

LESSON DESIGN

ARCHAEOLOGY

DIGGING IN THE CLASSROOM 1

OVERVIEW: The students will solve a problem or answer a question by doing an in- the- classroom dig.

OBJECTIVE: Given a dig box and tools the students will be able to excavate the contents, measuring and recording as they go. They will be able to tell verbally or write about what they have excavated.

SET: The teacher says, "Each of you have a mystery before you in the form of a dig box. You are the detectives. Your job is to uncover that mystery as carefully as possible and to solve that mystery. How many of you think you can do that?"

INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES: Divide students into groups of four: Digger (digs materials with trowel, brushes, etc.), Measurer (measures finds by triangulation), Recorder (takes notes, records measurements), and Sifter (looks for material in screen and moves dirt to shaker area). Switch roles every ten minutes. Whole group notes color and feel of soil and any changes. Emphasize taking measurements before artifacts are removed.

TEST OF OBJECTIVES: The teacher monitors, answers questions, checks notes. Each group will discuss what they dug.

EXTENSION: Give the students coordinates and have them find where their dig took place on the various maps. Students use graph paper to plot artifacts.

GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME: K-12 depending on purpose. Tapes, rulers, string, line levels, trowels, various brushes, small dust pan and whisk broom to get excavated dirt out of box and into the shaker screen (sieves), extra boxes for the sifter to shake the excavated dirt into, newspaper to cover tables and floor.

GENERAL COMMENTS: Use boxes about 20mm by 40mm. Tape a line level (a string that is longer than the box) on one corner. Measure depth from the string, held taut over the box to the other side, using a ruler or tape. Depending on your purpose you can use one material like sand, potting soil, peat moss, or soil, throughout, or use layers of each for a stratified dig. Place your artifacts at different levels.

ANY QUESTIONS? E-mail me at georgeschneider@comcast.net
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