



# Archaeology

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Workbook developer: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 2006, Workbook updated: April 2008.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

1) Tell what archaeology is \_\_\_\_\_

and explain how it differs from anthropology, \_\_\_\_\_

geology, \_\_\_\_\_

paleontology, \_\_\_\_\_

and history. \_\_\_\_\_

2) Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process:

site location, \_\_\_\_\_

site excavation, \_\_\_\_\_

artifact identification \_\_\_\_\_

and examination, \_\_\_\_\_

interpretation, \_\_\_\_\_

preservation, \_\_\_\_\_

and information sharing. \_\_\_\_\_

3) Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain what relative dating is. \_\_\_\_\_

4) Do **TWO** of the following:

A) Learn about three archaeological sites located *outside* the United States.



Site 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking \_\_\_\_\_

and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites you research. \_\_\_\_\_

Site 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking \_\_\_\_\_

and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites you research. \_\_\_\_\_

**Site 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking \_\_\_\_\_

and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites you research. \_\_\_\_\_

**B)** Gather research on three archaeological sites that are *within* the United States.



**Site 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking \_\_\_\_\_

and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites. \_\_\_\_\_

**Site 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking \_\_\_\_\_

and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites. \_\_\_\_\_

**Site 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the relative ages of the sites. \_\_\_\_\_

C) Visit an archaeological site and gather research on it. Explain how the site was discovered. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how the information gained from the study of this site answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important for modern people. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the age of this site with other sites you have researched. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Choose ONE of the sites you picked for Requirement 4 and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group. \_\_\_\_\_

6) Do the following:

A) Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites. \_\_\_\_\_

B) Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact. \_\_\_\_\_

C) Describe ways in which you can be a protector of the past. \_\_\_\_\_

7) Do ONE of the following:

A) Make a list of items you would like to include in a time capsule.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Discuss with your merit badge counselor what archaeologist a thousand years from now might learn from the contents of your capsule about you and the culture in which you live. \_\_\_\_\_



and methods of food gathering, \_\_\_\_\_  
preparation, \_\_\_\_\_  
and storage. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) Research settlers or soldiers who were in your area at least 100 years ago. Find out about the houses or forts, \_\_\_\_\_  
ways of life, \_\_\_\_\_  
clothing styles, \_\_\_\_\_  
arts and crafts, \_\_\_\_\_  
and dietary habits \_\_\_\_\_

of the early settlers, farmers, ranchers, soldiers, or townspeople who once lived in the area where your community now stands.  
Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11) Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and explain why this profession might interest you. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Online Resources** (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)  
Boy Scouts of America: ► [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)  
► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)  
Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: [BSA Troop 780](#) -or- [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org) -or- [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) Merit Badge Books:  
[www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)  
Amer. Anthropological Association: <http://www.aaanet.org> Arch. Conservancy: <http://www.Amer.archaeology.com>  
Archaeological Inst. of America: <http://www.archaeological.org> Center for Amer. Archeology: <http://www.caa-archeology.org>  
Earthwatch Institute: <http://www.earthwatch.org> Nat. Park Service: <http://www.cr.nps.gov>  
Society for Amer. Archaeology: <http://www.saa.org> Society for Historical Archaeology: <http://www.sha.org>  
Southwestern Archaeology: <http://www.swanet.org/> UC Davis Extension: <http://www.extension.ucdavis.edu>  
Center for the Study of the First Americans, Texas A&M University: <http://www.centerfirstAmer.s.com>  
Nat. Association of State Archaeologists: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/nasa>  
Nat. Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers: <http://www.ncshpo.org>  
Many more online resources: <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/32215/mb/mb-ARCA.html>