

Amazing Archaeologists Lesson Plan

This activity links with the Leave What You Find principle of Leave No Trace

Activity: Investigate how artefacts allow us to understand our history

Learning Objectives: Understand the importance of cultural and natural artefacts and why we should leave them where they are found. Explore how natural artefacts play an important role within the ecosystem

Curriculum Links:

SESE History Skills and Concepts Section: Working as an Historian

SESE Geography and Science Strand: Environmental Awareness and Care, Strand Unit: Caring for my Locality

Time: Introduction 5 minutes, Activity 25 minutes and Wrap-up 5 minutes

Materials: A selection of artefacts (see below for a list of ideas), pen, paper and one copy of the Amazing Archaeologists signs

Method:

1. Place half the artefacts on one table and the other half on a second table
2. Cut out the signs and place each one on a table with the artefacts
3. Introduce the scenario to the class:



'It is the year 3012. Two groups of archaeologists are working on a 'dig', the aim of their mission is to discover as much as they can about ancient humans. Both groups are having great luck and have found several artefacts that they can use to tell us about past civilisations. The first team of archaeologists have placed their finds on one table and the second team have placed all the artefacts they found on the second table. They are trying to figure out what these items can tell us about the human civilisation. Can you help them?'

4. Ask all pupils to take turns going up and observing the artefacts on the tables. Remind them that they can take one artefact from the second table but ask them not to tell anyone what they took. The second table should be empty before all pupils have taken their turn.
5. When each student has had a chance to view the tables discuss what the artefacts on Table 1 tell us about these ancient humans.
6. Now look at Table 2, unfortunately its empty! You won't be able to tell anything about those ancient humans.
7. Ask the pupils that took artefacts to reveal what they took one at a time. Slowly build a picture with the class of this human civilisation.



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Method ctd.

8. Discuss with the class how artefacts are important as they allow us to learn more about our history
9. Explain to the class how this idea can also apply to our natural environment. When we leave rocks, shells, plants, feathers, fossils and other objects of interest as we find them, other people can discover and enjoy them as we did. Also these natural artefacts often have very important roles within the ecosystem (see accompanying Teachers Notes).

Reflection:

Have you ever 'discovered' a natural artefact in the outdoors before?
How did it make you feel?

Further Investigation:

Discuss with the class about alternatives that we can take from the natural environment. Bring the class out to the school grounds and complete one of the alternative activities:

- Photographs
- Memories
- Bark Rubbings
- Stories
- Drawings

Possible Artefacts:

Any items from around the classroom can be used as artefacts for the lesson plan. Alternatively you can use pictures of these items from magazines or newspapers.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Football | Hairbrush |
| Car keys | Fork |
| Mobile phone | Book |
| DVD | Clothes |
| iPod | Photographs |

**For more information on the Leave What You Find principle
and the other Leave No Trace principles visit:**

www.leavenotraceireland.org

