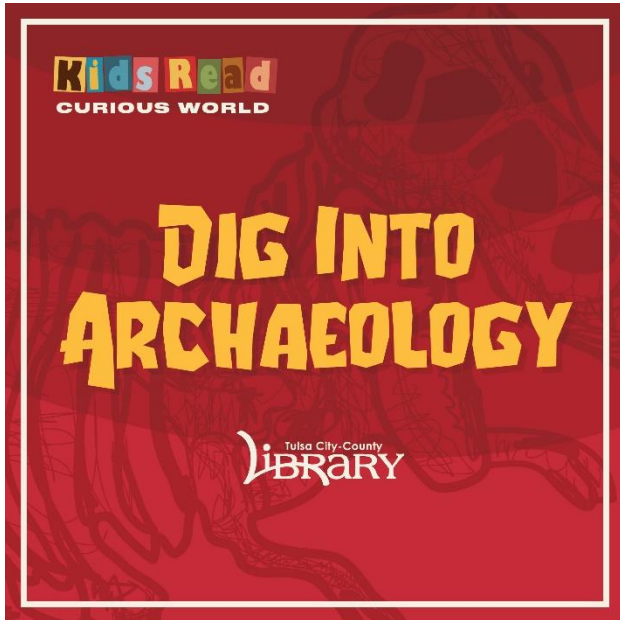


KIDS READ CURIOUS WORLD: ARCHAEOLOGY

TEXT SET READ-ALONG



A NOTE TO ADULTS: How To Use This Document

Starting in September, the children’s librarians and staff of the Tulsa City-County Library will be exploring a new topic every month as part of our “Kids Read Curious World” project. You’ll find lots of different resources to help kids learn – and excite their curiosity to find out more!

Research shows that reading many different texts about the same topic – also called a “text set” – supports reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

This document is a “text set read-along.” In other words, we’ve gathered a list of excerpts from some of the most interesting articles related to this month’s topic (archaeology), and you can use them to read aloud or along with your student or child.

While we can’t reprint the full articles because of copyright rules, you can easily find them using your library card and our online databases.

FIND THE FULL ARTICLES:

Go to <https://www.tulsalibrary.org/research/databases> and the “Primary Search” database. Provide your last name and library card number, and you’re in!

Primary Search

Access full-text popular school magazines and research sources, American Heritage Children's Dictionary and an image collection of 107,135 photos, maps and flags. All full-text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexile).

Access: Home, School, Work, All Libraries

Grade Level: 1-6+



Remote Database Login

You must have a current library card to access these databases from home.

If you do not have a card, you can [APPLY NOW](#) online!

Last Name *only*:

For example, type "Smith"

Library Card Number:

For example, type "22345..."

Submit

A NOTE TO EVERYONE: Let's get started!

Welcome! Let's dig into this month's topic – archaeology! "Digging" is a good word to use because not only do archaeologists use actual shovels and other tools to dig into the ground to find cool things from the past, but when you say you "dig it" you mean you really like something!

We think you'll really "dig" archaeology, because it's all about learning more about what people were like in the past.

You see, humans didn't used to have nearly as many ways of documenting how we lived. No smart phones or cameras to record videos or movies, and no laptops or even typewriters to write down thoughts! In fact, in some very ancient societies, there weren't even any pens or paper, or the thought that you could write words down into a book.

So to learn about what these people were like, archaeologists have to find "artifacts" and then think about them to guess how people lived.

“Digging Up Adventure”

May 12, 2008 Science World



This article asks ***“is archaeology as packed with adventure as the movies make it seem?”*** and then promises you will ***“find out from a real-life Indiana Jones.”***

The movie character Indiana Jones makes archaeology look dangerous, exciting, and action-packed. But real-life archaeologists say that “Indy” doesn’t quite fit what a real archaeologist is like today.

For one, today’s archaeologists are far more careful than Indiana Jones in finding and recovering artifacts, or objects from an earlier civilization buried in the ground or in caves.

“To uncover these treasures, archaeologists need to excavate. Before digging, they lay out a grid using stakes and string so they can keep track of where they find various artifacts. Digging also reveals a site’s strata, or deposited layers of soil and rock. Layers closest to the surface were deposited more recently than those deeper underground. That helps archaeologists estimate the age of artifacts and see how culture in the area has changed over time.”

Another difference is that archaeologists today – unlike Indiana Jones – spend more time learning than digging and traveling.

“Archaeology may involve adventure, traveling to exotic locales, and digging for treasure. But scientists in this field spend most of their time immersed in the cultures they are studying and analyzing artifacts in the laboratory.”

left vessels of *mercury* in tombs as part of sacred rituals. While the Maya didn't intentionally leave behind a booby trap, the toxic metal can be a health hazard for anyone who enters.

NO MORE FINDERS-KEEPERS

Museums around the world once purchased items from renegade collectors like Indy. Today, archaeologists would never swoop into a foreign country to nab an artifact so they could sell it—even to a museum. Planning an excavation requires securing permits and collaborating with local institutions. Ultimately, anything archaeologists find belongs to the country of origin.

The Indiana Jones-style archaeology



CAN YOU DIG IT?

There may be fewer thrills in the field than an Indy flick, but real archaeology isn't lacking in excitement. "Imagine picking up something deposited in the earth thousands of years ago that has been untouched until you found it," says Cuzzone. "There's a sense of discovery when you're in the field that makes every day an adventure."

You don't even have to travel to far-off places to get in on the action. Cuzzone works with the Yale

DIRTY JOB:
Archaeologist Holly Cuzzone (left and inset) leads students (below) on a dig in Connecticut.



The article ends by saying today's archaeologists are different in specifics from Indiana Jones, but they still find what they do as fascinating.

“There may be fewer thrills in the field than an Indy flick, but real archaeology isn't lacking in excitement. ‘Imagine picking up something deposited in the earth thousands of years ago that has been untouched until you found it,’ says [Holly] Cuzzone [an archaeologist]. ‘There's a sense of discovery when you're in the field that makes every day an adventure.’”

“A Viking Discovery?”

January 9, 2017 Junior Scholastic



“A band of sea travelers called the Vikings were the first Europeans to arrive in the Americas. A recent discover may help answer age-old mysteries about these early explorers.”

In the 1960s, archaeologists found evidence that Vikings came to eastern Canada around the 1100s. (That was a long time ago!)

But thanks to some pretty sophisticated science, they found new proof that they were also much further west in Canada.

How did they find this out? Something called “space archaeology”!

“By studying satellite images taken from cameras

400 miles above Earth, scientists have uncovered ancient structures and settlements all over the world. Space archaeologists look for variations in landscape, including discolored soil and changes in vegetation. These variations often indicate the presence of human-made structures from the past.”

In the past, space archaeologists had learned more about ancient groups in Egypt, but they didn’t think they would find Vikings, too!



WHAT? NO HELMETS?

Vikings are often shown wearing horned helmets, but archaeologists say they actually went bareheaded or wore cone-shaped helmets made out of leather.

Looking at satellite images of Canada, they saw ***“dark spots and straight lines, which hinted that human-made structures might be buried underneath.”***

That’s when the archaeologists started to dig!

“They have unearthed several artifacts they think may have belonged to the Vikings, including a stone hearth – or fireplace – and mangled scraps of heated

iron. (Melting iron was one way that Vikings produced nails to build their ships.)”

They don't know yet what it all means, just that it will take a long time and more digging.

“ ‘This is going to take years of careful excavation,’ [archaeologist Sarah Parcak] said. ‘It raises a lot more questions than it answers. But that’s what any new discovery is supposed to do.’ ”



“Unearthed From the Ashes”

January 2014, Scholastic



“The ancient city of Pompeii was frozen in time for nearly 2,000 years. But is it about to crumble forever?”

In the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, a volcano unexpectedly rained lava on citizens and killed them instantly.

“Within 24 hours, the entire city was buried beneath rock and ash. The material cooled into a cement-like substance. It hardened on top of everyone and everything, capturing the city as it was on that fateful day.”

The city was forgotten for over a thousand years until it was rediscovered. Since 1748, archaeologists have been exploring the ruins.

“They have found everything from detailed paintings and pottery to loaves of bread almost perfectly preserved. The remains offer a window into the past, revealing how ancient Romans lived.”

But now, it looks as if what archaeologists have discovered will actually disappear, in large part because of sunlight, wind, rain, and more.

One way archaeologists are trying to rescue the ruins is to create models using lasers and 3-D technology.

“[Archaeologist] Eric Poehler has...been using a laser to scan Pompeii...When he points the laser scanner at a building, it takes millions of measurements. He uses the information to create accurate 3-D models of the ruins. The models allow scientists to study the ancient city.”

It also lets regular people across the world see up close without having to travel there.

One more important reason to scan the ruins and keep them as models?

“Not only are [the ruins] crumbling, but there’s also a sleeping volcano next door. ‘Scientists think that every 2,000 years, there’s a massive eruption,’ says archaeologist Kirstin Romey. ‘We’re overdue for one right now.’”

“Ancient Army”

May 11, 2015, Junior Scholastic



In 1975, archaeologists in China found 2,000 statues made of terra-cotta (a kind of hard clay) hidden deep underground.

“The statues are buried near the tomb of China’s first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi (chin shuh hwong-dee), who ruled from 221 to 210 B.C. ... Each warrior is dressed differently and has a unique hairstyle and facial expression.”

Archaeologists believe that the clay soldiers were made to protect the emperor in the afterlife.

“Most of the figures wear suits of armor.”

Each statue stands about 6 feet tall and weighs more than 600 pounds. Some of the soldiers ride on chariots pulled by clay horses.”

But as the archaeologists cleaned and carefully studied the soldiers, they started to think that each soldier might actually be based on real people.

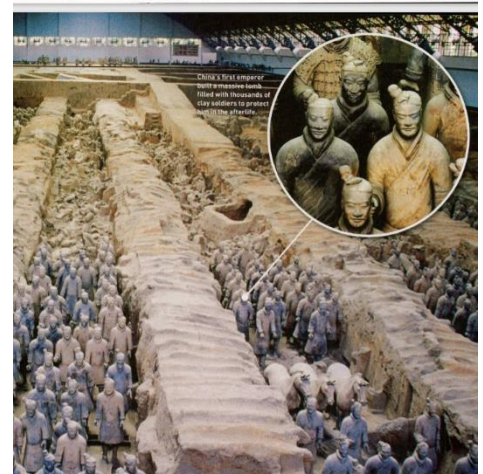
Why? Because of their ears!

“No two human ears are exactly the same. ‘They act a bit like individual fingerprints,’ says team member Andrew Bevan of University College London.”



To look more closely at the clay soldiers’ ears, they took digital photos and then created 3-D models based on the ears.

“After studying the models, the scientists found that each statue does have unique ears. That means it’s possible that ancient artists used actual soldiers in Qin’s army as models. ‘Based on this initial sample, the terra-cotta army looks like



a series of portraits of real workers,' team member Marcos Martinon-Torres told National Geographic."

The archaeologists are being very, very careful in their ongoing excavation.

"Scientists estimate that there may be up to 8,000 figures in the burial complex. In addition to the terra-cotta soldiers and horses, archaeologists have uncovered clay dancers, musicians, and acrobats to entertain the emperor in the afterlife, as well as life-sized statues of geese, swans, and cranes."