



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

DISCOVER ARCHAEOLOGY ACTIVITY BOOKLET

An illustration of a dark green evergreen tree with a red trunk and a person in a red and orange outfit lying on the ground at its base. The scene is set against a background of light blue clouds and a white sky.

2023

How to use this Booklet

In order to view and complete all the activities here, you'll need to open this document using Adobe Acrobat. It will not work properly in a web browser. You can [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) for free if you do not already have it on your computer. Some activities can be done digitally, but others you may need to print.

If you complete any of the activities in this booklet, you can send it to the Society for American Archaeology for a small prize, an embroidered patch, pictured below. You can either email the document to public_edu@saa.org (sending the digital file, a scan, or a picture) or physically mail it to:

Society for American Archaeology
Education and Outreach
1990 K St. NW #401
Washington, DC 20006

This year's patch is based on a photo taken of a tree at Mount Hood in Oregon, with design elements added in consultation with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The name for Mount Hood in the Upper Chinook language is Wakakhan. The image was used with permission from Portland-based photographer, Harley Cowan. Cowan's work focuses on documenting shared heritage. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, David Harrelson, advocates for the Indigenous artform of the Chinook peoples, on whose land SAA gathered for our 2023 annual meeting in Portland, Oregon.



There is no deadline for completing the activities, and patches will be sent as long as supplies last. Your patch will be mailed to you at the address you provide here:

Name:

Address:

Credits

This booklet was created by Bernard Means, Krista Bueno, Katherine Lawrence, Marty Surasky, Ula Holland, Maggie Colangelo, Savannah Gross, and Beth Pruitt for the Society for American Archaeology in 2023. For other K-12 activities and resources, visit www.saa.org/activities. For any questions, please contact public_edu@saa.org.

Discover Archaeological Tools

Archaeologists excavate at sites, where people lived in the past. They use tools to help them dig and record what they find. Search for the names of six tools archaeologists use at dig sites. Words may be backwards or diagonal.

C O S L L A N U F W I L M
 G L H J I B X I M R N E P
 I E W T C C Q R K J A V T
 Q E I Z J U N D J S T E R
 P Z D M G T A E U N V L O
 N E K Q O G D R P C L E W
 H T D Z B R I J O R W N E
 R Z N T H N R K R O C I L
 L T J S G B L Y Q I E L N
 Z C U T I H E Q M D I N G
 T R A K C I P L A T N E D
 B P F K P J N T I L V H E
 E V L P D W O B K P X D L



Trowel

Pencil



Measuring Tape

Brush



Line Level

Dental Pick



Can you find these tools in the pictures on the next page?

Discover the Differences

Archaeologists pay close attention to details and take careful notes about artifacts. Artifacts are the objects people left behind. Archaeologists look for differences between sites that show us how people lived in the past.

There are 15 differences between the two pictures below. How many can you see?



Discover Artifact Patterning

Archaeologists in labs and museums look at designs and patterns on artifacts. This gives them clues about styles, trends, and how past people saw the world around them. You can color this decorated bowl below using the same colors people used around 200 years ago. Underwater archaeologists discovered the bowl at the River Bridge Site in North Carolina. The artifact is now in the Museum of the Albemarle.



Scan the QR code or click [here to view the 3D model](#) in full color online!

1: Yellow

2: Blue

3: Orange

4: Green

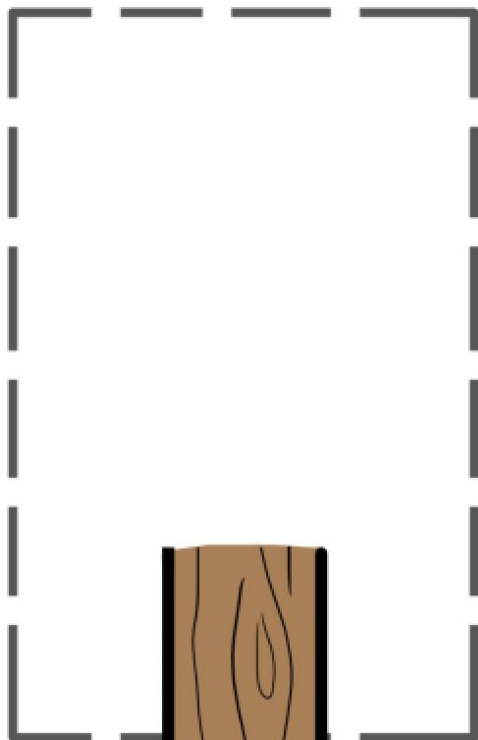


Discover Clovis Points

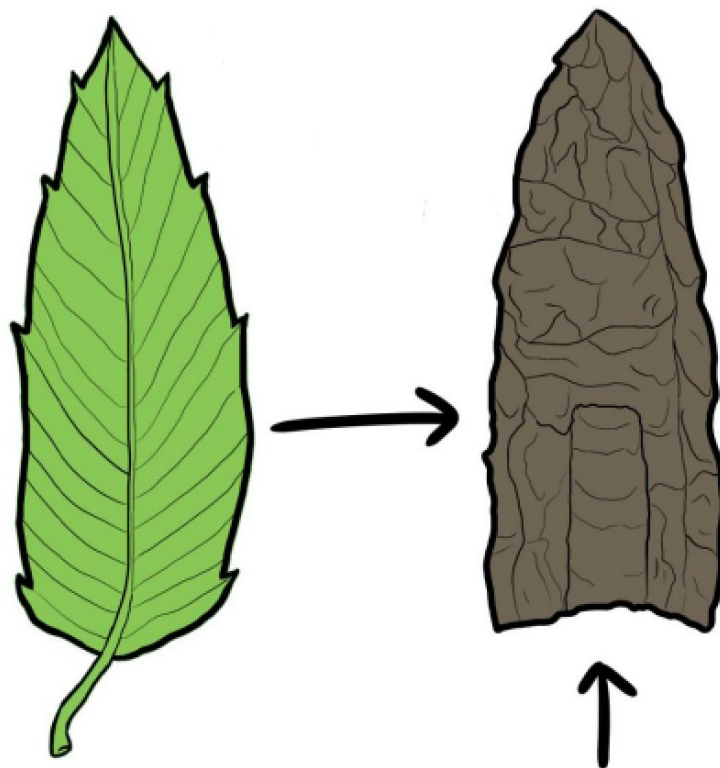
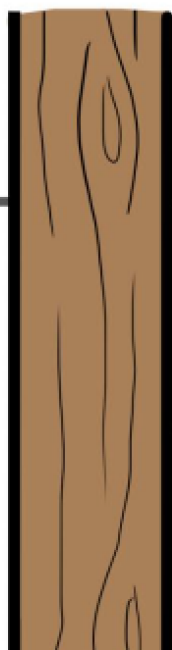
All over the world, people used tools made by shaping or chipping stones. Archaeologists study these to understand how people used the tools in the past. With stone tools, they hunted, carved or shaped wood, and cut leather. Some of the earliest chipped stone tools in North America were a style called Clovis points. Around 13,000 years ago, hunters attached the points to spears or darts.

Shape: people chipped stone into a leaf shape so that the point would be strong and sharp.

Draw a Clovis point on top of the spear shaft below:

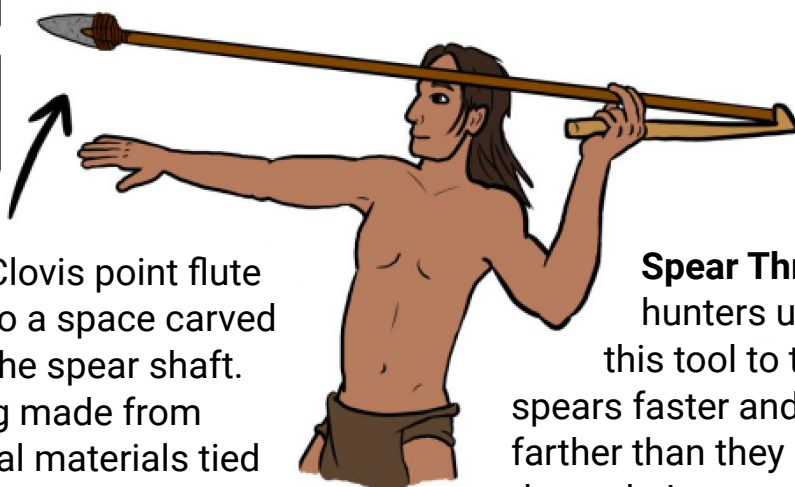


Spear Shaft



Flute: the groove in the middle of each side of the point is called a flute. This is so hunters could attach the point to a wooden shaft.

The Clovis point flute fit into a space carved into the spear shaft. String made from animal materials tied the tool in place.



Spear Thrower: hunters used this tool to throw spears faster and farther than they could do on their own.

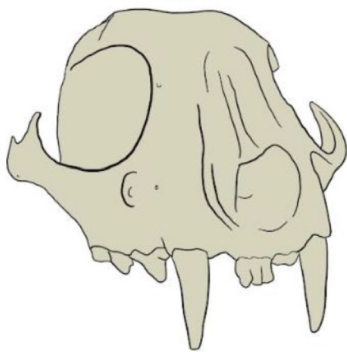
Discover Zooarchaeology

Zooarchaeologists study animal remains at dig sites.

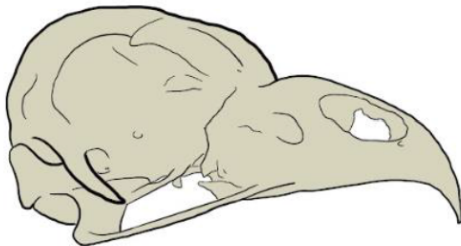
Bones from different species of animals can look similar at first. Archaeologists use collections of bones to help them compare and identify the species. Comparative collections are like libraries of bones that they have already identified.

Animal remains give us information, like what people hunted and ate. Their bones can give us clues about the culture and human relationships with animals.

Lynx



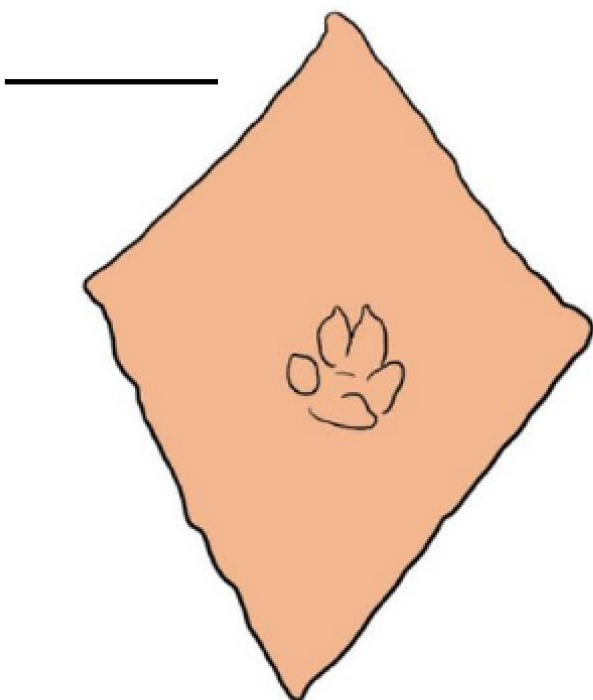
Barred Owl



Describe similarities and differences you see between the shapes of the two animal skulls above:

Discover Zooarchaeology: Making an Impression

Zooarchaeology is not always about identifying bones. Sometimes animals leave their mark in different ways. Below are two different objects with paw prints on them. Can you identify which animal they came from?



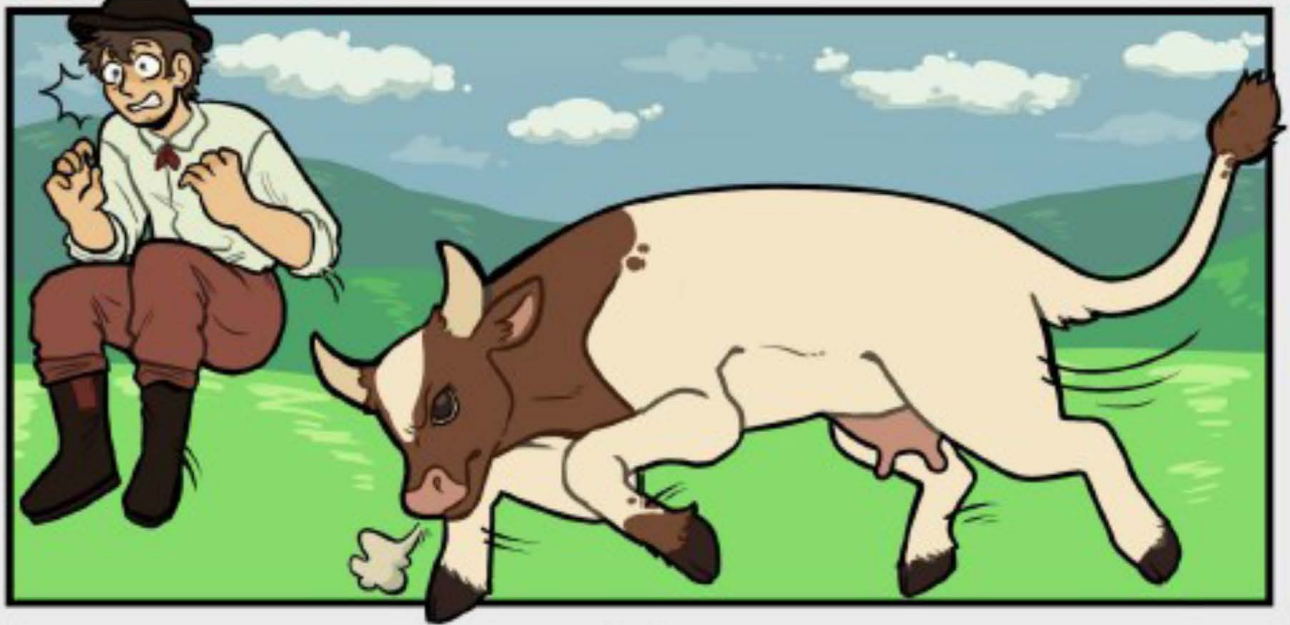
Discover Zooarchaeology: An Animal Mystery

Below is an image of a part of an animal. What animal did it come from? Which part of the animal do you think it is? Draw or write story in the space below that explains where the bone came from. Turn this page upside down and read the text below or follow the QR code for the answer. Go to the next page to see a comic that shows what some archaeologists think might have happened.



This is the tip of a cow horn from the 1700s. Archaeologists found it in 2018 while working at the site of Germana in Virginia. Follow the QR code to see a [3D model of the cow horn](#), which you can move and turn around on your computer screen.





MS2023

Discover Archaeology Under the Waves

Archaeologists dig on land, but did you know that they also work underwater? Underwater archaeology has different challenges than working on the land. They have to train to use underwater breathing equipment, like scuba gear. The discoveries under the water can be amazing. One reason is that some materials preserve better under the water than they do on land. Archaeologists can find artifacts made out of leather, cloth, or wood. Out of the water, those materials usually fall apart quickly.



Underwater archaeologists work on coasts, oceans, lakes, and rivers. Many more archaeological sites than you might think are under the waves.

Is there a known water-related archaeological site near where you live? Search your local history online or ask at your public library to find out!

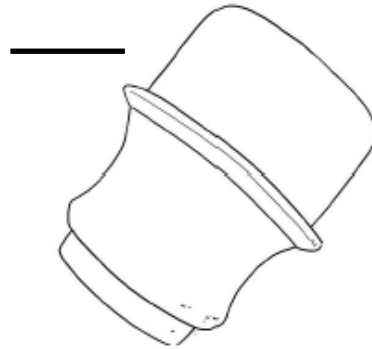
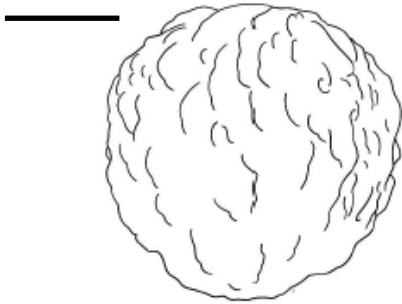
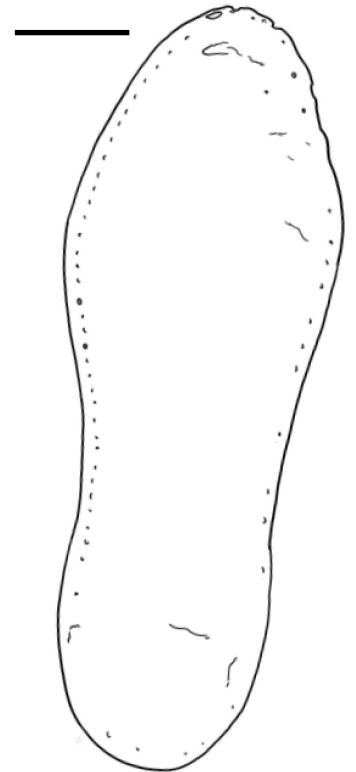
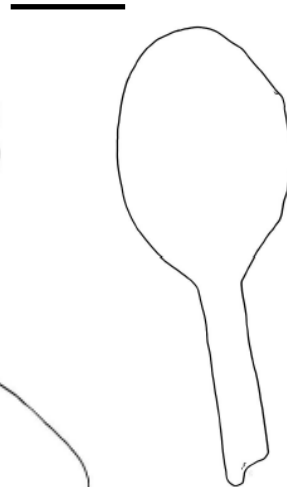
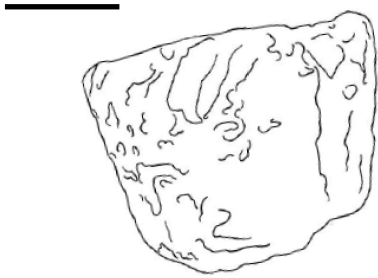
Discover Archaeology Under the Waves: The *Betsy*

Underwater archaeologists in Virginia investigated a Revolutionary War British shipwreck—the *Betsy*—in the 1980s. The British purposefully sunk the ship during the last battle of the American Revolution in 1781. Follow the QR code below or click the link to see 3D models of [artifacts from the *Betsy*](#). The water preserved many artifacts, including:

- A. a peach pit
- B. a walnut
- C. the cork for a bottle
- D. the leather sole (bottom) of a shoe
- E. a wooden eyepiece for a telescope
- F. a wooden spoon



Can you identify what the artifacts below are using the list above?



What can artifacts like these tell us about the people who lived on the ship?

Discover Women in Archaeology

Women have been doing important archaeological work for a long time. However, they haven't always been credited for their discoveries or given the same opportunities as male archaeologists. Elaine Bluhm Herold, an archaeologist in the 1950s and 1960s, did significant research on early Indigenous people in the state of Illinois. She also founded the Illinois Archaeology Survey in 1956, which encouraged community members to save local historical sites threatened by highway construction. Although Elaine was one of a few women in Illinois archaeology at that time, she contributed significantly to the field and helped pave the way for female archaeologists today!

Information from Eve A. Hargrave, "[Elaine Bluhm Herold: A Renaissance Woman of Illinois.](#)"



Visit [Trowel Blazers](#) to find out more about the amazing work women have done in the field of archaeology. Click on the 'Articles' heading and choose one woman and read her story. Then, write about what you learned below.



Name of archaeologist:

What years did she work?

In what area(s) of the world did she work?

Write about one major accomplishment of the archaeologist you chose: