

LESSON DESIGN

ARCHAEOLOGY

DIGGING IN THE CLASSROOM 2

OVERVIEW: The students will excavate and piece together a puzzle.

OBJECTIVE: Given a dig box with puzzle pieces placed at different levels, the learner will be able to excavate, measure, and record each piece before it is removed and the puzzle put back together.

SET: The teacher says, “An archaeological excavation is like putting a puzzle together, sometimes you have all the pieces and sometimes you don’t. Sometimes you have to fill in the missing pieces. Before you are dig boxes. Today we are going to excavate them.”

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 measurements), 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 puzzle pieces are removed.

TEST OF OBJECTIVES: The teacher monitors, answers questions, checks notes. Each group will put the puzzle they have excavated back together.

EXTENSION: You can have one or several puzzles buried in the dig boxes. When the excavation is complete, each group works together to rebuild the puzzles. Leave pieces of the puzzle out and have them use clay to fill in the missing puzzle pieces.

GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME: K-2.

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 your puzzle pieces at different levels.

ANY QUESTIONS? E-mail me at schneiderg@sbcglobal.net
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