

Archaeologist: Artifacts in Underwater Caves

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like archaeologists who have just discovered artifacts in an underwater cave!



Activity

Step One: Background on Archaeologists and Artifacts (5 minutes)

- Ask students if they know what an archaeologist does.
- Explain that an archaeologist is a person who learns about the past by looking at artifacts. Artifacts are objects that were used or made a long time ago. Show [Handout: Archaeologists and Artifacts](#). Discuss what archaeologists can learn about people by looking at each of these artifacts.
- Next, show [Handout: Underwater Cave](#). Ask students why an archaeologist would want to go inside the cave! Discuss how there might be artifacts in the cave! The artifacts are clues that tell us who used the cave a long time ago!

Step Two: Activity Set Up (5-10 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will imagine they are archaeologists who have just discovered artifacts in an underwater cave. They will look at the artifacts and guess about who they belong to!
- Show [Handout: Creating Artifacts](#).
- Explain that each students will work in groups and will make 3 artifacts.
- Then, they will place them in an underwater cave.
- Afterwards, another group will get the artifacts out from the cave and guess who they belong to.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Teacher Support , at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.

Step Three: Brainstorming Ideas (5-10 minutes)

- First, students will create their artifacts.
- Divide students into small groups.
- Students will select which person they want to create artifacts for. Then, they will write or draw a list of 4 items that would belong to the person.
- As groups are working, ask the following questions:
 - How will your artifacts give information about the person's life?
 - How will your artifacts give information what the person liked to do for fun?

Step Four: Creating Artifacts (15 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now create their artifacts. Their artifacts must be able to be found in an underwater cave, so they should be waterproof. This is very important because the artifacts will be placed in a bin of water in the next step.
- Provide students with the following materials:
 - Plastic baggies (students can put a non-water proof item in a plastic bag to put in the underwater cave)
 - Tinfoil (students can wrap a non water-proof item in tinfoil)
 - Popsicle sticks
 - Clay or play doh
 - Other water-proof materials, like styrofoam cups or plastic wrap. Have students create their artifacts.

Step Five: Placing Artifacts in an Underwater Cave (5 minutes)

- Provide each group with a bin that has water in it.
- Have groups place their artifacts in a bin.
- If time permits, have students create a cave out of play doh or clay to put in their bin.
- Optional: Students can add blue food coloring to their water.

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Step Six: Analyzing Artifacts From Other Caves (10-15 minutes)

- Have groups switch seats with each other so they can remove and analyze artifacts from another bin of water.
- Provide groups with **Handout: Artifact Log**. Explain to groups that they will carefully remove artifacts from the bin of water, dry them off, and then fill out the handout. After they make observations of each artifact, they will guess who the artifact belonged to. Groups will circle their choice at the bottom of the page.

Step Seven: Revealing Who the Artifacts Belonged To (5 minutes)

- Explain to students that each group will now tell the class who they think the artifacts belonged to. The group who created the cave will need to tell the group if they are correct or not.
- Have a class discussion about whether it was difficult or easy to guess who the artifacts belonged to. How do artifacts give us information about people who lived a long time ago?

Materials List

Provided online:

- Handout: Archaeologists and Artifacts
- Handout: Underwater Cave
- Handout: Creating Artifacts
- Handout: Artifact Log

Not provided (each student needs):

- Waterproof art supplies and building materials (tin foil, plastic cups, plastic wrap, beads, etc)
- Paper towels
- Optional: Blue food coloring
- Bin with water

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