

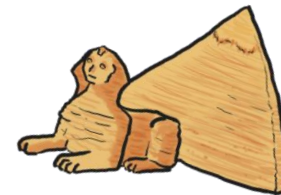
# WHAT DO ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND

**Artifacts** are the objects that people of the past have left behind. Archaeologists use artifacts to help answer questions about how people lived in the past. Where an artifact is found provides clues to what kinds of activities took place in that spot. Archaeologists try to determine what kind of material the artifact is made of, what it is, how it was used, when it was used, and what that can tell us about the people who used it.

**Pottery** and its pieces are some of the most recognizable artifacts. Pottery shards are extremely valuable in identifying who lived in a place and when.



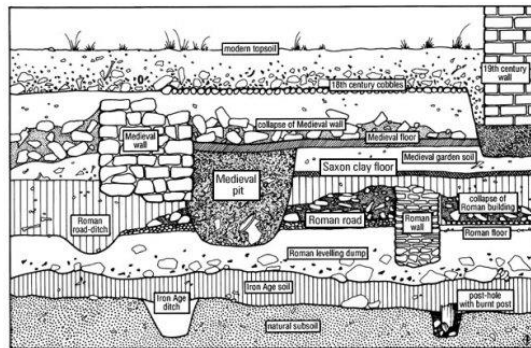
An archaeological **site** is a place where there can be found physical remains of the past. These places can vary and include buildings—such as the Parthenon in Athens, grave sites like the Egyptian pyramids, battlefields—such as Gettysburg, or shipwrecks—such as the Titanic.



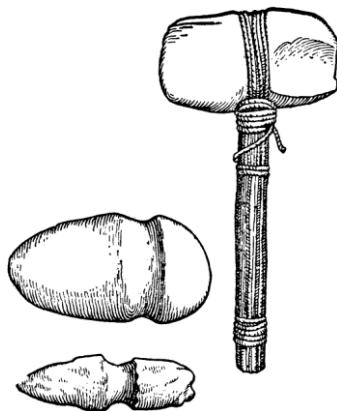
Although archaeologists don't actually actively excavate **animal & plant remains**, some do study these remains to understand the relationship people of the past had with plants and animals. A zooarchaeologist would most likely be brought onto an archaeological site to study any animal remains while a paleoethnobotanist for the plant remains. These remains help archaeologists understand dietary patterns.



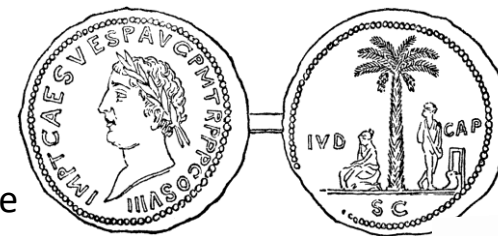
Archaeological site **features** differ from artifacts in one very key way. Both artifacts and features are found at an archaeological site, but unlike artifacts, features cannot be removed from the site. These features show evidence of a trash or fire pit, hallways, walls, and things part of natural earth layers—just to name a few.



**Tools**, especially ones made of stone, are some of the earliest known manmade artifacts. When archaeologists find these, it helps them determine what tools were most useful to a people and, by analyzing what the tool was used for, how those past people lived.



**Money**, or a particular time's form of currency, is very valuable as an artifact. It helps explain what past people viewed as valuable and helps to tell archaeologists about the economic and social beliefs from the time period the money or currency was used.



**Textiles** and clothing remains help archaeologists not only determine what time period the people who lived at a site are from, but also fashion trends, clothing manufacturing technologies, and social patterns.