

LESSON DESIGN

ARCHAEOLOGY

DIGGING IN THE CLASSROOM 3

OVERVIEW: The students will excavate potsherds and rebuild the pottery.

OBJECTIVE: Given a dig box with broken potsherds the learner will be able to excavate the box, measuring the position and recording each piece before it is removed and the pot is glued back together.

SET: The teacher says, “Today we are going to learn how to excavate pottery and restore pots.” She/he can show potsherds and a pot that has been glued back together.

INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES: Divide students into groups of four: Digger (digs materials with trowel, brushes, etc.), Measurer (measures finds by triangulation), Recorder (takes notes, records measurement), Sifter (looks for material in screen and moves dirt to shaker area). Switch roles every ten minutes. Whole group notes color and feel of soil and any changes. Emphasize taking measurements before potsherds are removed.

TEST OF OBJECTIVES: The teacher monitors, answers questions, checks notes. Each group will restore their pot(s).

EXTENSION: For upper classes and higher students use geometry.

GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME: 1st through 12th. Tapes, rulers, string, line levels, trowels, various brushes, small dust pans, whisk brooms to get excavated dirt out of box and into the shaker screen (sieves), extra boxes for the sifter to shake the dirt into, newspaper for tables and floor.

GENERAL COMMENTS: Use boxes about 20mm by 40mm. Tape a line level (a string that is longer than the box) on one corner. Measure depth from the string, held taut over the box to the other side, using tape, or ruler. Depending on your purpose you can use one material like sand, potting soil, peat moss, or soil throughout or use layers of each for a stratified dig. Place the potsherds at different levels.

ANY QUESTIONS? E-mail me at schneiderg@sbcglobal.net
George Schneider, B.A., M.A. (Anthropology), Elementary Teacher