



Young Archaeologists' Program

(Target Audience: Ages 9-12)

Do you like to dig in the dirt? Find things that are lost? Put pieces together? Figure out stories from clues? Learn about the past? These are all things archaeologists do—maybe *you're* one, too

Archaeologists study old objects and investigate ancient sites to learn how people lived in the past: how they made tools, why they moved around, and even what foods they ate.

Archaeologists are a tough bunch. They travel all over the world and dig everywhere, including in old garbage piles and toilets.

Broken, chipped, and sometimes whole, artifacts come in many forms. Excavators often find artifacts of pottery, glass, or stone. These materials last for centuries and tell us a lot about the people who used them. Sometimes only parts of pottery can be found. When pottery is broken, archaeologists may attempt to piece them together so that they can study the whole piece.

Below is an activity that a real archaeologist would have to do to reconstruct a piece of pottery.

Activity 1- Pottery Reconstruction

1. Find pieces of old pottery you may have around the house, or buy some at a dollar store.
2. Place pottery inside a paper bag and gently hammer so that the pottery breaks into pieces (but don't shatter). Watch out for sharp edges.
3. Using glue sticks, have the children put the pottery back together.
4. Afterwards, have the children describe what their piece of pottery might be used for.

Activity 2 – Making Pottery

1. Find a recipe for making clay in a craft book or on the Internet or buy clay in a store and have the kids create simple pottery designs based on pictures of pottery from ancient China, Egypt or Greece. These pictures can be found in books and on the Internet.

Chinese pottery

<http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/ceramics/early-chinese-ceramics.cfm>