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Historical Archeology Lesson Plan

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SWBAT : Explain why the location of found artifacts is so important in archeology

Day 1

activator: TKWL chart followed by power point on basic principals of archeology

I will need to make sure that the students understand that archeologists use the remains of common items to extrapolate information using a combination of artifacts and background information.

I will do this by listing the objects that would be left behind (and survive the test of time) for future archeologists to discover if we suddenly had to evacuate our classroom and we left everything in its place.

We would then repeat this activity by visiting other central locations in the school (i.e., office, library, cafeteria).

Day 2

SWBAT : explain that younger material is usually found above older material. (stratification)

This activity involves layering colors of sand in plastic cups or soda bottles. The bottle or cup must have two artifacts fastened with clear tape, to the side of the container.

The teacher should model the activity with a large soda bottle. As the class model is being completed the teacher should explain that falling sediment and other debris are constantly settling on every thing and that over long periods of time things are buried. It should be noted that this doesn't always happen but is more likely to occur in contained features like wells and privies (privies often had second lives as trash pits).

Assessment:

Students must explain orally or in writing why one artifact in their container is older than the other.

Part Three (at home component)

Challenge students to bring in a piece of (clean) trash that might be left behind for future archeologists to discover

After checking with you local administration, try to find a way to bury and excavate the artifacts. Try to stick to basic principles of archeology.

other activities

Create a site in a bag

Make a tool kit

Make a museum display