

Clues of the Past (3-5th Grades) Pre-visit Activities

Vocabulary List and Student Definitions (elementary level):

- **Archaeology:** the scientific study of ancient cultures through examination of their material remains such as buildings, graves, tools and other artifacts usually dug up from the ground
- **Paleontology:** the scientific study of fossils
- **Artifact:** an object made by a human being, such as a tool or ornament, especially
- **Native:** born or originating in a particular place
- **Culture:** the beliefs, customs, practices, and social behavior of a particular nation or group of people

Teacher Background and Supporting Information

1. What is archaeology?

- a. Archaeology is the systematic recovery and examination of material evidence, such as graves, buildings, tools, and pottery remaining from past human life and culture.
- b. Many confuse archaeology with paleontology, the study of fossils (remains of animals and plants).
- c. Archaeology is a science, but it has a lot to do with history. An archaeologist is a lot like a detective who uncovers clues about the past.

Archaeology

Biology

← Words ending with ‘-ology’

Astrology

Anthropology

← means the “study of”

- d. Ancient Florida Natives named the Tequesta Native Americans, lived in Florida from about 15,000 years ago way up to the 1700’s where they were met by Spanish explorers.
- e. The Tequesta Natives Americans were one of the first, true Floridians.
- f. Tequesta communities were located in southeastern Florida, which is known today as Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.
- g. These Native Americans left clues to their lives in the forms of burial mounds. These mounds were like giant garbage pits. We can learn a lot about people from their garbage and objects that they left behind.
- h. These objects are referred to as artifacts, material evidence of past human life and culture.
 1. Artifacts may include tools, clothing, jewelry, pottery, buildings, and graves.

Student Activities

1. Internet

- a. Conduct an internet search on the Tequesta Native Americans. What can you research about their lives? Culture? How long ago did they inhabit Florida? What happen in the 1700’s that caused significant changes in their lives?
- b. Have students visit <http://www.digonsite.com/> and click on the “Ask Dr. Dig” link on the left side of the page. Then, click on the “Native American”

box where you can ask your own question or read questions from other students.

i. There is also a Parent and Teacher link that is a great resource!

c. Reference: Archaeology for Kids: Uncovering the Mysteries of Our Past by Richard Panchyk

i. Try one of 25 activities, from making a screen for sifting dirt to counting tree rings to date a find, as you explore the techniques used to study archaeological sites and ancient civilizations. Chicago Review Press, Chicago, 2001 (ISBN 1-55652-395-5)