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Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org)

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1. Tell what archaeology is and explain how it differs from anthropology, geology, paleontology, treasure hunting, and history.

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| Archaeology |  |
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| Anthropology: |  |
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| Geology: |  |
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| Paleontology: |  |
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| Treasure Hunting |  |
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| History: |  |
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2. Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process: site location, development of a research design, historical research, site excavation, artifact identification and examination, interpretation, preservation, and information sharing.

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| Site location: |  |
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| Development of a research design |  |
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| Historical research |  |
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| Site excavation: |  |
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| Artifact identification: |  |
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| Examination: |  |
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| Preservation: |  |
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| Information sharing: |  |
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3. Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts.

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Explain what relative dating is.

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4. Do TWO of the following:

⬜ a. Learn about three archaeological sites located *outside* the United States.

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⬜ b. Gather research on three archaeological sites that are within the United States.

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⬜ c. Visit an archaeological site and learn about it.

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| Site visited: |  |

For EACH site you research for options a, b, or c, point it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. Describe some of the information about the past that has been found at each site. Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important to modern people. Compare the relative ages of the sites you research.

*(Maps of the World and of the contiguous United States can be found at the end of the workbook)*

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| Site 1: |  |

⬜ Point it out on a map ⬜ Inside the USA ⬜ Outside the USA ⬜ Visited

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| Explain how it was discovered. |
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| Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. |
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| Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking |
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| Explain how the information may be important for modern people. |
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| Site 2: |  |

⬜ Point it out on a map ⬜ Inside the USA ⬜ Outside the USA ⬜ Visited

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| Explain how it was discovered. |
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| Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. |
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| Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking |
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| Explain how the information may be important for modern people. |
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| Site 3: |  |

⬜ Point it out on a map ⬜ Inside the USA ⬜ Outside the USA ⬜ Visited

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| Explain how it was discovered. |
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| Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. |
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| Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking |
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| Explain how the information may be important for modern people. |
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| Site 4: |  |

⬜ Point it out on a map ⬜ Inside the USA ⬜ Outside the USA ⬜ Visited

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| Explain how it was discovered. |
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| Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. |
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| Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking |
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| Explain how the information may be important for modern people. |
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| Site 5: |  |

⬜ Point it out on a map ⬜ Inside the USA ⬜ Outside the USA ⬜ Visited

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| Explain how it was discovered. |
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| Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. |
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| Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking |
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| Explain how the information may be important for modern people. |
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| Site 6: |  |

⬜ Point it out on a map ⬜ Inside the USA ⬜ Outside the USA ⬜ Visited

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| Explain how it was discovered. | |
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| Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. | |
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| Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking | |
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| Explain how the information may be important for modern people. | |
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Compare the relative ages of the sites you researched.

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5. ⬜ Choose ONE of the sites you picked for Requirement 4 and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group.

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6. Do the following:

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| a. Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites. |
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| b. Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact. |
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| c. Describe ways in which you can be a protector of the past. |
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7. Do ONE of the following:

⬜ a. Make a list of items you would like to include in a time capsule.

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Discuss with your merit badge counselor what archaeologist a thousand years from now might learn about you and the culture in which you live based on the contents of your capsule.

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⬜ b. Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week.

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Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists might learn about you and your family if they found your trash a thousand years from now.

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8. Do ONE of the following:

⬜ a. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours helping to excavate and archaeological site.

⬜ b. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours in an archaeological laboratory helping to prepare artifacts for analysis, storage, or display.

⬜ c. If you are unable to work in the field or in a laboratory under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, you may substitute a mock dig. To find out how to make a mock dig, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor. Plan what you will bury in your artificial site to show use of your "site" during two time periods.

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9. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do ONE of the following:

⬜ a. Help prepare an archeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.

⬜ b. Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice a skill from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.

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10. Do ONE of the following:

⬜ a. Research American Indians who live or once lived in your area. Find out about traditional lifeways, dwellings, clothing styles, arts and crafts, and methods of food gathering, preparation, and storage.

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| Lifeways |  |
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| Dwellings |  |
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| Clothing styles |  |
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| Arts and crafts |  |
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| Food gathering |  |
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| Food preparation |  |
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| Food storage |  |
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Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people.

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⬜ b. Research settlers or soldiers who were in your area at least 100 years ago. Find out about the houses or forts, ways of life, clothing styles, arts and crafts, and dietary habits of the early settlers, farmers, ranchers, soldiers, or townspeople who once lived in the area where your community now stands.

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Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people.

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11. Identify three career opportunities in archaeology.

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| Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. | |  |

Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Education

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Training

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Why this profession might interest you.

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**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088).Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from** [**http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf**](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf)**.**

**You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from** [**http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf**](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf)**.**



