



Go on an Archeological Dig Vocabulary List

SECTION 1: DIG IN

Midden: a trash pile, or a deposit of debris, rubbish, or other byproducts of human activities, such as animal bones, shells, and other discarded items. Middens provide important clues for archeologists, helping them learn about the people who threw away these items.

SECTION 2: DIG DEEPER

Wampum: small beads made from polished shells that Woodland Indians used as money, decoration, and other ceremonial purposes.

SECTION 3: UNCOVER THE PUZZLE

Vessel: a container to hold something.

Stratigraphic (STRAT-ah-GRAF-ick) Sequencing: noting what layer of dirt an artifact came from and what other artifacts were found in or near the same layer. Sometimes archaeologists can associate a date range with an artifact based on the dates of other artifacts found near it.

Tempering Agent: something that provides balance. In the case of the pot unearthed in the dig, archaeologists theorize that this pot was made with a tempering agent of ground-up oyster shell which allowed water in the clay to be released without exploding while the pot was being fired.