

Can you Dig it?

Mark out an archaeological dig in your grounds and see what treasures you discover under the soil.

9 - 12

History



Background information:

This activity covers aspects of **science, history, and geography**. Children use their observational skills to identify, categorise and enquire into the **geology** and history of soils, rocks, organic matter, and everyday materials, considering living, dead and things that have never been alive.

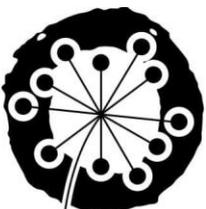
They can sort finds by their different appearances and physical properties and give written explanations for the possible geological and historical uses of these materials. Learning can link to Roman artefacts and the Roman Empire's impact on Britain or pottery from different civilisations.

Equipment

Budding archaeologists will need a patch of grass outside that you can dig in, an old spoon, an old toothbrush, and a container. You could use a trowel if you have one handy. Gloves will protect your hands.

Activity

- Mark out your site using string and wooden pegs to stop people disturbing your finds.
- Can you peel back the layers of grass and carefully work down the layers of soil?
- What might you find? Can you separate living things from manmade or dead things?
- How deep can you dig, can you find different layers of soil, sand, or stone maybe? Try not to cut through plant or tree roots you might uncover.
- You might uncover pieces of ceramic or metal buried underground – when might they have been buried there?
- How will you clean your finds? You could use an old toothbrush and some water to gently clean the soil and mud from objects you uncover.
- How could you display your archaeological finds? Perhaps you could make a museum cabinet from an old cereal box and write up your findings to explain them to visitors to your museum.
- What do your finds tell you about the past?



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