

# Ancient Artefacts Lesson Plan

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

**Activity:** Investigate how artefacts can tell us about 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 Unit: Environmental Awareness and Care, Strand Unit: Environmental Awareness

**Time:** Introduction 10 minutes, Activity 30 minutes and Wrap-up 10 minutes

**Materials:** A selection of artefacts (see accompanying Teacher Notes for a list of ideas), a pen and paper for each group

**Method:**

1. Prepare two lots of artefacts. One should have double the amount of artefacts than the other. These should be scattered in two different areas in the classroom
2. Divide the class into two teams of archaeologists
3. Introduce the scenario to the class:  
'It is the year 3012. Two groups of archaeologists are working on a 'dig'; one group on one site (in one corner of the room) and the second group on a different site (in a different corner of the room). 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...'
4. Ask each team to examine the artefacts on their site and discuss what the artefacts tell us about the people who used to live here
5. Ask each group to write down as many points as they can about this ancient civilisation
6. Bring both teams back together and ask each group to present to the class the artefacts they found and what this tells us about ancient civilisations.
7. Ask the class which group was able to tell more about this ancient civilisation and why they think this was?
8. 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).



# Ancient Artefacts Lesson Plan

## Reflection:

Have you ever 'discovered' a natural artefact in the outdoors before?

How did it make you feel?

Why do people remove these items from the environment?

## 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

Alternatively, have pupils carry out a research project on important artefacts that have been found in the locality.

## Possible Artefacts:

Any items from around the classroom can be used as artefacts for the lesson plan. Alternatively you could 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](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

