What does an archaeologist do?

An archaeologists study people. They look at old things and places to investigate how people lived in the past.



First, ar archaeologist has to look for a site. This is a place where people lived in the past. Old maps, and documents give archaeologist clues about where a site is. They also use modern equipment, like aerial photographs, metal detectors and radars to find sites which are buried under the ground. Next, the archaeologists walk across the site and look for small artefacts. These are objects from the past, such as coins, tools, rings and pieces of pottery, like bowls or plates. The archaeologists put small flags where these objects are because they are good places to excavate.

Excavate means dig below the ground. Archaeologists need to work very carefully and slowly when they excavate because they don`t want to break any artefacts. Archaeologists also record what they find. They makes notes, draw maps and pictures and take photographs of what they see. Archaeologists find many types of artefacts. They often find objects made of clay, glass, stone and metal because they last longer in the ground. Artefacts that are made of cloth, Wood and leather are more difficult to find because they are more delicate than other materials and don`t last a long time in the wet ground. A lot of the artefacts are broken and the archaeologists need to put them together, like a puzzle.

Read the text again. Are the sentences TRUE OR FALSE. Answer them

An Archaeologist.....

1.- Is a person who investigates past civilizations. _____

2.- usually excavates very quickly. _____

3.- needs to write about what he or she discovers. _____

4.- often finds artefacts like jewellery and plates. _____

5.- often finds clothes from the past. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS