

Boy Scouts of America

Archaeology Merit Badge Prerequisites

Hello Scouts! Please complete the following questions prior to arriving for the Archaeology Merit Badge event. We will have limited time the day of the event. So please spend some time researching and answering the following questions before that day. Bring this sheet with you the day of the event. Feel free to use the internet to help you with your research. Here are some useful websites:

The Society for American Archaeology:

<https://www.saa.org>

National Geographic

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/archaeology>

Live Science: What is archaeology?

<https://www.livescience.com/44448-what-is-archaeology.html>

American Anthropological Association

<https://www.americananthro.org/AdvanceYourCareer/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2150>

Mississippi Valley Archaeological Center

<https://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/process-of-archaeology/fieldwork/locating-sites/#:~:text=Archaeologists%20have%20found%20sites%20through,different%20from%20the%20surrounding%20soil.>

North Carolina Office of State Archaeology

<https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/blog/2021-04-14/relative-absolute-dating>

National Park Service: Laws, Regulations, & Guidelines

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/archeology/laws-regulations-guidelines.htm>

Illinois Historic Preservation Laws

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric>

Archaeology Merit Badge Question 1:

What is Archaeology? Provide a definition based on your research.

How does Archaeology relate to Anthropology?

How is Archaeology different from Geology, Paleontology, and History?

Do you have a “cool” thing that you know your parents or grandparents used before you were born? What is it? What was it used for? Do we still use something like it today?

Archaeology Merit Badge Question 2:

How do archaeologists find an archaeological site? Describe the steps involved in finding an archaeological site.

Archaeology Merit Badge Question 3:

How do archaeologists know the age of an archaeological site? What is the difference between absolute and relative dating?

Archaeology Merit Badge Question 4:

Choose 5 of these 24 Archaeological Sites:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cahokia Mounds | The Acropolis | Roman Colosseum |
| Pyramids of Giza | The Great Wall | Çatalhöyük |
| Stonehenge | Terracotta Army | Clovis |
| Machu Picchu | Olduvai Gorge | Gila Cliff Dwellings |
| Chichén Itza | Knossos | Chaco Canyon |
| Pompeii | Cave of Altamira | Angel Mounds |
| Tikal | The US Capitol Building | Fort Kaskaskia |
| Mesa Verde | Meadowcroft Rock Shelter | Serpent Mound |

Label the location of each site on the attached map:



For each site you labeled, how old is the site and how was it discovered? (attach additional pages if needed)

Site 1: Site Name_____ How old?
How was it discovered?

Site 2: Site Name_____ How old?
How was it discovered?

Site 3: Site Name_____ How old?
How was it discovered?

Site 4: Site Name_____ How old?
How was it discovered?

Site 5: Site Name_____ How old?
How was it discovered?

What are some things we have learned about each site and why should people today care about the site?

Site 1: Site Name_____ What has been learned and why should we care?

Site 2: Site Name_____ What has been learned and why should we care?

Site 3: Site Name_____ What has been learned and why should we care?

Site 4: Site Name_____ What has been learned and why should we care?

Site 5: Site Name_____ What has been learned and why should we care?

Pick 1 site and give a short presentation to your Cub Scout Pack, Scout Troop, class at school, or another group.

Archaeology Merit Badge Questions 5:

Name a federal law that protects archaeological sites:

Name an Illinois state law that protects archaeological sites:

Name an organization that works to protect archaeological sites:

Archaeology Merit Badge Questions 6:

Why is it important to protect archaeological sites?

What should you do if you find an artifact when you are walking through a public park or forest?

Archaeology Merit Badge Question 8:

Research a group of people who lived in your area more than 100 years ago and provide their name, when and where they lived, and describe how they lived. For example, what type of houses did they live in? What food did they eat? What clothes did they wear? What were their religious beliefs? What tools did they use and what crafts did they make?

Archaeology Merit Badge Question 9:

Name three careers for archaeologists: