

An Ancient Discovery 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 5 minutes, Activity 25 minutes and Wrap-up 10 minutes

Materials: A selection of artefacts (see below 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 to write down as many points as they can about what they tell us about this ancient civilisation.
 5. 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.
Which group was able to tell more about this ancient civilisation
Why do they think this was?
6. Using what they have learned, what artefacts do they think will be left behind from our generation? Ask everyone in the class to choose five things they would leave behind for future civilisations to learn about them.
7. Using the Teacher Notes discuss with the class why it is important to leave cultural artefacts in the outdoors. Explain 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.



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Reflection:

Why do people remove natural and cultural items from the outdoor environment?
Is it okay to remove things in certain circumstances?

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, carry out a class photography project; pupils take pictures of both natural and built heritage features in the locality that they think will create an accurate image of the local area.

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

