

Archaeology

WORD SEARCH

Uncover important archaeology words below!



S	P	K	R	P	O	T	T	E	R	Y	S
T	V	S	M	G	L	J	W	D	A	T	A
R	X	H	E	I	S	A	M	P	R	B	R
A	E	E	X	J	D	C	A	V	T	X	C
T	T	R	K	G	X	D	F	M	I	B	H
I	A	D	T	R	O	W	E	L	F	N	A
G	V	U	R	L	Z	R	X	N	A	X	E
R	A	X	E	F	G	U	A	L	C	J	O
A	C	I	N	T	R	C	I	H	T	I	L
P	X	Z	C	K	I	X	B	O	F	X	O
H	E	M	H	O	D	A	H	W	E	P	G
Y	P	L	I	T	G	S	U	R	V	E	Y

ARTIFACT

MIDDEN

EXCAVATE

SHERD

TROWEL

STRATIGRAPHY

POTTERY

GRID

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ANSWER KEY



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DEFINITIONS

Artifact: Something made or used by people in the past

Trowel: A small handheld spade that is an essential archaeological tool used for delicate excavation work

Survey: Before digging, archaeologists walk across land to look for clues on the ground's surface

Midden: An archaeological word for a trash pile! Midden heaps are super important because they tell archaeologists what people ate and what their daily life was like. It could include discarded bone and shell, food refuse, charcoal, ash, rock, human remains structural remnants, and other cultural materials.

Stratigraphy: The study of dirt and rock layers to understand history. Archaeologists study each strata, or layer, to understand different periods of time. Generally, the layers at the bottom are the oldest, and the layers at the top are the youngest.

Archaeology: The scientific study of past people through their sites and artifacts.
Excavate: The slow careful process of uncovering (digging) and documenting (map and take notes about) artifacts and sites to find out how people lived in the past.

Pottery: Pieces of a broken ceramics, vessels, or clay pots. It is common for an archeologist to find sherds at sites where people lived for long periods of time. Pottery was used for many purposes including cooking, holding water, and collecting food.

Lithic: A rock or tool made out of stone (obsidian, chert, basalt, etc.) such as arrowheads, spear tips, handaxes, scrapers, and mano and metates.

Sherd: Pieces of pottery vessels (like clay pots).

Grid: A system of equally sized squares laid over a dig site to map exactly where items are found.

Trench: An excavation unit that is usually longer than it is wide. It's used to find or protect sites and artifacts without disturbing the whole site.