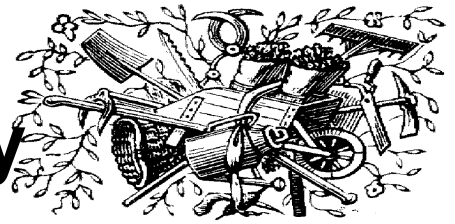


Local History On-Site Summary



Grade 3

The purpose of archaeological research is to learn about the way people lived in the past. Archaeologists do this through observation and analyses of the artifacts people leave behind. The information that archaeologists uncover is always fascinating and even more so if that historical information pertains to the very environment in which we now live.

In this activity, students will continue with their exploration of the history of the North Texas area. The students will uncover and thus discover, local historical artifacts, which they will extensively analyze, and then make inferences about what they believe the items are and, what they believe they were once used for.

During their exploration and analysis the students will also begin to develop an understanding of the importance of measurement as it relates to archaeology. The students will understand how archaeologists “map” and measure their finds, classify objects based on given information, and how they construct reasonable explanations and draw conclusions using given information and prior knowledge.

TEKS CONNECTIONS:

Science TEKS - Third Grade:

3.2 (B) – Students will collect information by observing and measuring.

3.2 (C) – Students will analyze and interpret information to construct reasonable explanations from direct and indirect evidence.

3.2 (E) – The students will construct simple graphs, tables, maps, and charts to organize, examine and evaluate information.

Fun Facts

- Ceramic and glass containers provide invaluable information about rural food ways in studied areas?
- Ceramic foodstuff containers include utilitarian stoneware manufactured at local and non-local potteries and purchased by rural families to meet their everyday household needs?
- Sheds, granaries, barns, animal pens and corrals, stock ponds and cattle tanks, chicken coops, cribs, cellars, and fenced gardens occur at farmsteads throughout the (North Texas) area?
- Home butchery of pig and chicken is deduced at most of the sites by the presence of pig teeth and eggshells?

*****Please note: Though we are only simulating an archaeological dig. Conservation ethics are applied to “real” archaeological sites. Conservation in this sense establishes that unless a site is threatened with destruction or will contribute significantly to research, then the site should be left alone.***

Above information adapted from “Local History On-Site Activity,” Elm Fork Education Center & Denton ISD, 1998.