

Archaeologists are both scientists and detectives. They use scientific methods like excavation to discover clues that help them solve the mysteries of the past.



Excavation means removing soil to discover tools and other things used by people who lived a long time ago.

The things archaeologists find are called **artifacts**.

Artifacts and the layers of soil in which they are found are some of the most important clues for archaeologists.

Unfortunately, excavating a site to find artifacts destroys the soil layers. This means that archaeologists can't go

Cookie Excavation

To understand how careful an archaeologist must be, try excavating a cookie! The cookie represents an archaeological site, and the chocolate chips or raisins are the artifacts.

1. Using a toothpick, excavate the artifacts from your cookie without damaging them. Try not to pick up your cookie while you are excavating!
2. If you're really patient, you can practice mapping your cookie and chocolate chips just like an archaeologist maps a site and artifacts.

Cookie Excavation

Grid A

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
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17														

A coordinate is the letter and number pair that describes a particular box in the grid. For example, the X in Grid A has coordinate E8.

Grid B

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
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4														
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1. Place your cookie in the middle of Grid A.

2. Note the coordinates of the top, bottom, left side, and right side of the cookie. Use them to sketch the perimeter of the cookie on Grid B.

3. Before excavating, note the coordinates of any chocolate chips you can see. Use them to sketch the chips onto Grid B.

4. Use a toothpick to excavate your cookie. As you find chocolate chips, note their coordinates and sketch them onto Grid B.

5. Did some areas of the cookie have more chocolate chips than others?

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