

# TOOLS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

Archaeologists use tools to excavate their sites. Some of these tools are very specialized and expensive, and some are very common and cheap to get. Exactly what tools are used depends on the size, location, and type of soil at each site, and what is being dug up.



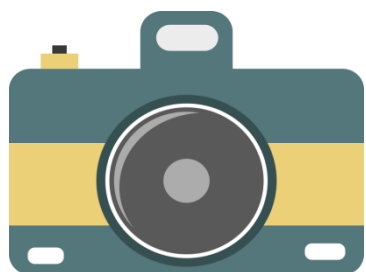
**Screens** are used to filter the soil of a dig area in order to better find artifacts. Soil is poured into the screen from either a bucket or a shovel, then the screen is moved back and forth to allow the smaller pieces of soil and sediments to fall through the screen. Larger artifacts will stay inside the screen box.



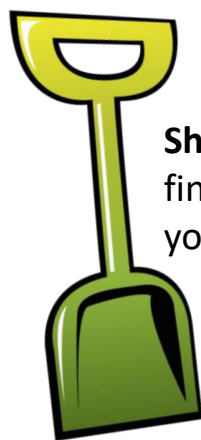
A **compass** can make finding the dig area and surveying the land much faster.



**Brushes** and **dustpans** are used to help move the soil out of dig areas faster. Brushes help keep the “floor” of the dig area clean, especially before a photograph is taken of it. They are also used to clean the artifacts. Dustpans help to move soil out of the dig area at a faster pace.



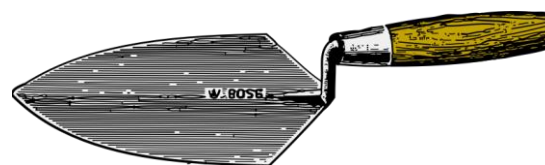
**Cameras** are used in order to take official images of the dig areas and the artifacts found.



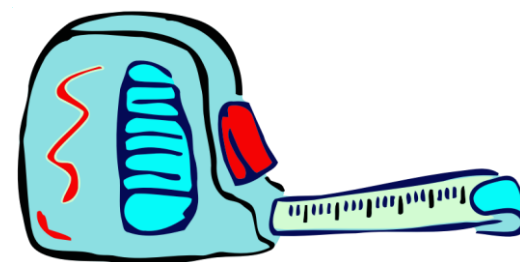
**Shovels** are usually used when finding sites and digging out your excavation site.



It is important to stay hydrated while working in the hot sun! **Water** is a must!



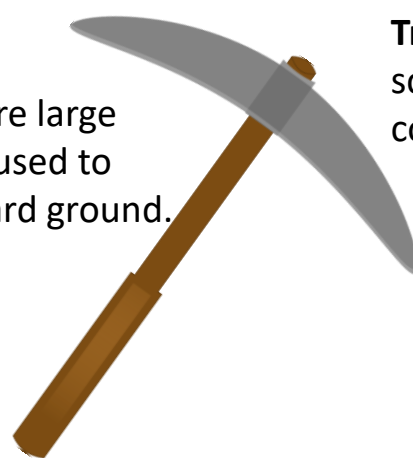
**Trowels** are used to carefully scrape back dirt and soil in a controlled way.



**Tape Measures** are used to make sure that the size of each dig area is as exact as possible. This is important when creating maps of where you are digging. Knowing the distance between each artifact and the distance between each layer of soil will make your map much more accurate.



**Shade** is really important. It not only keeps the archaeologist protected and out of the sun but it also keeps the dig site and the important artifacts protected and out of the sun.



**Mattocks** are large hand tools used to break up hard ground.