

Draw an Archaeologist Test Activity

Archaeology Pre-Visitation Activity

Time:

30 – 45 min

Grades:

3 - 8

Goals:

- To get students thinking about what archaeology is and what archaeologists do prior to attending Archaeology class during their Desert Outdoor Center field trip.
- To provide a starting point for introducing archaeology to students.
- To elicit misconceptions students have about archaeology.
- To discover student's ideas of archaeology.

Activity Procedure:

- Give students a blank sheet of paper and crayons or markers.
- Ask the students (ATS) to work individually or pair up with a classmate.
- ATS to draw what an archaeologist looks like and ask them to include associated tools, artifacts, and clothing.
- Students cannot be given other instructions and instructors cannot comment or give advice about drawings.
- Tell the Students (TTS) that stick figures are acceptable.
- ATS to write a paragraph or short story about their archaeologist(s) on a separate sheet of paper.
- ATS to describe what an archaeologist does and what is happening in their picture.
- ATS to give detail about their archaeologist. For example age and gender.
- ATS students to present their archaeologist to the class.
- Note the number of dinosaur and Indiana Jones (whips, fedora hats, chalices, bones, etc.) that are presented in the drawings.

Conclusion:

- To clear up any misconceptions about archaeologists, point out the following:
 - Paleontologists study dinosaurs not archaeologists.
 - Professional archaeologists do not keep the artifacts they find.
 - Professional archaeologists are concerned with preserving the archaeological record, not making a profit on it.
- TTS that this was an introduction to the Archaeology program that they will be attending during their field trip visitation to the Desert Outdoor Center.

Reference:

SAA on the Internet. 2012. Society for American Archaeology. 06 August 2012. www.saa.org.