



## Activities

Introduce students to the archaeological discipline. You can do so through discussion (refer to the Archaeological Institute of America website (teacher section) for background information) or by showing students Bill Nye the Science Guy Archaeology Episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45TwKC08QTg>

- Questions to use during/after video include:

What is archaeology?

According to Bill, when you find an artifact, should you move it? Why or why not?

How can we find out how old something is?

How can garbage be used to teach us about the past?

Before class, the teacher will need to collect a sample of 'clean' garbage. They will need to also create a story that goes along with this garbage. For example, the garbage collection could include a party hat, decorations, popped balloons, candles, cat food can, etc., and students can discern that someone who has a cat had some kind of party. Maybe the party garbage can allow students to tell approximately how old the person is. There are several ways you can conduct this activity. You can simply model the process of analyzing the trash and then have your students do the same with other pieces of garbage in a large group setting; or you can divide the students into groups. You want the students to decide whom this garbage might have belonged to before it became trash. As a closure, the teacher can tell the students a story that he/she has come up with to go along with this trash.

Students need to answer the following questions about the garbage:

- How old do you think these items are? How do you think they were used? How do you think these objects were used? Does this garbage collection belong to one or multiple people? How do you think are represented by these objects?

## Extra Resources

! Old Mobile Newsletters –

<http://www.usouthal.edu/archaeology/newsletters.html>

! Website for the Archaeological Institute of America:

<http://www.archaeological.org/>

