

Name

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Santayana



Archaeology for Kids

An archaeologist is a scientist. Archaeologists study man-made objects from the distant past to learn more about the development of various civilizations. Archaeologists are not interested in fossils, although they turn up quite a few while looking for artefacts.

Explain into your own words what you think: What is archaeology?



Archaeology for Kids

what is the job of an archaeologist?

Archaeology is the scientific study of human life by looking at artefacts, at the man-made objects that people who lived long ago have left behind.

Palaeontologists are not archaeologists; they study fossils. Historians are not archaeologists; they mostly study written records. Archaeologists are the scientists who study artefacts, man-made objects that people have left behind.

Archaeologists are like detectives. By looking at artefacts, they try to figure out how long ago people lived, how they governed themselves, what art they created, their religious beliefs, their technology, science, and invention, and their daily life. Clues archaeologists use to answer these and other questions about past civilizations can sometimes be found in the artefacts they dig up.

While looking for artefacts to study, archaeologists can find themselves in some very dangerous situations. Archaeologists have explored ruins deep in jungles; dug up remains of villages in dangerous deserts; and have even searched underwater - but archaeologists are so curious about the past, that they are willing to brave the dangers of poisonous animals and plants, of unclean conditions, or an unfriendly political climate, to discover more about human life through the study of artefacts.

What does an archaeologist do?