

Welcome to the Teachers' Instructions area for this student activity. Here you'll find directions and suggestions for using this activity along with the materials you need to evaluate your students' work.

Title: Who is Buried in the Lead Coffin? Part Two

Audience: Middle

Duration: 45 Minutes

Subject Area(s):

Language Arts - Reading

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8

Teacher Directions:

This activity is designed to be used after completing the activity, Who is Buried in the Lead Coffin? Part One. In this activity, students will participate in an archaeological dig to learn new vocabulary associated with an archaeological dig. They will also use their critical thinking skills as they make predictions during the dig.

This activity can be completed using a variety of technology configurations. If a computer lab is available, students can access the activity, worksheets and web pages through Thinkport.

Another option would be to display the activity and Web page on a classroom computer with a projection device. In this case, students will need a copy of each worksheet.

Introductory Activity

Remind students that yesterday they discovered the process involved in an archaeological dig. Explain that today they will be learning archaeological terminology as they proceed along the path of solving the mystery of the Three Lead Coffins.

Focus for Media Interaction

The focus for viewing the Solve the Mystery of the Lead Coffins Web site is to define archaeological terminology as they solve the mystery of the Three Lead Coffins.

Viewing Activity

Tell students to open the Solve the Mystery of the Lead Coffins interactive under The Colony Grows section of the Exploring Maryland's Roots Web site. This link may be found at this location: http://mdroots.thinkport.org/default_flash.asp. Ask them to open up the Archaeology Log Part 2 (or pass out copies of this worksheet to the students). Tell students to click through the interactive until they reach page 26 of the interactive. Ask students to click to the next page to see what was in the smallest coffin. Explain to students that they will stop on page 32 in the interactive to make another prediction. Tell students that after they make their prediction to go to the next page to find out what really happened. If students need help defining the vocabulary terms they may need to click back to the beginning of the interactive. Explain to students that they are responsible for explaining the mystery of the coffins using the new archeological terms

they learn today. Have students continue with the interactive and record information in the log as they click through the site.

Note to Teacher: You may also use a worksheet that is available on the Exploring Maryland Roots Web site. Once you launch the Solve the Mystery of the Three Lead Coffins and begin the story, click the "Help" button at the top of the interactive page and select the Gathering Clues link to see this worksheet. The page will open in Adobe Acrobat. For the answers to the Gathering Clues page, click on Dr. Carr's List of Clues.

Postviewing Activity

1. Review the vocabulary with the students, asking them to use the word in a sentence that applies to the archaeological dig.

Archaeology - Science of learning about the past by studying artifacts, such as tools, pottery, and remains.

Excavation - A dig done by archaeologists.

Artifact - Something created or used by humans that was left behind. Artifacts could be pottery, metal nails, coffins, parts of buildings, garbage, or much more.

Embalm - To treat a dead body to prepare it for burial.

Brushite - A clear or cloudy material. Brushite is formed when certain chemicals combine with the mineral calcium in bones.

After reviewing the vocabulary, involve the class in a discussion about who guessed that Philip Calvert was the person buried in the large coffin. Discuss the process they went through to make this prediction. Ask students if they figured out who the experts assume is buried in the small coffin.

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Extension Activity

Have students write a news report on the dig using the information they gathered in their logs. Tell them the news report should describe the events and outcome of the dig. The report should also include vocabulary from the site as well as an explanation of why the dig was important. If possible video tape the news reports.

Student Directions:

Today you will find out what they discovered when they opened the coffins. Do you think they can possibly discover the identity of the people buried in the coffins? There is a big surprise in store when they open one of the coffins. What do you think it is?

Language (6-8)	Maryland Content Standards Students understand and use the structures and conventions of the English language (i.e., vocabulary, spelling, grammar, mechanics and usage) in their oral and written communications.	Maryland State Indicators 4.8.1.6 <i>identify the connotation and denotation of new words and apply them in writing and speaking</i>
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Reading (6-8)	Maryland Content Standards Students examine, construct and extend the meaning of a variety of self-selected and assigned text (traditional and electronic) by applying a range of reading strategies and analytic techniques.	Maryland State Indicators 1.8.5.2 draw inferences, conclusions or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and experience (MLO.R. 2.2.2., MLO.R. 3.2.2.)
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The Students will:

be able to locate vocabulary in context, define new vocabulary, and use new vocabulary including, archaeology, artifact, brushite, embalm, and excavation.

The Students will:

be able to solve the mystery of the Three Lead Coffins.

Directions: Your job today is to learn terminology related to archaeology to solve the mystery of the coffins using the Solve the Mystery of the Lead Coffins interactive. Use the link below to open the interactive and then, click through the pages until you reach page 26. Open the Archaeology Log 2 worksheet and continue on the dig, stopping to record necessary information in the log. You will be asked to stop on page 28 and page 32 in the interactive to make predictions on what will happen on the dig. After you make the prediction, go to the next page to

find out what really happened. If you need help defining the vocabulary terms you may click back to the beginning of the interactive.

Solve the Mystery of the Lead Coffins

Go along on an archaeological dig to solve this mystery from the 1600's.

http://mdroots.thinkport.org/default_flash.asp

How can we find out who was buried in the coffins when so much time has past?

Directions: Collect information from the site and record it in the Archaeology Log Part 2.

Archaeology Log Part 2 [\(View\)](#)

Teacher Key for Archaeology Log Part 2 [\(View\)](#)

Activity Signature

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