



Archaeology Dig for Grades 6 to 8

Description: Participants become familiar with basic archaeological techniques as they unearth artifacts at our model Tequesta midden.

Duration: 1 hour

Maximum Number of Participants: 30

Summary: Walk to site. Fifteen to twenty minute introduction to Native American history in Miami and the science of archaeology. Divide into groups of two to three participants per plot. Excavate site with hand trowels and brushes. Sift for small artifacts. Sort and identify “Tequesta” artifacts of shell, bone, and pottery. Record findings on datasheet. Discuss findings. Return to main grounds.

Objectives: The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to the early history of South Florida and the Tequesta people through the discipline of archaeology. At the end of this exercise, students will know

- The definitions of key words relating to archaeology
- The basic process of collecting artifacts for scientific research
- That scientific research is a collaborative effort
- Details about the Tequestan way of life

Benchmarks: SC.H. 1.2, SC.H.3.3, SS.A.1.3, SS.A.2.3, SS.A.5.3, SS.A.6.3, SS.B.2.3

Vocabulary: analysis, ancient, archaeology, artifact, context, excavate, historic, loot, plot, preserve, record, report, site, survey, Tequesta

Additional Resources:

<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/kids/>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J001645/>

<http://www.usd.edu/anth/midarch/arch.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/grsa/resources/curriculum/mid/archaeology/act.htm>