

## Society for American Archaeology Activity Submission Form

### Archaeology Day or Archaeology in Your Own Backyard--Nancy Gonlin

Many of us are familiar with famous archaeological sites throughout the world, such as the Great Pyramids in Giza, Egypt. But what about the remains that exist where you live? This exercise will explore the archaeological record in your own backyard in connection with Archaeology Day.

#### What kind(s) of courses is this activity appropriate for?

Lower division undergraduate    Upper Division undergraduate    Both Lower and Upper  
 Graduate

#### For how many students is this activity designed?

There is no limit on the number of students who can complete this exercise/discussion.

#### Please include up to 4 keywords describing what kinds of topics and courses you use this activity for

Local archaeology

Archaeology Day

State Archaeology

#### What are the intended educational outcomes for the activity—what are students supposed to learn?

Students will become familiar with the history and prehistory that exists within their own environs.

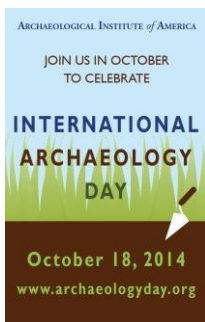
Students will become aware of International Archaeology Day and its significance

#### How long does the activity take?

One hour online.

#### What (if any) additional materials are required?

Students will need access to the internet.



## ONLINE DISCUSSION – ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

### ARCHAEOLOGY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD



Seventy percent of



International Archaeology Day is October 18<sup>th</sup>. It “is a celebration of archaeology and the thrill of discovery. Every October the American Institute of Archaeology and archaeological organizations across the United States, Canada, and abroad present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. Whether it is a family-friendly archaeology fair, a guided tour of a local archaeological site, a simulated dig, a lecture or a classroom visit from an archaeologist, the interactive, hands-on International Archaeology Day programs provide the chance to indulge your inner Indiana Jones.” (Source: American Institute of Archaeology website: <http://www.archaeological.org/archaeologyday>)

There are literally millions of archaeological sites the world over, some of which are very famous. Most of us have heard about the Egyptian pyramids at Giza, the Inca site of Machu Picchu in Peru, Cahokia, the largest Native American site in the USA, Petra in Jordan, the Great Wall of China, Great Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe, the Paleolithic cave paintings in Europe, the amazing Maya site of Chichén Itzá, Mexico, and many others.

However, many people do not realize that there are archaeological sites within their own backyards. The history and prehistory of the land has left its mark in your region of the country!

For this discussion, you will conduct research to discover an archaeological site within a 200-mile radius of where you live. If you use the internet, please follow guidelines for using credible internet sources. Since most of you live in the Puget Sound region, you may want to start with the excellent source from the Burke Museum of the University of Washington. There are books in the college library & several journal articles that provide reliable professional information as well.

Here's what you need to post for this discussion. Please number your responses according to the question.

1. State your starting point, which is a general location of where you live, such as the Puget Sound. You can be more specific if you want (such as Seattle or Tacoma) but do not reveal the exact location of your residence.
2. List the sources of your information with complete citations, following the American Antiquity style (posted in this week's material). If you use websites, properly document them with the date of access noted.
3. Provide the name of the archaeological site, where it is located, what was found there, chronology, the function of the site, what group of people created the site and/or its cultural affiliation, and any other pertinent information. This section should be several paragraphs long.
4. The past is a non-renewable resource. Excavations should be directed by only professionals who have the knowledge and resources to properly assess it. However, ordinary citizens can protect the archaeological record as well. What are some things that you can do to help preserve the past for the future?

Designed by Dr. N. Gonlin



Stone points found on campus of University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Source: Burke Museum