

Great Linford Manor Park

Archaeology Activity Sheet



Archaeology is the study of rubbish! Archaeologists are detectives who look at what people have left behind to learn what life was like in the past.

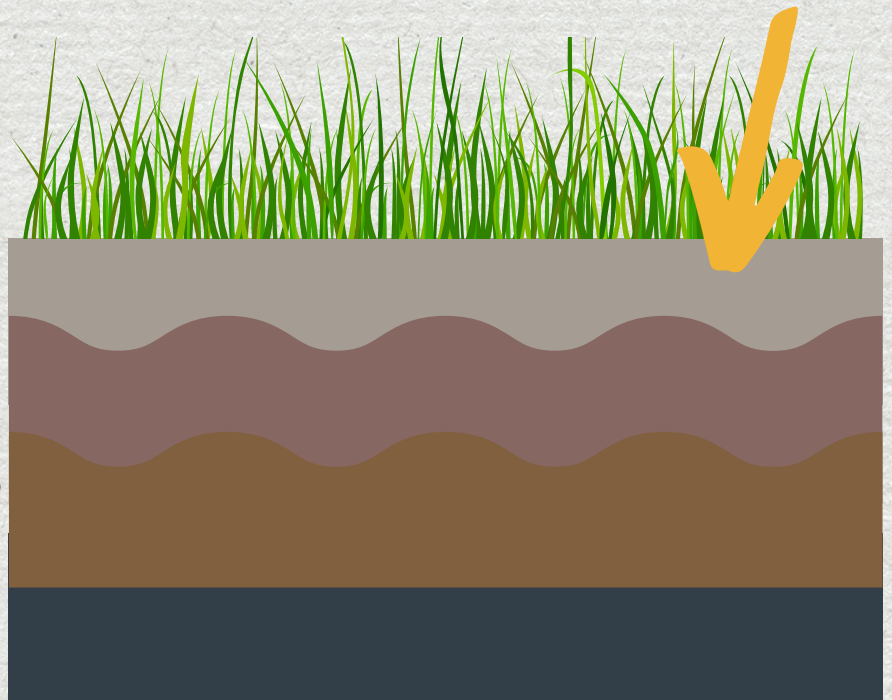
Most **artefacts** that they find are buried in the ground under layers of soil that build up over time. If you cut through the soil, it would look like this:

Activity 1

Archaeologists look at what level artefacts are found in the soil to help them work out how old they are.

A) Do you think the soil will be older at the top or the bottom?

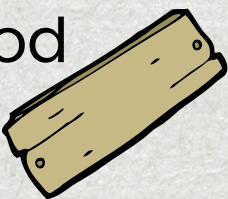
B) Why?



Archaeologists find all kinds of interesting artefacts in the soil, but mostly they find objects that are man-made rather than made from natural materials. This is because natural materials rot and decay quicker and become part of the soil.

C) Sort these objects into natural and man-made.

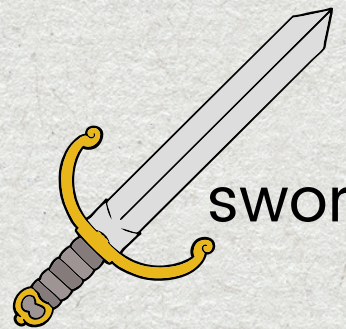
wood



bone



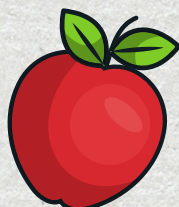
plastic bottle



sword



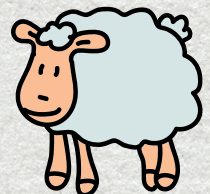
china plate



apple



horseshoe



wool

NATURAL

MAN-MADE

Archaeologists discovered that Great Linford has a very long history.

We think that the first people to live here were the Saxons over 1000 years ago. They probably settled here because of the access to fresh water provided by the natural spring.

Activity 2

A) Why is it important to have access to fresh water where you live?



Archaeologists discovered some Saxon pottery underneath St. Andrew's Church.

Walk to face the pavilions opposite the manor house. The one on the left, the South Pavilion, is built where the original manor house once stood. It was built in the medieval period so was made differently to how we make houses today.

B) Circle the materials you think were used to build the old manor house.

Plastic Stone Metal Sticks
Mud Bricks
Glass Straw Carboard Concrete Wood

In the 1600s the new manor house was built by a wealthy man called Sir William Pritchard. This is the house you see today, although it has had some rooms and walls added.

Walk to St. Andrew's Church. Archaeologists did some work here and they realised there had been a church in the park since at least 1200 AD!

C) How many years ago was that?

Outside the church walls they found the skeleton of a medieval priest. He was buried with a **chalice** and **paten**, two objects that show he was a religious man.

Activity 3

Archaeologists are very good at describing artefacts. This is important because museums use archaeologists' descriptions to help people learn about the past. Describe the following artefacts using only 3 adjectives (describing words). Hint: think about colour, texture and size.




Object: **Roman Coin**

Description:

1.

2.

3.




Object: **Jug**

Description:

1.

2.

3.



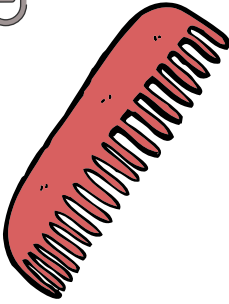
Object: **Spoon**

Description:

1.

2.

3.



Object: **Comb**

Description:

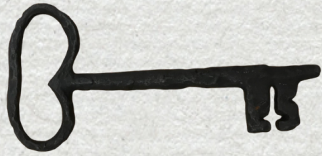
1.

2.

3.

Activity 4

Here are some of the objects the archaeologists have found in the park. Can you put them in order of oldest to newest by numbering them 1-5? (1 is oldest, 5 is newest).



Medieval key



Saxon pottery



16th-17th century
clay pipe



20th
century fork



20th century comb

Photographs courtesy of © Cotswold Archaeology and MK Museum.

Follow the map on the front of this booklet to find the Doric Seat. In the 18th century it would have looked a bit like this.

It was a covered seated area with doric columns inspired by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The Uthwatt family built this one in their garden to show off their wealth.



Activity 5

Draw yourself sitting in the Doric Seat.



The Doric Seat once had views out across the valley to a neighbouring manor house called Little Linford Hall. After many years it was abandoned and became home to some cows. Sadly in the 1970s it was burnt down. Archaeologists rediscovered it in 2017.

Now walk to the haha. A haha is a hidden wall that sits inside a ditch. It was popular in 18th century gardens as a way to keep animals out without having a big ugly fence across your land.

Activity 6

Why do you think it's called a haha?

Some of the haha was **excavated** by archaeologists in 2019, but it actually goes along underground all the way to the manor and up to the high street.

Activity 7

The archaeologists who worked at Great Linford found out all about the people who had lived there from the clues they left behind. They realised that the family who had lived in the manor must have been wealthy to have had a doric seat and a haha as these were expensive to build.

Think of one of your favourite belongings. Write next to it what an archaeologist could tell about you from looking at it. An example has been done for you.

Plastic toy car



An archaeologist would learn that I am a child, probably a boy and that I was alive after the time that plastic was created.

**Thank you for completing our Archaeology Activity Sheet.
We hope you had fun and learnt something new!**

Answers

1.A) The soil is older at the bottom.

B) It's older at the bottom because over time the soil builds up and forms layers from the bottom up.

C) Man-made: plastic bottle, sword, horseshoe, china plate

Natural: wood, apple, bone, wool

2.A) Access to fresh water is important for drinking and washing. Dirty water can carry diseases.

B) Wood, mud, straw, stone. The manor had stone foundations and the walls were made of wood, mud and straw.

C) About 800 years ago.

3. Roman coin - shiny, gold, small, has letters, has pictures, round

Jug - blue/green/turquoise, patterned, handle, stripy, spotty

Spoon - small, silver, shiny, long

Comb - small, pink, has spiky teeth

4. Oldest to newest:

1.Saxon pottery

2.Medieval key

3.16th-17th century clay pipe

4.20th century fork

5.20th century comb

5.No right or wrong answers for drawing!

6. It was called a haha because that's what people said when they saw it, 'haha!'. They were surprised to find the wall hidden inside the ditch when from a distance they couldn't see either.

7. No right or wrong answers here either!