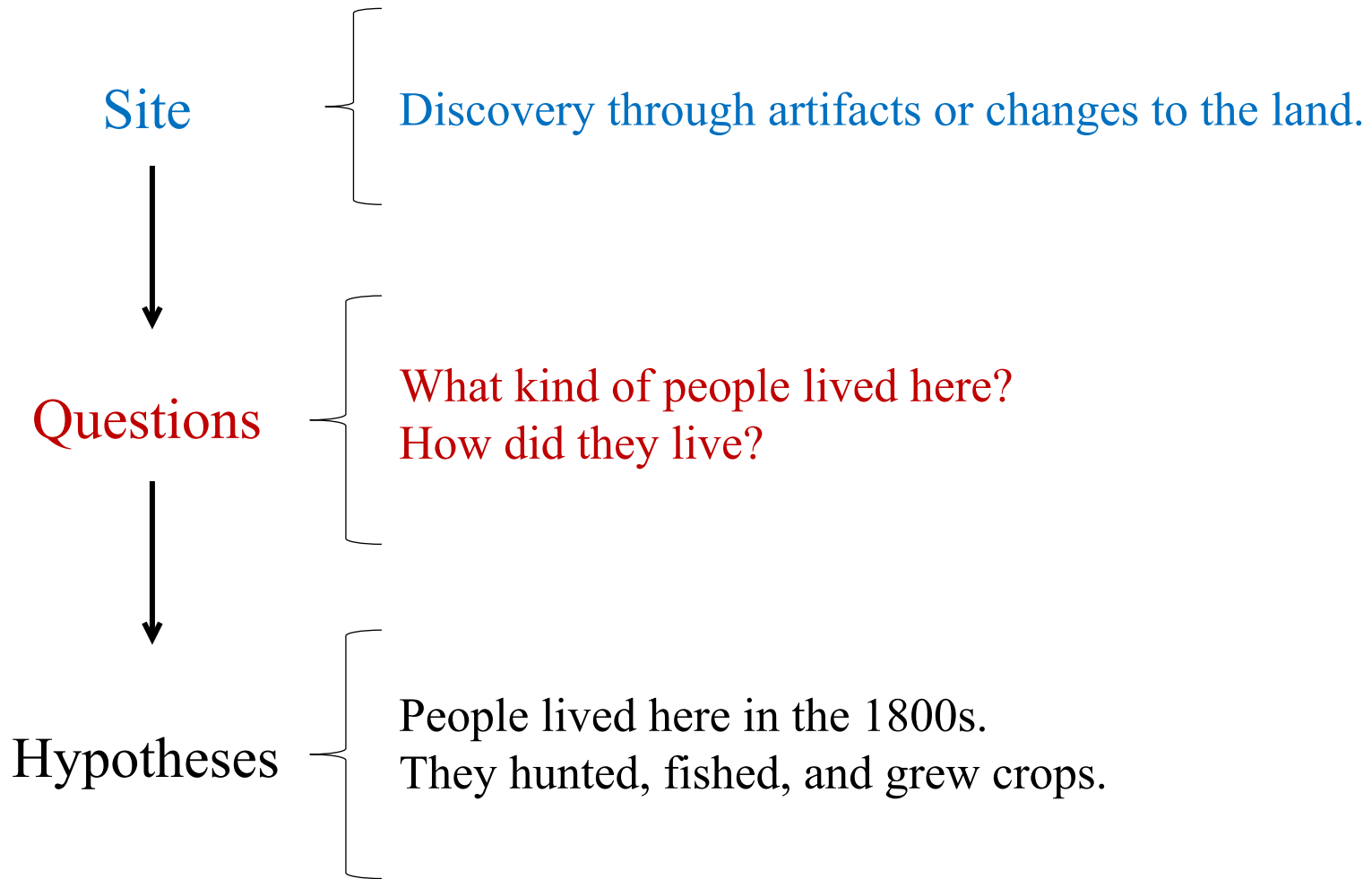


Plan View

Maps are an important part of research.

Archaeology

Process of Archaeology



Like other scientists, an archaeologist forms hypotheses,

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Process of Archaeology



This shows what we know so far about the process of archaeology.

Archaeology

Process of Archaeology



Photograph by Jeff Girard

Excavation is an important step in archaeology.

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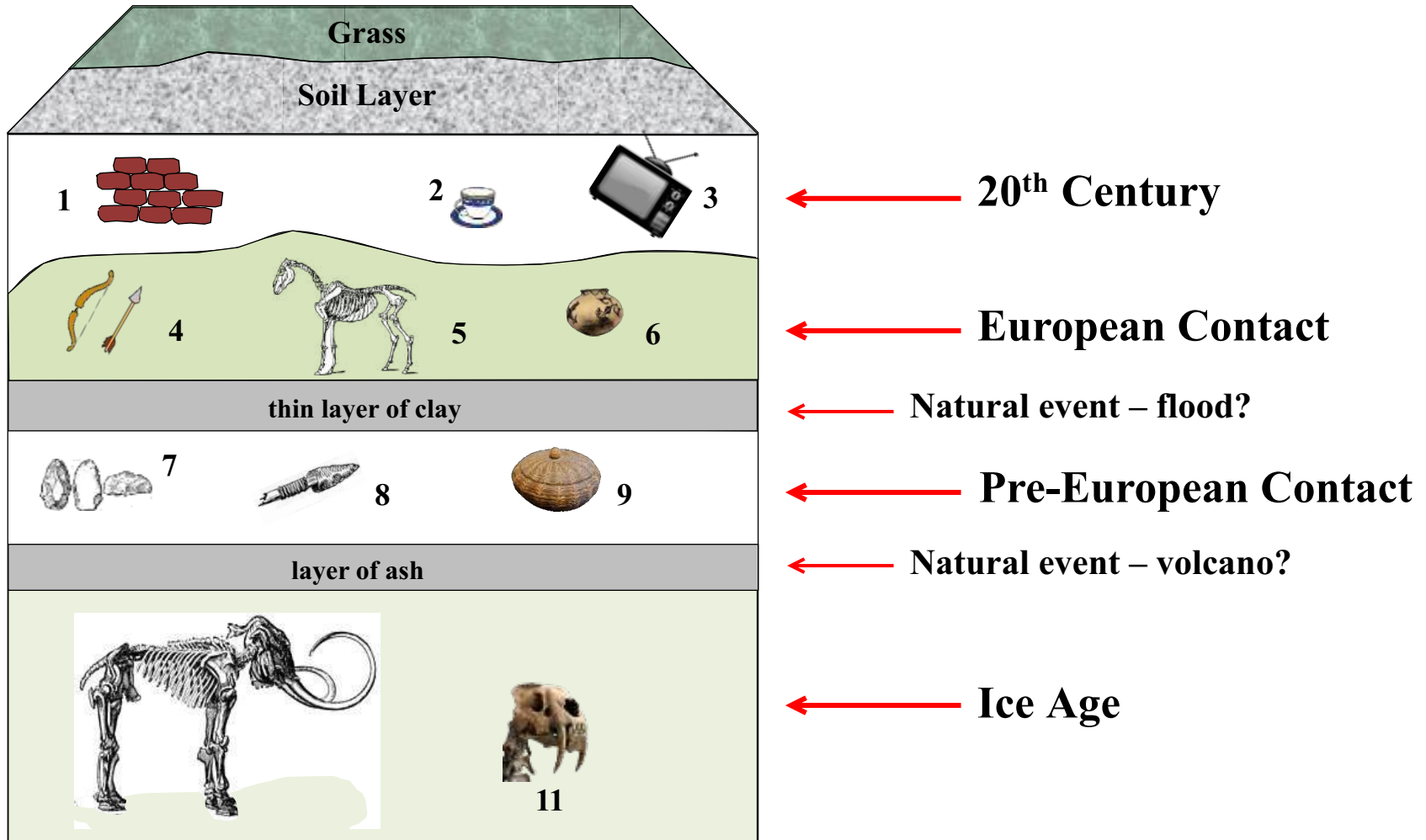
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An archaeologist must obey certain laws.

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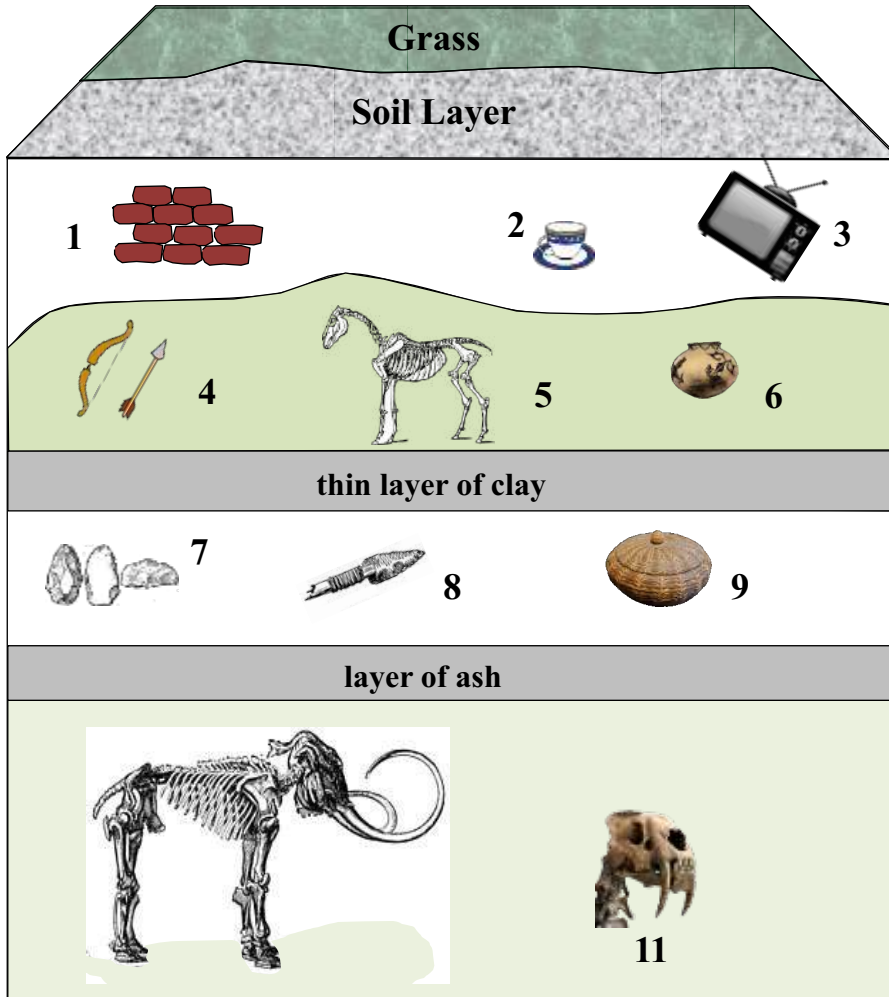
Process of Archaeology



Archaeologists use context and inference.

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Process of Archaeology



Archaeology Stratigraphy Challenge

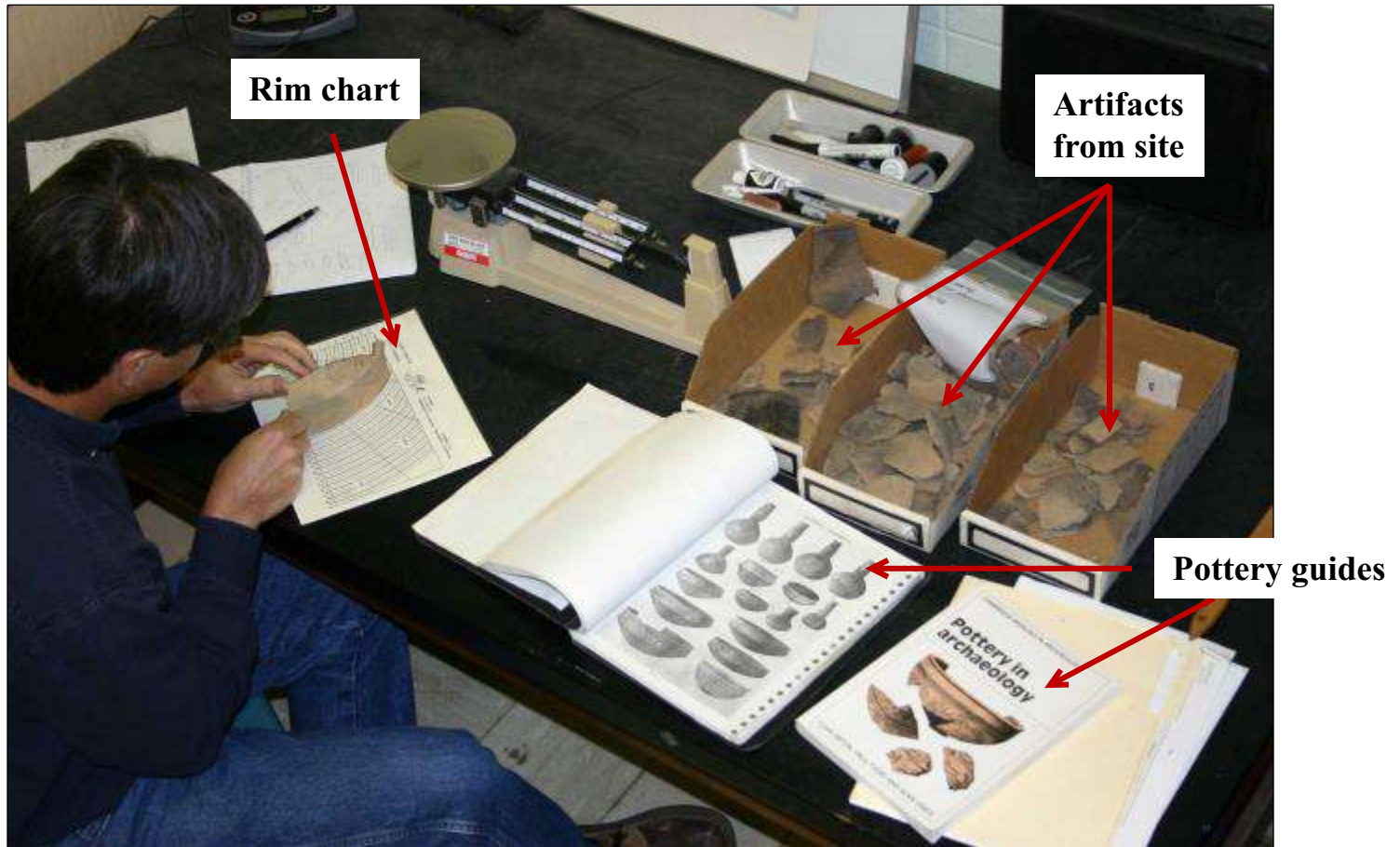
Identify the Artifact

Word Bank

- 1 _____ Mammoth
- 2 _____ Indian Basket
- 3 _____ Bow and Arrow
- 4 _____ Horse
- 5 _____ Bricks
- 6 _____ Cup and Saucer
- 7 _____ Saber-Tooth Cat
- 8 _____ Spear
- 9 _____ Television
- 10 _____ Ceramic Pot
- 11 _____ Stone Tools

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Process of Archaeology

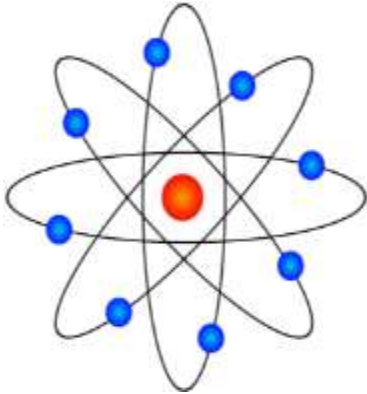


Photograph by George Avery

Analysis is the next step in the process.

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Process of Archaeology



Absolute Dating

Relative Dating



How does an archaeologist know how old something is?

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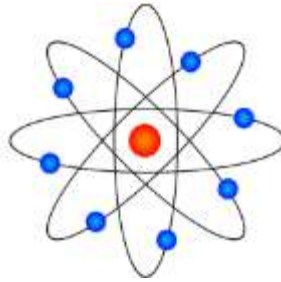


© A-Z Animals

Living Carbon-14



Known



Half Life of Carbon-14



Known
5,730 years



Courtesy, National Park Service

Dead Carbon-14

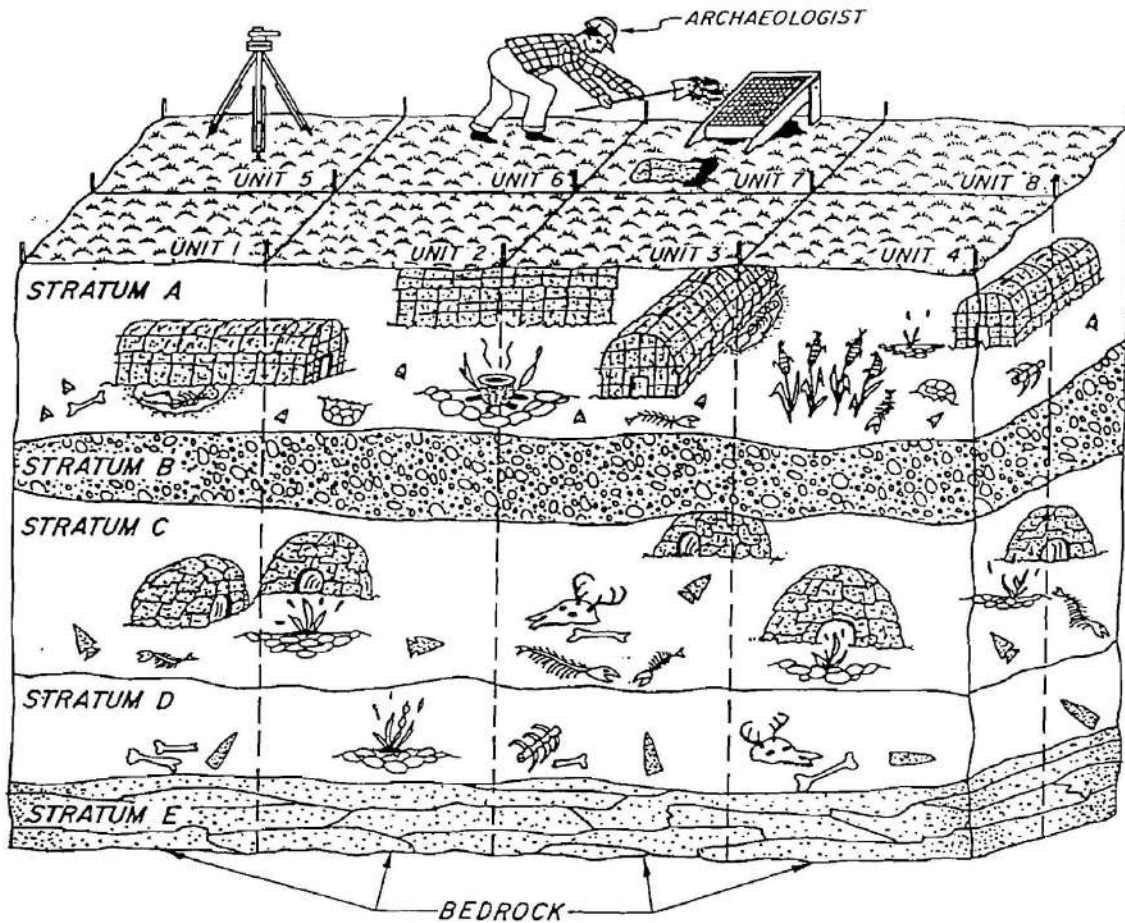


Unknown



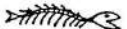








Carbon-14 dating can tell the age of things up to 50,000 years old.

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Process of Archaeology



Key to symbols:

-  Spear Points
-  Turtle Shell
-  Fish Bones
-  Deer Bones
-  Deer Skull
-  Human Burial
-  Campfire
-  Long House
-  Small, Round Bark Hut
-  Flood Deposits, Muck, Silt, Sand from Nearby River
-  Corn

Younger

Older

Relative dating is another way an archaeologist can tell the age of something.

Archaeology

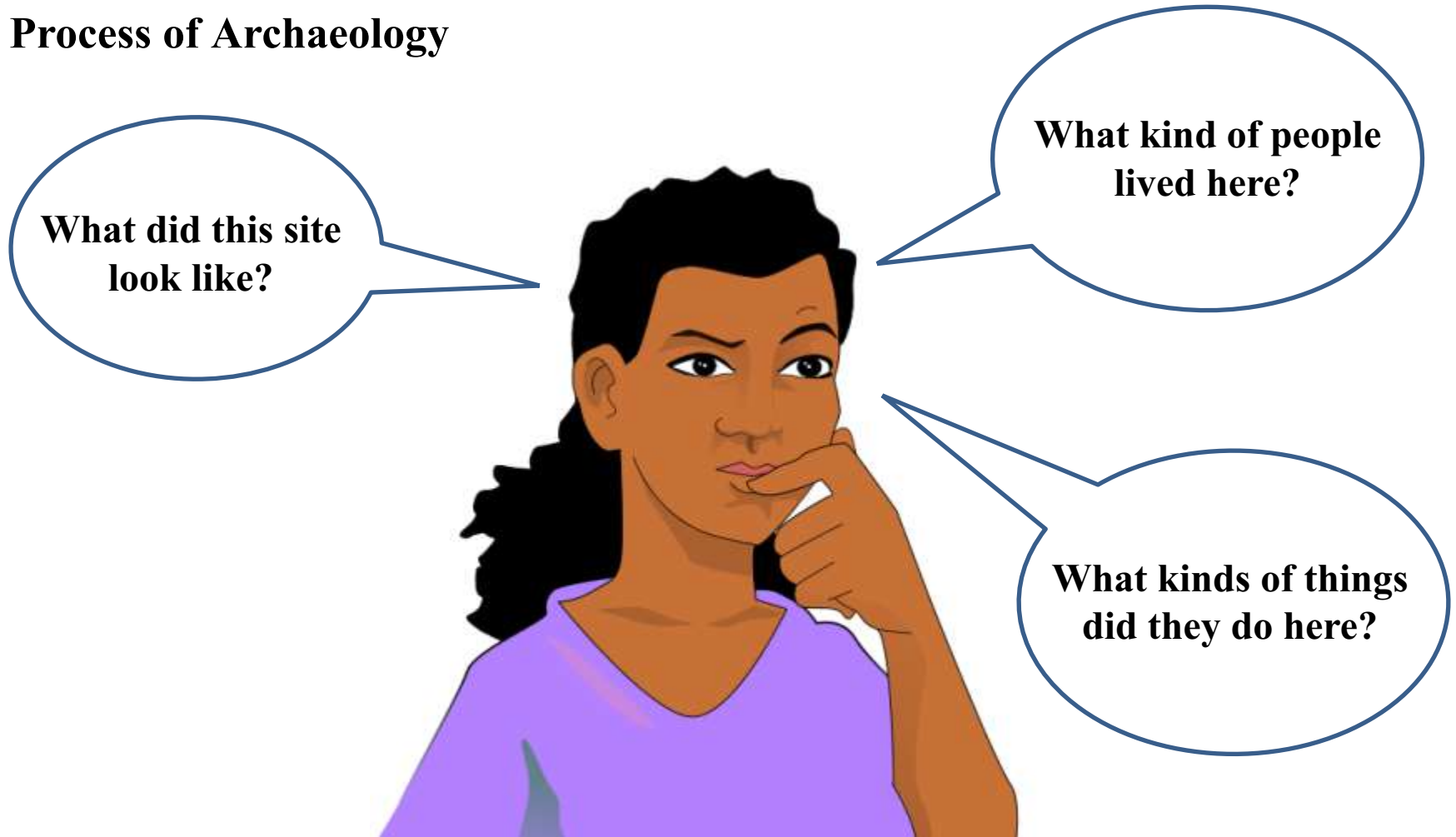
Process of Archaeology



This shows what we know so far about the process of archaeology.

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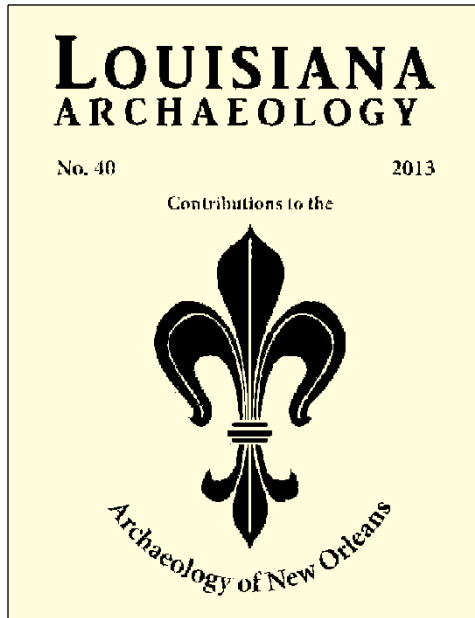
Process of Archaeology



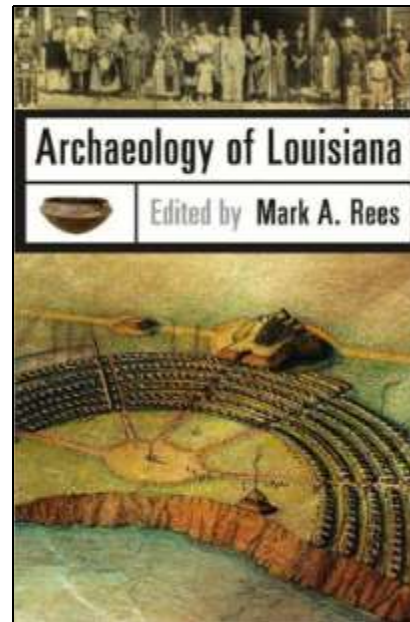
Interpretation means to tell the story of a site.

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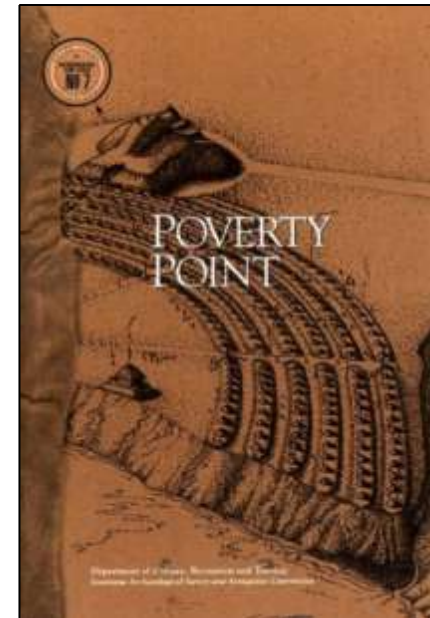
Process of Archaeology



Journal



Book



Brochure

Publication is the last step in the process of archaeology.

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Process of Archaeology



The circle is complete!

Archaeology

Why do we study the past?

How long ago was this built?

Who built this and why?



What did ancient people eat?

How did colonists live?

Were the people like me?

Archaeology

Why should we preserve the past?



Archaeological sites are one of a kind.

Archaeology

Compare

What I knew before

What I know now

Update your ideas about archaeology.

Introduction to **Archaeology**

This presentation is one in a series of modules about Louisiana archaeology. Each module has a PowerPoint presentation and associated student activities. The series is called “Learn about Louisiana’s Past through Archaeology.”

This presentation is intended for educational use. Please use image credits where provided.

Please visit the Division of Archaeology website for additional teaching materials and educational resources at:
www.crt.la.gov/DiscoverArchaeology/.

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