

Discovering Archaeology



AN ACTIVITY BOOK FOR YOUNG NOVA SCOTIANS

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Nova Scotia Archaeology Society 1992

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Denise Hansen, David Williamson

Illustrated by

Etta Moffatt



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Discovering archaeology

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book possible.

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is one way of studying the past. People who live at a place leave clues in the ground. An archaeologist is like a detective, working carefully to discover more about the people who lived there.



DEBERT

Debert Site in Colchester County is a Palaeo-Indian site. People lived here about 11,000 years ago. They hunted caribou and possibly mastodon, using a unique arrowhead called the fluted point.

How are Sites Found?

A **site** is any place where people once lived, leaving behind things that become clues for the archaeologist to discover. People can find sites in many ways.

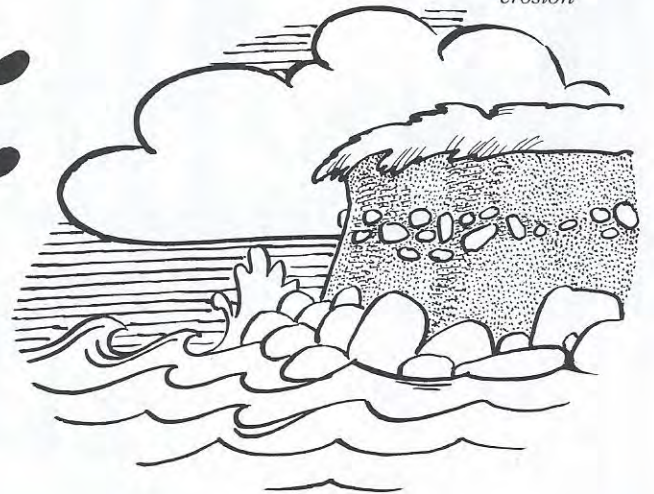
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G	C	B	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	M	Y	N	D
R	O	R	T	S	W	N	K	S	I	P	A	I	G	M
A	X	A	L	N	K	D	U	U	D	T	R	N	X	A
P	T	R	M	F	B	S	O	S	E	F	K	G	Q	R
H	J	Y	E	R	O	V	I	O	N	L	S	M	S	K
S	V	A	R	T	I	F	A	C	T	S	X	O	Q	S
A	E	R	I	A	L	P	H	O	T	O	S	Y	H	C

WORD SEARCH

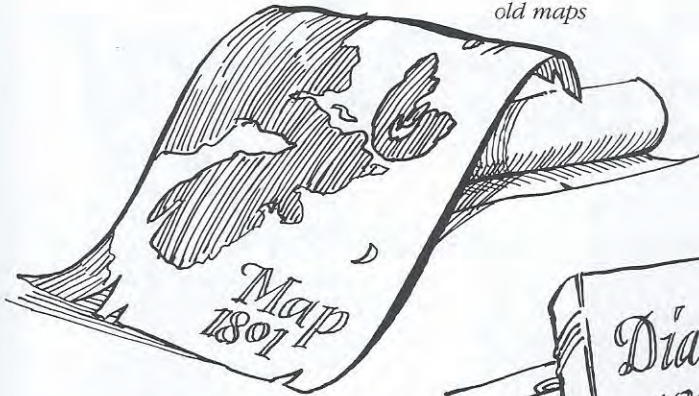
Find and circle 19 ways that sites are found. There are some clues on page 3.

Clues:

erosion



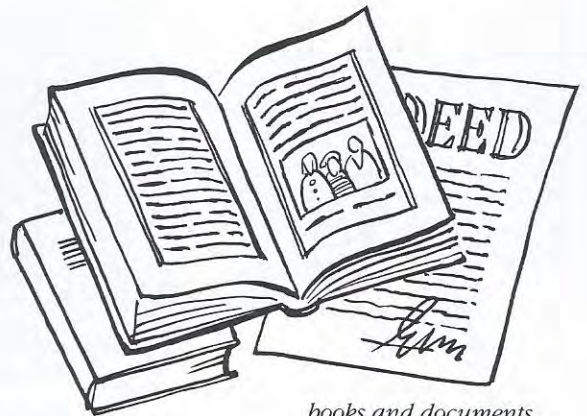
old maps



aerial photographs



diaries and newspapers



books and documents



construction



ploughing



surveying



CENTRAL TRUST

Central Trust Site in Halifax is located on the waterfront. The artifacts uncovered date between 1750 and 1800. The site was discovered by a passer-by watching the construction of a new office tower.

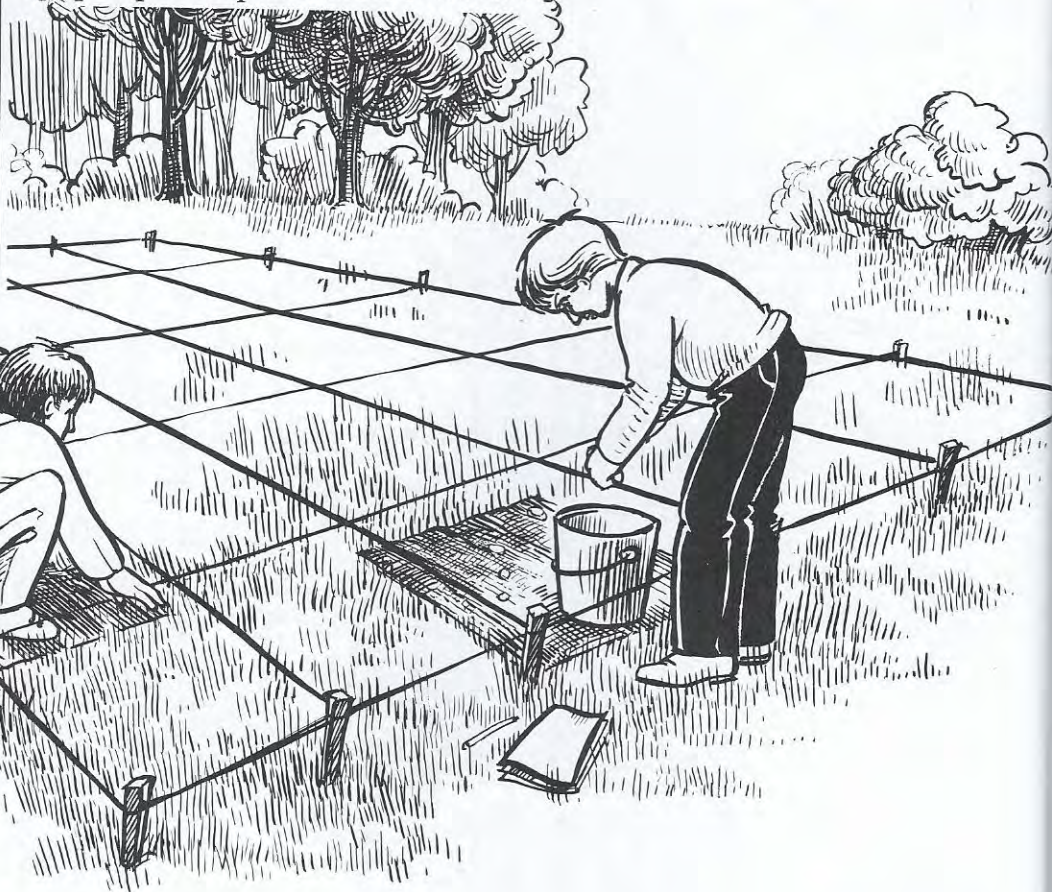
Prehistoric Archaeology



BEAR RIVER

Bear River Site at Smith's Cove, Digby County, is known as a Ceramic Period shell midden site. People lived here about 2000 years ago. They fished and harvested shellfood, hunted, and made and used clay pots. Shells at the site helped to preserve organic materials like food bones and bone tools. People of the Ceramic Period are ancestors of today's Mi'kmaq.

A prehistoric site dates from the time before people kept written records.



Quiz:

Using a blue-coloured pencil, fill in those pictures showing the sources an archaeologist would use to help locate a prehistoric site.



Historic Archaeology



LOUISBOURG

The Fortress of Louisbourg is a National Historic Site, located in Cape Breton County. Almost one quarter of the French town and its fortifications have been rebuilt where they stood in the 1700s. Most of the archaeological work was done from 1961 to 1981, but there have been more recent digs on the site.

An historic site dates from the time when people kept written records.



Quiz:

Using a red-coloured pencil, fill in those pictures showing the sources an archaeologist would use to help locate an historic site.



What is an Artifact?

An **artifact** is anything made or used by people. Artifacts are important clues discovered by archaeologists. They can tell us where people lived, how long ago they lived there, and what their daily lives were like.

ARTIFACT MATCH-UP:

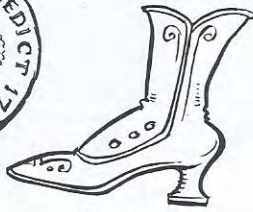
Draw a line between the artifact and the person who would have used it.



arrowhead



coin



lady's boot



walkman



telephone



Nova Scotian woman
early 1900s



Nova Scotian boy
1990s



Mi'kmaq Indian
1500s



Nova Scotian woman
1920s



Louisbourg man
1725

The Past and Present Quiz

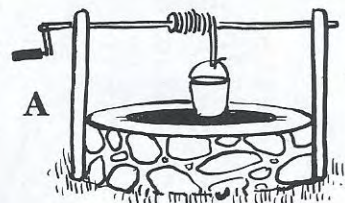


PRESENT



Place the letter of the past artifact next to the present artifact used for the same purpose.

PAST



B



C



D



E



F



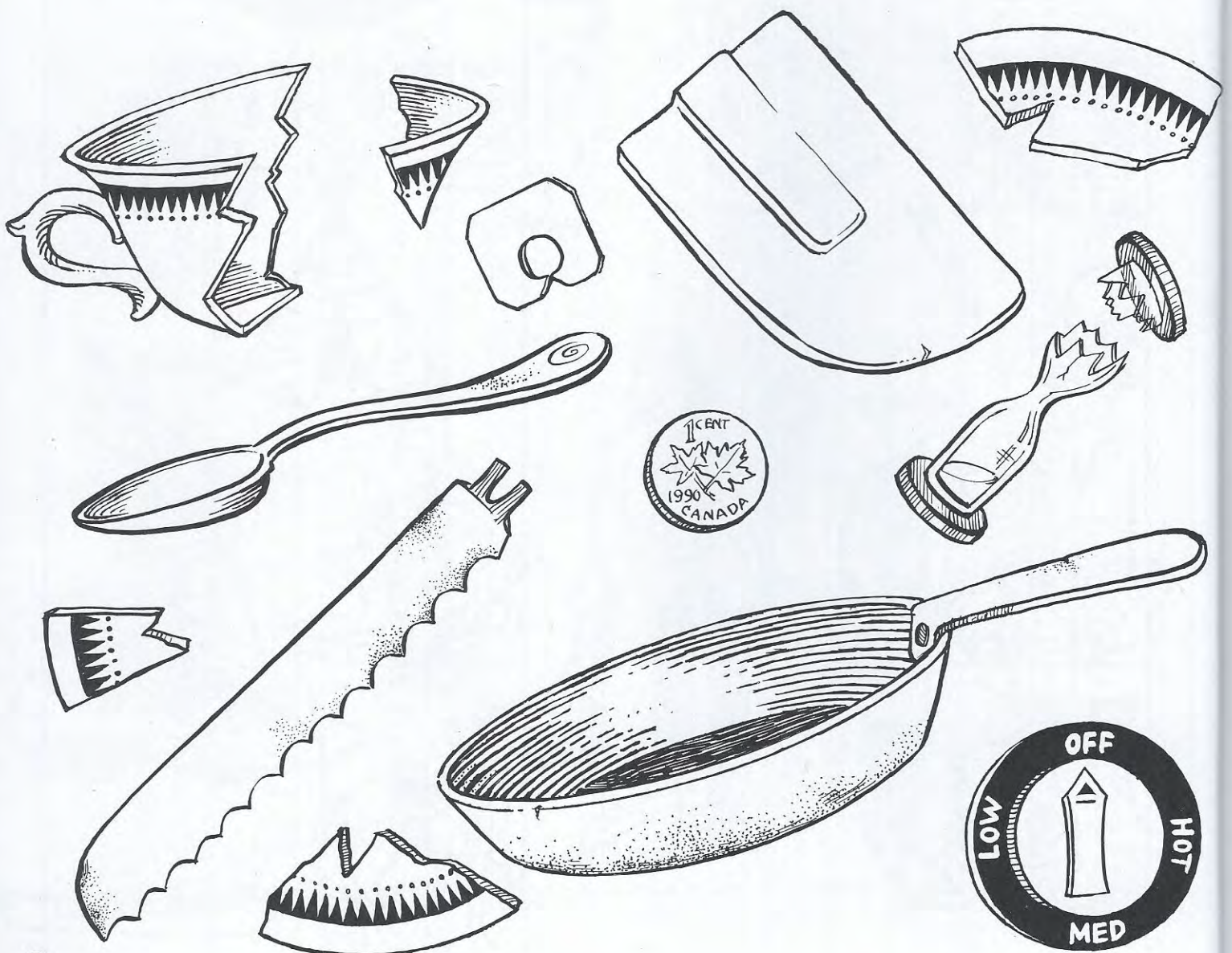
G



Identifying Sites through Artifacts

The archaeologist uses clues to find out what was going on at a site.

Imagine you are an archaeologist from the future and have discovered a site. The artifacts discovered at the site are pictured below. Look at them carefully. Then, using the objects, fill in the "Site Report" on the next page.



Quiz:

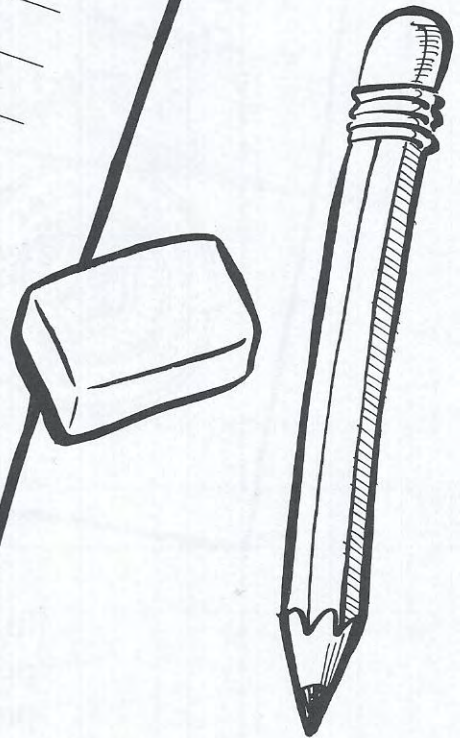
SITE REPORT:

1. Date

2. List the artifacts by name:

3. When might the site have been used?

4. What might have gone on at the site?



What do you need to Start?

Heritage Research
PERMIT

Name _____
Location _____
Type of site _____
Previous experience _____



DATE _____


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

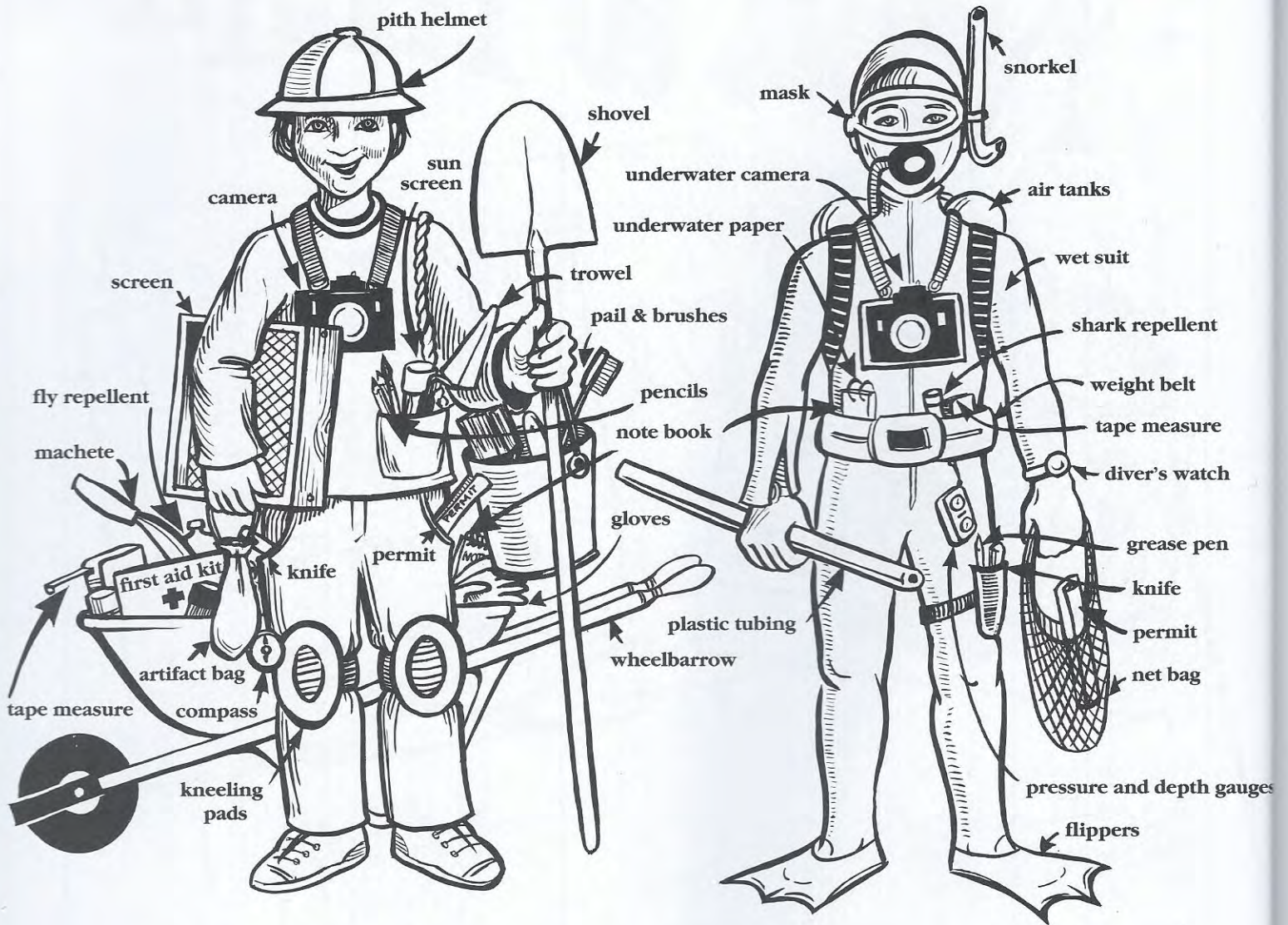
In Nova Scotia, the law says that you must have a permit (license) to do archaeology. A qualified person may apply for a permit from the province through the Nova Scotia Museum.

Why do these people Need a Permit?

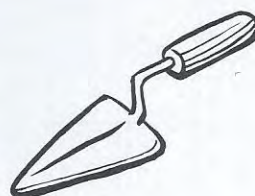
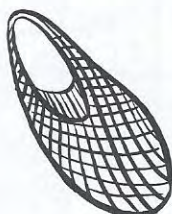
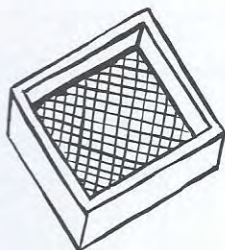


Why do you think an archaeologist needs to be qualified to get a permit?

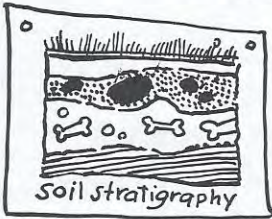
EQUIPMENT Is Important



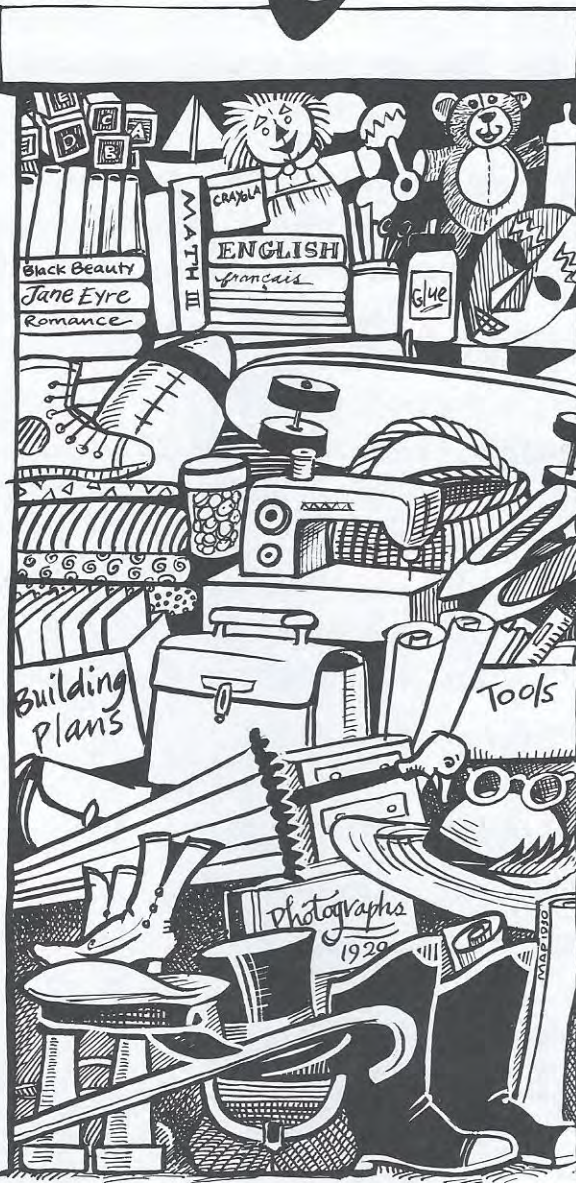
What do you think the equipment below is used for ?



Stratigraphy



Stratigraphy is the study of layers of earth called strata. Each layer has its own colour and texture and its own story to tell about what happened at the site. Lower layers are usually older than the ones above.



This closet contains belongings like those of your grandparents, parents, an older brother, yourself and a baby brother. Colour the belongings of each family member a different colour, and answer the questions below:

1. How many different layers do you find? _____
2. Whose belongings are on the bottom layer? _____
3. If the top layer were missing, whose story would not be told?

Imagine...

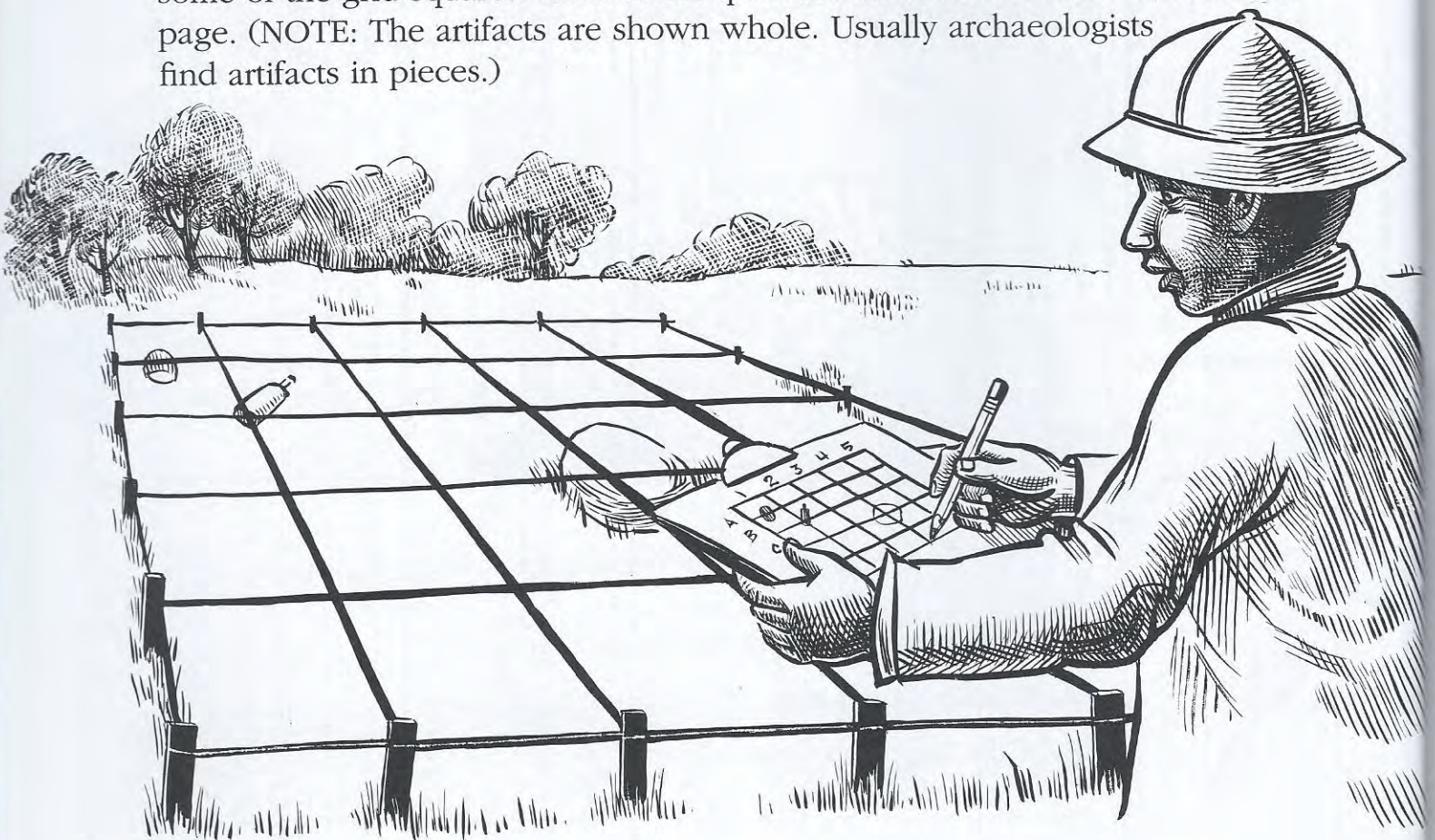
...you are an archaeologist 500 years in the future, and are about to excavate a site here in Nova Scotia. The site has three levels, each with its own story to tell. You must grid each level separately.

When archaeologists grid, they divide the site into squares using string tied to stakes in the ground. Each square is given a letter and number to identify it so that archaeologists can record where evidence is found.

HERE ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS!

Imagine the squares on the following three pages are stakes. For string, draw lines connecting the squares. There should be 25 squares on each page; they have been started for you. Place letters and numbers in the rest of the grid squares following the examples given.


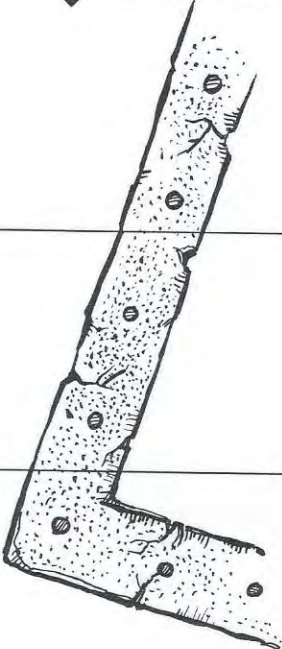








Now you are ready to record what you have found. You will see artifacts in some of the grid squares. Answer the quiz and fill in the record sheet on each page. (NOTE: The artifacts are shown whole. Usually archaeologists find artifacts in pieces.)





Level 1

Grid and label level one. Record the artifacts and grid squares as instructed.

	1	2	3	4	5
A	square 1A	square 2A			
B	 square 1B	square 2B			
C					
D					
E					

QUIZ:

- From the evidence, what might this site have been?

- From the evidence, what is the date of this site?




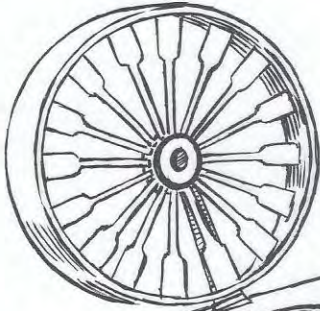

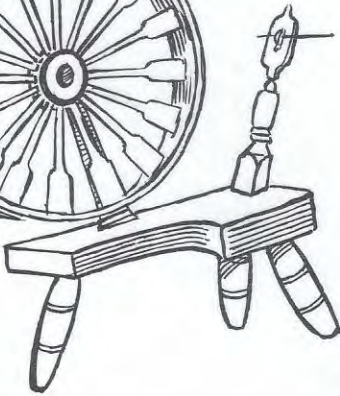







RECORD SHEET:

Name the artifact found in
square 2C _____
square 3D _____



Level 2

Grid and label level two just as you did level one.
Record the artifacts and grid squares as you did before.

	1	2	3	4	5
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					

QUIZ:

- From the evidence, what might this site have been?
(Hint: see page 30)

- From the evidence, what is the date of this site?

RECORD SHEET:

Name the artifact found in
square 3B _____
square 4E _____



Level 3

Grid and label level three just as you did levels one and two.
Record the artifacts and grid squares as you did before.

	1	2	3	4	5
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					

- QUIZ:**
- From the evidence, what might this site have been?

 - From what time period does this site date?
(Hint: see page 6)

RECORD SHEET:
Name the artifact found in
square 1D _____
square 4C _____

Meet the Crew!

People in the crew do a lot of different jobs. Colour the peoples' hats a different colour according to their job.

digging - **red**

recording - **black**

screening - **purple**

measuring - **green**

gridding - **yellow**

washing & sorting - **brown**

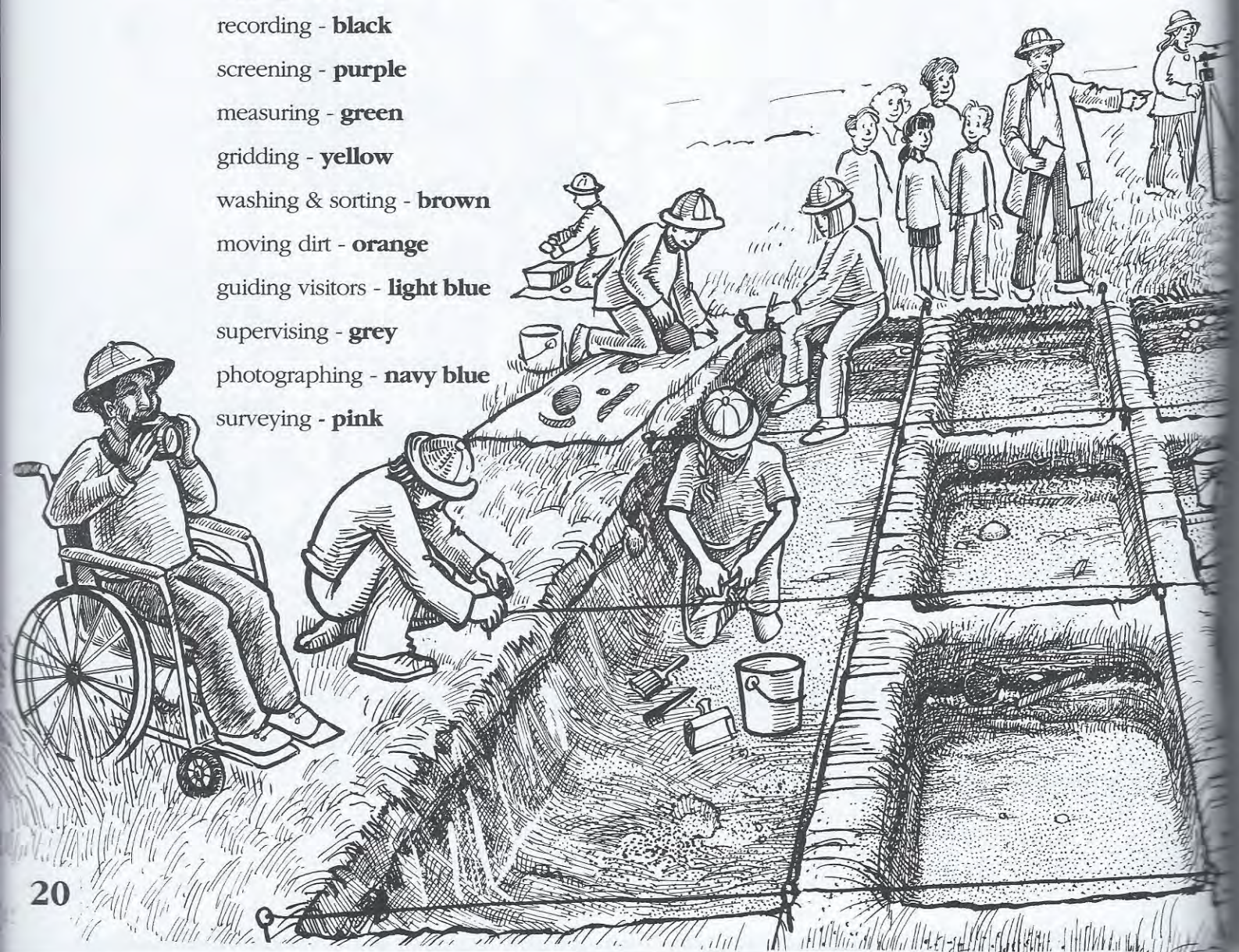
moving dirt - **orange**

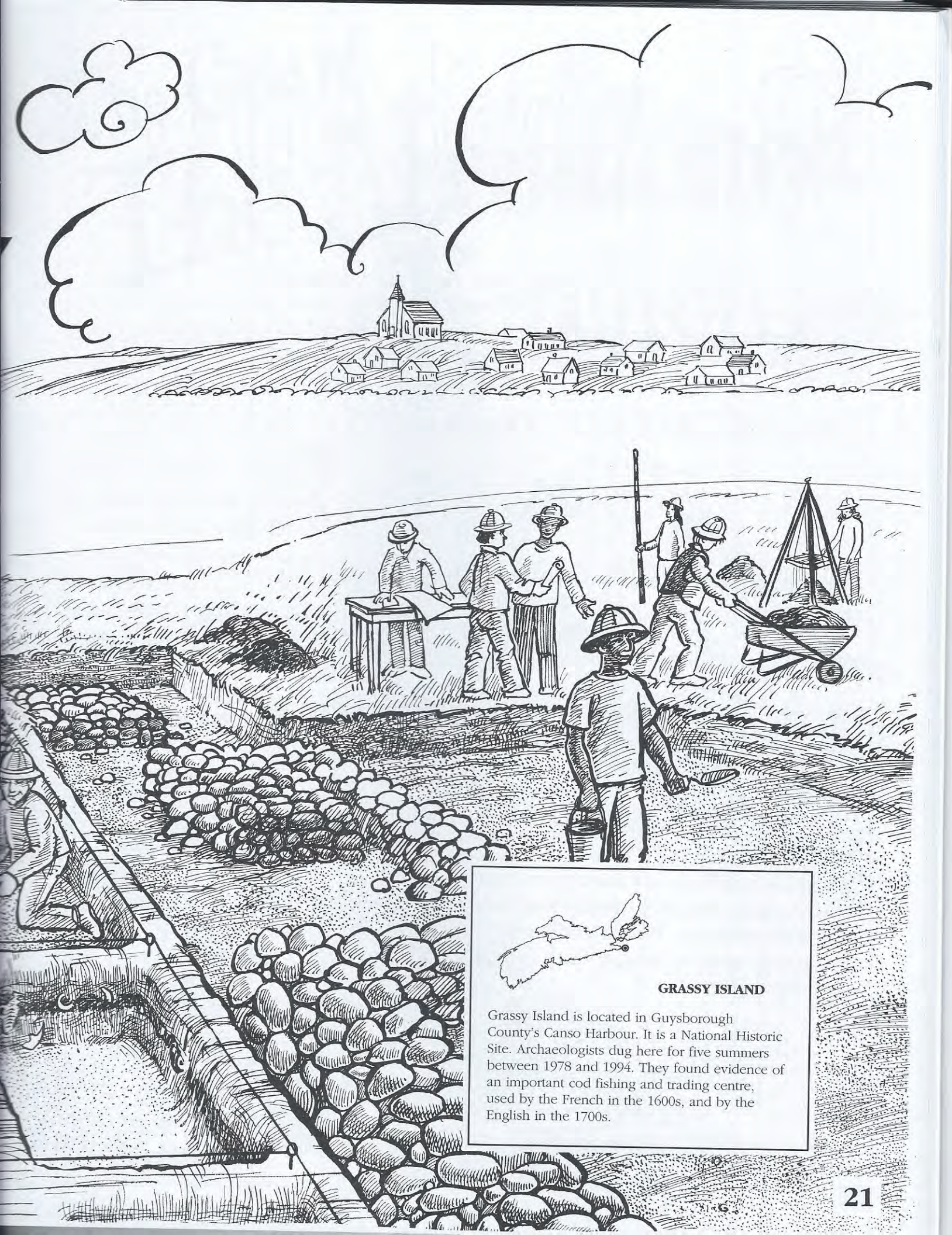
guiding visitors - **light blue**

supervising - **grey**

photographing - **navy blue**

surveying - **pink**





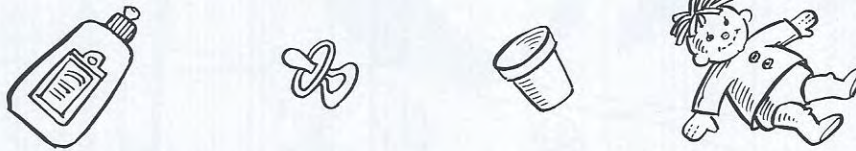
GRASSY ISLAND

Grassy Island is located in Guysborough County's Canso Harbour. It is a National Historic Site. Archaeologists dug here for five summers between 1978 and 1994. They found evidence of an important cod fishing and trading centre, used by the French in the 1600s, and by the English in the 1700s.

Perishability

Not everything left behind at a site can survive the passage of time. This is because natural forces like wind, rain and chemicals cause things to decay and sometimes disappear altogether. Archaeologists call this perishability. Different objects perish at different rates and in different ways.

Modern-day plastics last a very long time.



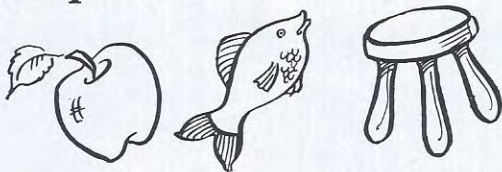
Stone, pottery and glass usually survive thousands of years.



Metal is strong, but underground (or in water) it can rust, fall apart and even disappear.



Plants and animals usually rot and are eaten away by insects and other small animals. Bones and teeth usually survive longer than other animal parts.



BAIN

Bain Site, Yarmouth County, is an Archaic Period fishing site. People from the Archaic Period lived here as early as 5000 years ago. They made and used heavy stone wood-working tools like adzes, axes and gouges.

The Case of The Abandoned Kitchen

This is a modern-day kitchen. The family who used the kitchen won a big lottery prize and left suddenly for a one-year cruise around the world.

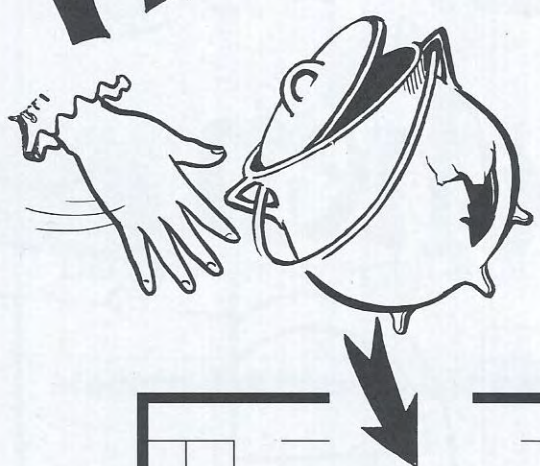
Colour red those objects which will be completely gone when they return.

Colour blue those objects which will look the same.

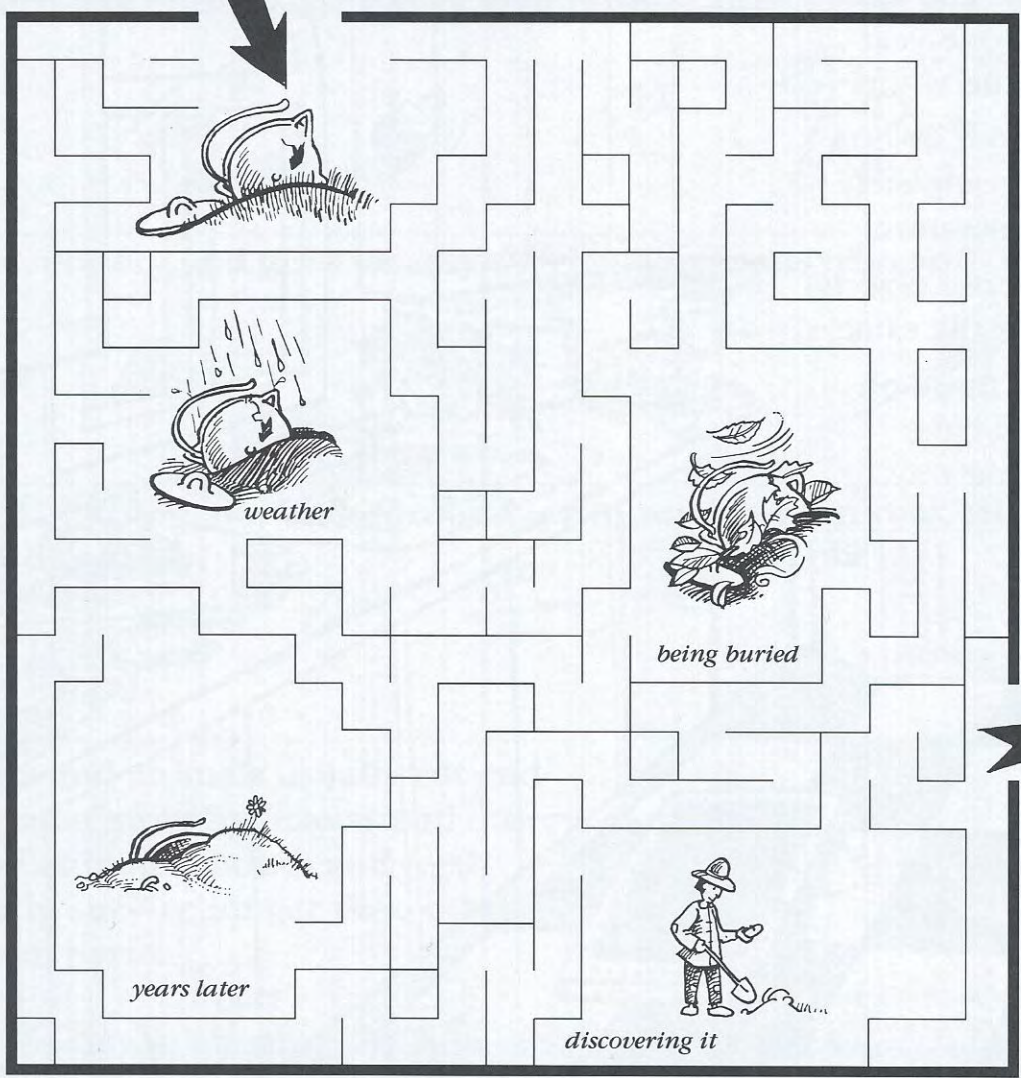
Colour green those objects which will have changed in some way.



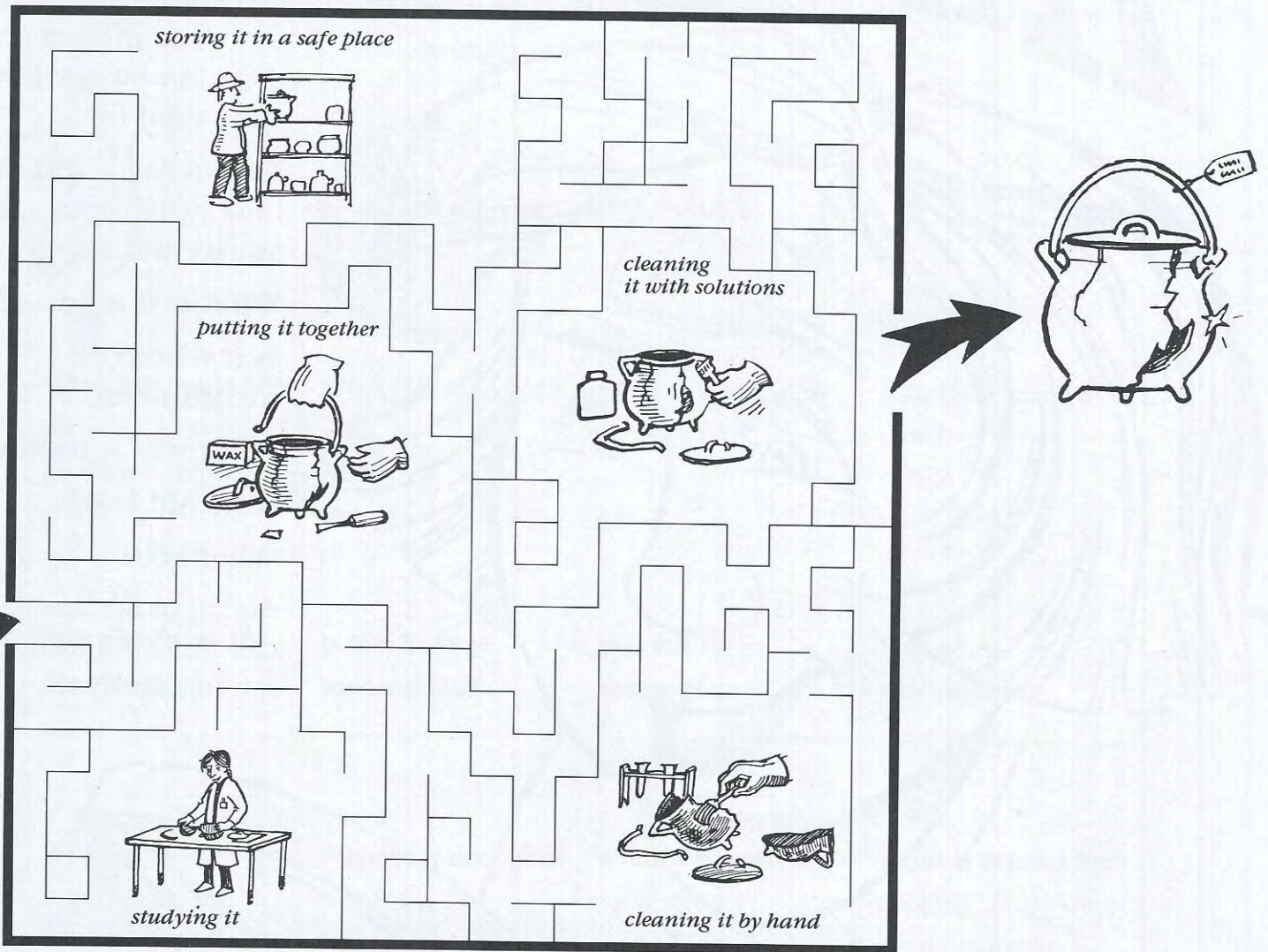
What does CONSE



Draw a line through the maze to find out what happens to the kettle from start to finish.



CONSERVATION Mean?



Many objects removed from the ground are broken and decaying. Conservation stops them from decaying and sometimes makes them look like new again. People who do conservation are called conservators. They use special solutions and tools to clean and protect artifacts. Sometimes they try to put broken pieces together like a jigsaw puzzle even though pieces are often missing.

Artifact Analysis

In order to understand what went on at a site, it is important to find out what artifacts are there, and what they were used for.

The archaeologist must look carefully at each artifact and ask:

What is it made of?

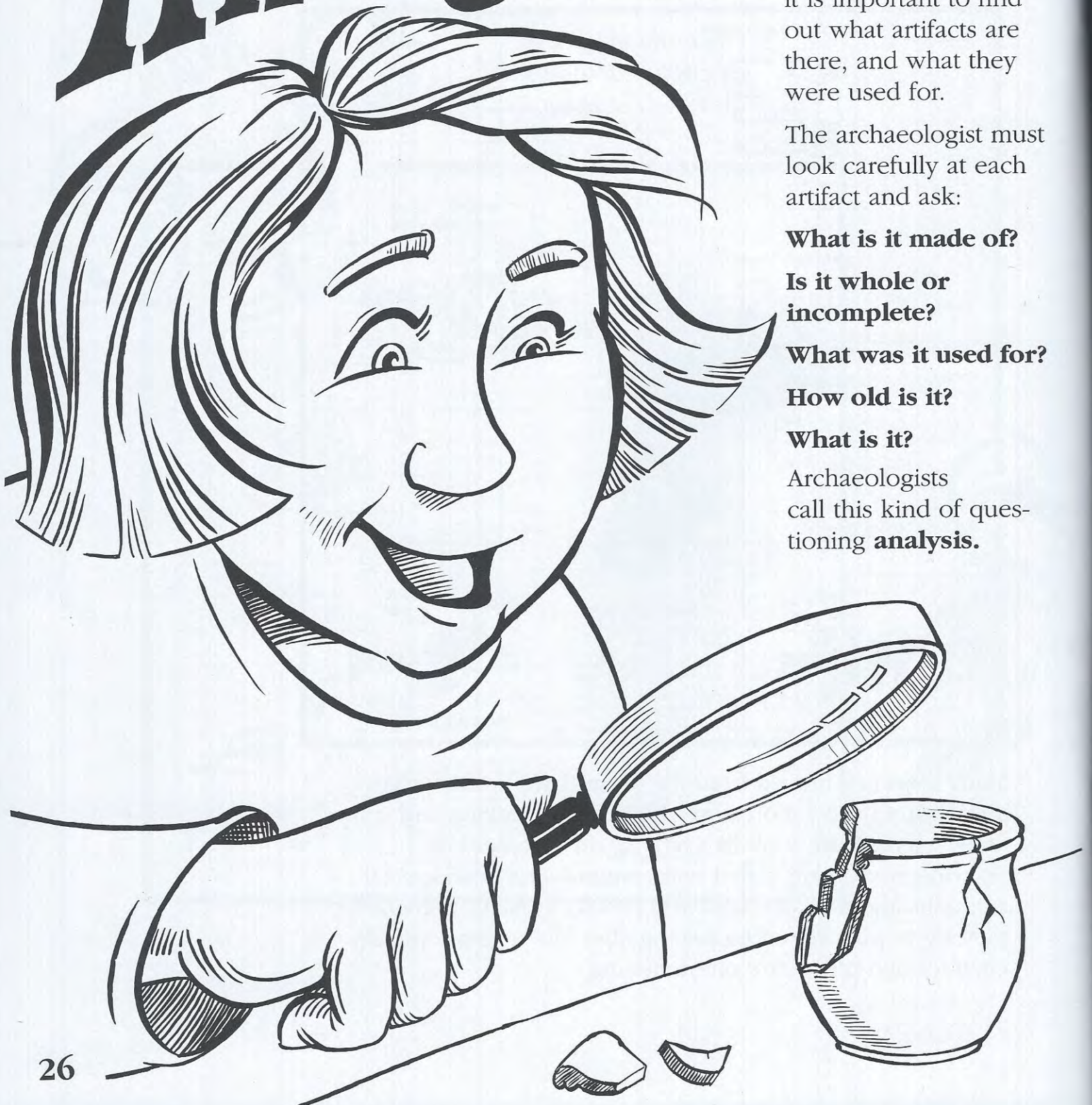
Is it whole or incomplete?

What was it used for?

How old is it?

What is it?

Archaeologists call this kind of questioning **analysis**.



What is it?

Circle or write the correct answer to the questions (some have more than one answer).

1.



What is it made of?

- glass
- plastic
- wood

Is it whole or incomplete?

What is it used for?

- watering the lawn
- scarecrow
- lawn ornament

Who used it?

- early settlers
- Mr. Jones
- flamingo hunters

What is it?

2.



What is it made of?

- glass
- rubber
- metal

Is it whole or incomplete?

What is it used for?

- walking
- riding
- flying

Who used it?

- sons
- daughters
- moms/dads

What is it?

3.



What is it made of?

- leather
- cotton
- metal

Is it whole or incomplete?

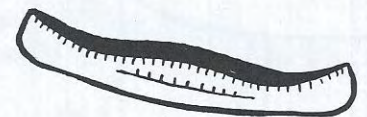
What is it used for?

- cooking
- celebrating an event
- tablecloth

How old is it?

What is it?

4.



What is it made of?

- metal
- plastic
- birch bark

Is it whole or incomplete?

What is it used for?

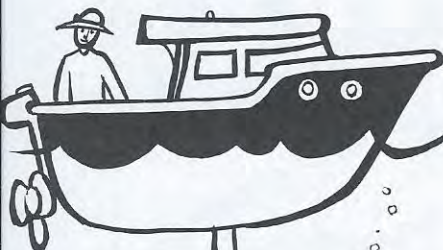
- cooking
- lawn ornament
- transportation

Who used it?

- The Vikings
- The Mi'kmaq
- Captain Hook

What is it?

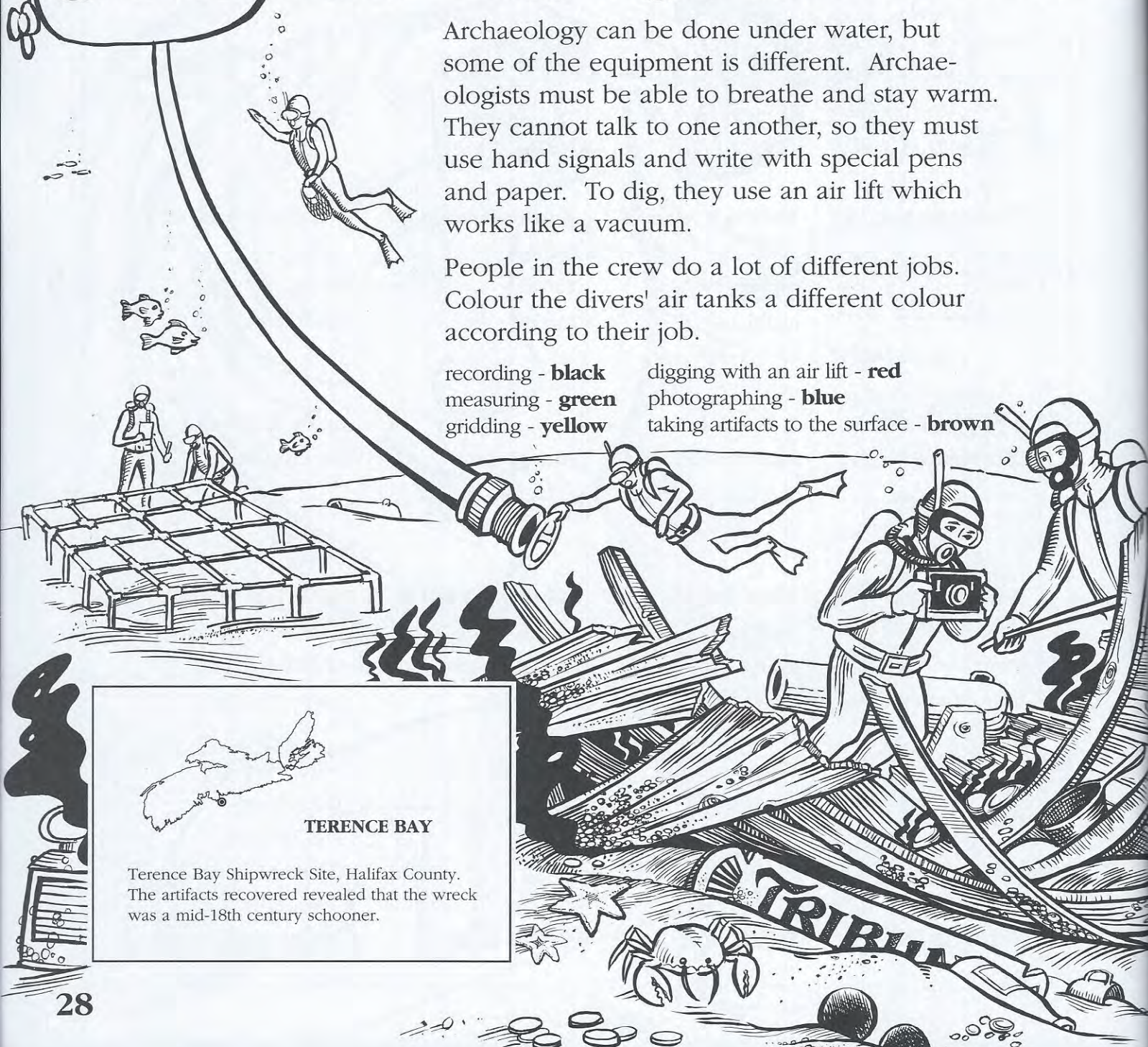
MARINE Archaeology



Archaeology can be done under water, but some of the equipment is different. Archaeologists must be able to breathe and stay warm. They cannot talk to one another, so they must use hand signals and write with special pens and paper. To dig, they use an air lift which works like a vacuum.

People in the crew do a lot of different jobs. Colour the divers' air tanks a different colour according to their job.

- recording - **black**
- measuring - **green**
- gridding - **yellow**
- digging with an air lift - **red**
- photographing - **blue**
- taking artifacts to the surface - **brown**



TERENCE BAY

Terence Bay Shipwreck Site, Halifax County. The artifacts recovered revealed that the wreck was a mid-18th century schooner.

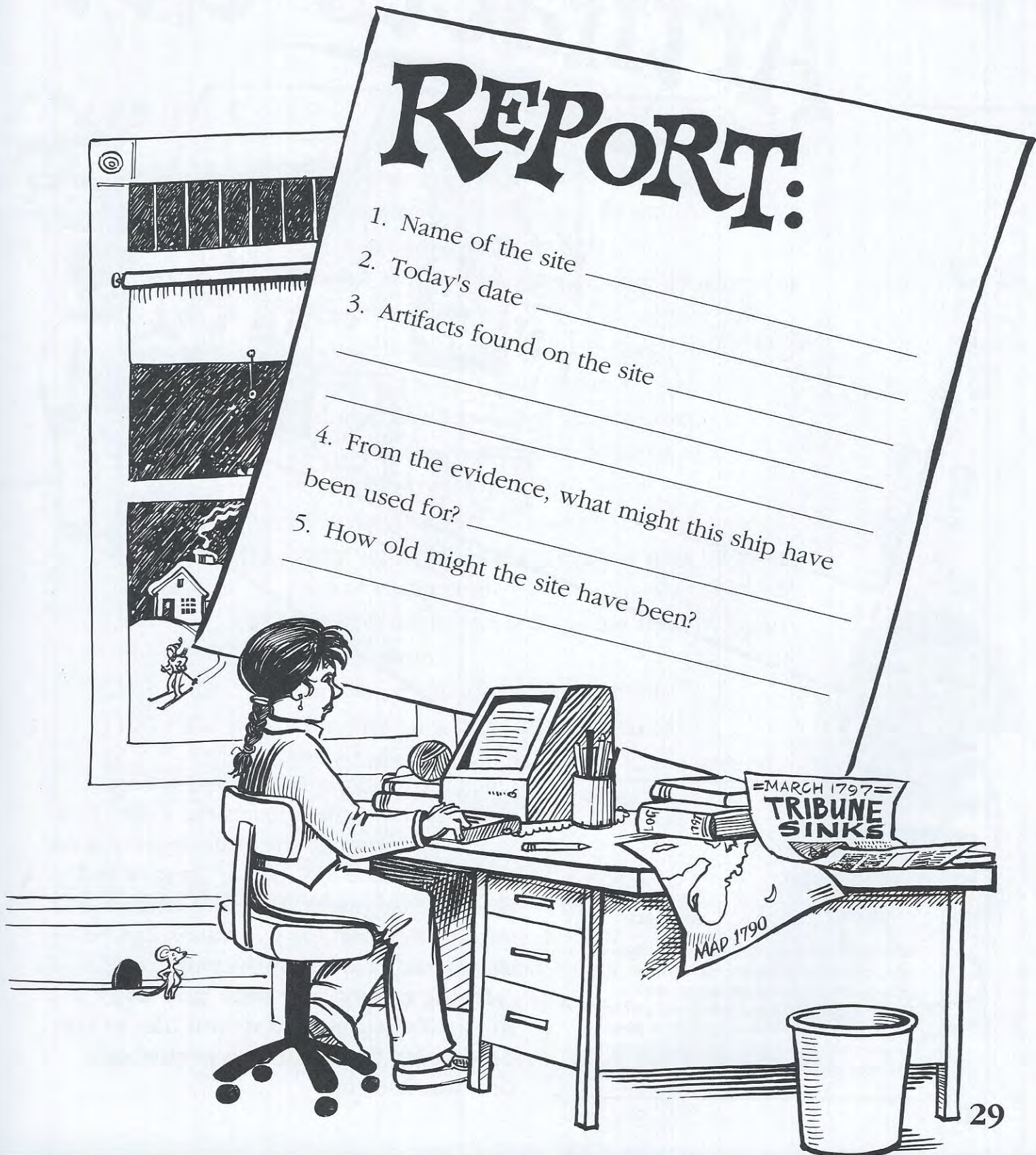
Digging is only one small part of archaeology. After the dig, archaeologists try to figure out what went on at a site by looking carefully at all the clues. After any excavation, under water or on land, archaeologists must write a report so that others can learn about what they discovered.

Imagine you are the archaeologist in charge of the marine site on page 28. **Now your job is to write the report:**

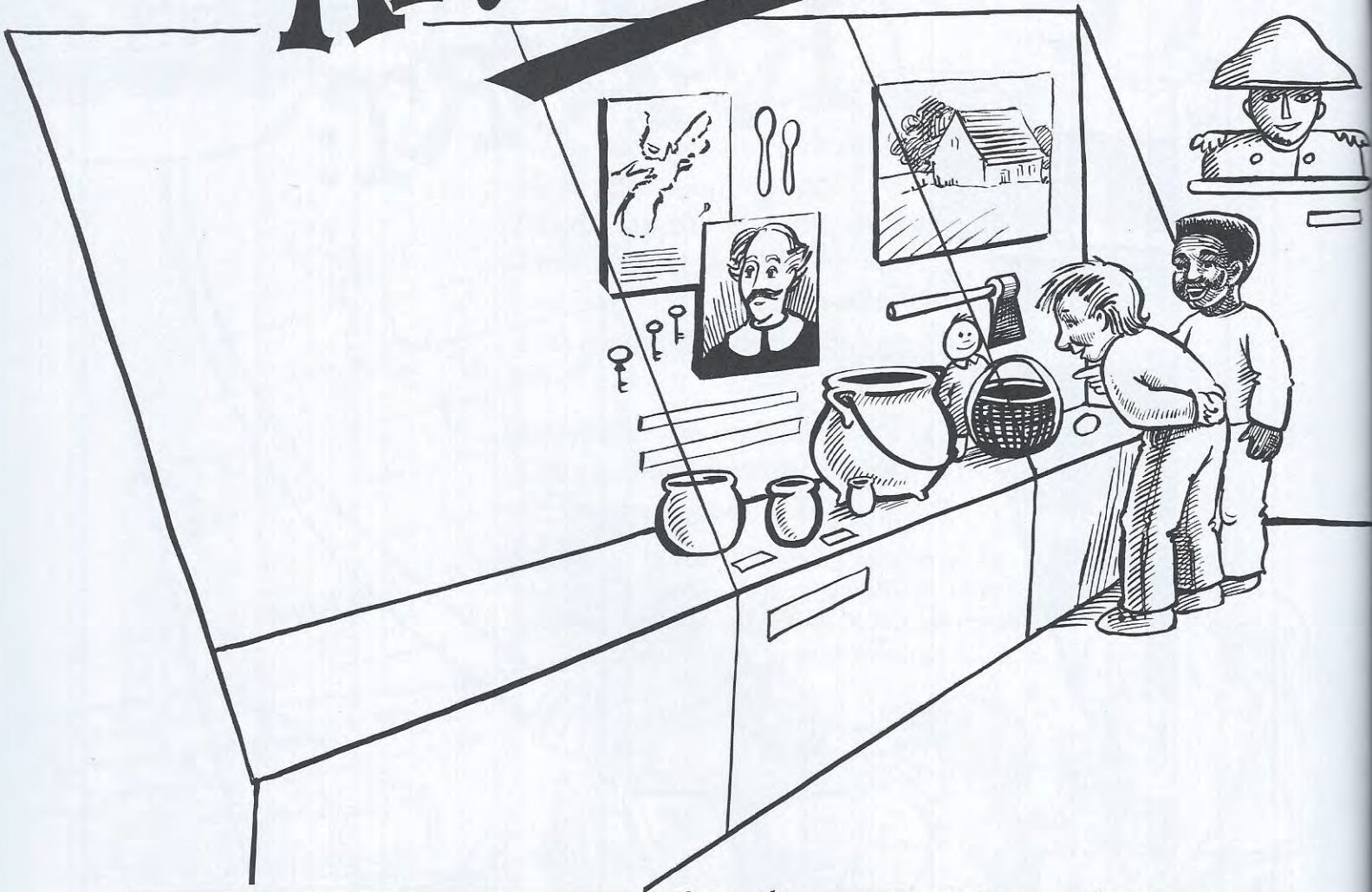
REPORT:

1. Name of the site _____
2. Today's date _____
3. Artifacts found on the site _____

4. From the evidence, what might this ship have been used for? _____
5. How old might the site have been? _____



Where do Artifacts Go?



BELLEISLE

Belleisle Site in Annapolis County is where a pre-exclusion Acadian community once existed. An excavation uncovered artifacts from the early 1700s and remains of a stone house foundation. The stratigraphy at Belleisle revealed two charcoal levels, indicating there had been two fires at this site.

Once the report is written and conservation is done, the artifacts are stored in a safe place. Some of the artifacts are put on display in museums, parks, libraries and other special places. Here the artifacts and information from the excavation can be shared and enjoyed by everyone.

In the empty case draw and label the artifacts that you would like to see on display from either a prehistoric or a marine site.

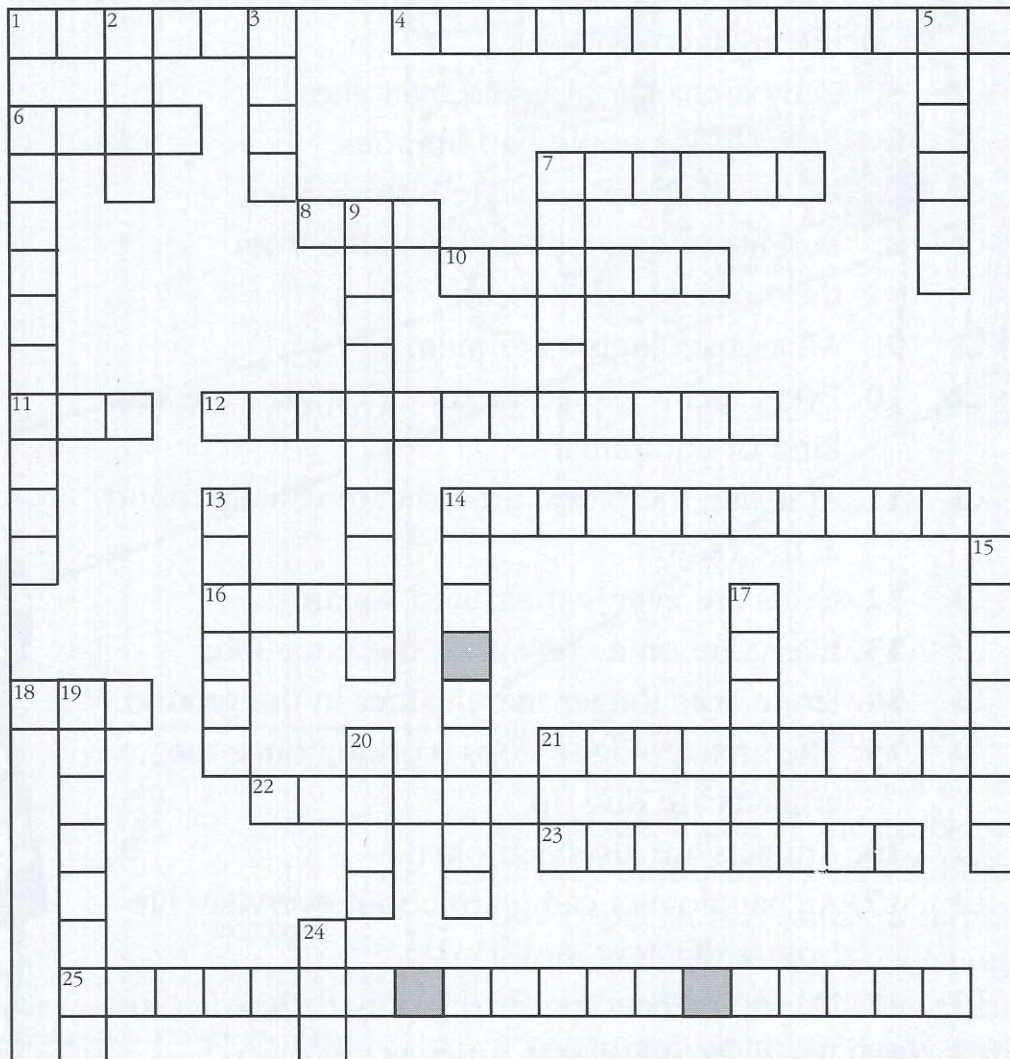
TRUE *or* FALSE

TRUE FALSE

- 1. Archaeologists only discover sites by accident.
- 2. Everything used by people is an artifact.
- 3. Archaeologists must look at all the clues to figure out what went on at a site.
- 4. Change in soil colour and texture are clues for the archaeologist.
- 5. Only archaeologists discover sites.
- 6. Prehistoric people had libraries.
- 7. Old maps help to locate historic sites.
- 8. Permits to do archaeology come from the Nova Scotia Museum.
- 9. All archaeologists are men.
- 10. Every archaeological excavation uses the same kind of equipment.
- 11. At a site, the oldest artifacts are usually found at the bottom.
- 12. Grids are evenly-measured squares.
- 13. Everyone on a crew does the same job.
- 14. Stone lasts longer than leather in the ground.
- 15. The archaeologist stops working once the artifacts are dug up.
- 16. Artifacts are always broken.
- 17. Archaeologists can learn about everyday life from artifacts.
- 18. Marine archaeologists dig only for gold coins.
- 19. We all benefit when artifacts are placed on display.
- 20. Archaeology helps us learn about the past.



Crossword Quiz



This puzzle asks questions about everything that was covered in this book.

Clues:



ACROSS

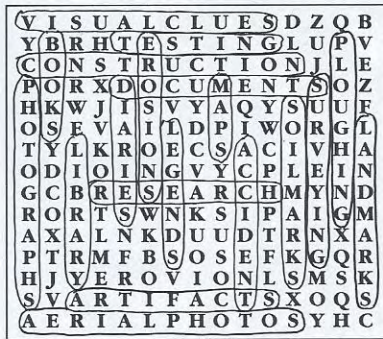
1. Where artifacts go
4. The decay of things in the ground
6. Working archaeologists wear _____ helmets
7. A device used to sift for artifacts
8. The kind of repellent archaeologists use on land
10. A legal requirement
11. The layer where the most recent artifacts are usually found
12. The fixing up of artifacts
14. "One way of studying the past"
16. _____ River is an archaeological site in Nova Scotia
18. A net _____ is used to bring artifacts up from underwater sites
21. One job for the crew
22. Underwater archaeology
23. Asking questions about artifacts
25. An archaeological site found during construction

DOWN

2. Where archaeologists discover clues
3. Face equipment for an underwater archaeologist
5. A digger's tool
6. Before written records
7. Layers of earth
9. An archaeological site in Cape Breton
13. An archaeological site in Nova Scotia
14. Equipment that allows archaeologists to breathe underwater
15. _____ Bay is an underwater site
17. One way sites are found
19. Anything made or used by people
20. An evenly-measured square
24. Something an archaeologist uses to find historic sites

ANSWER PAGE

PAGE 2 Word Search



PAGE 4 Prehistoric Archaeology
Colour in the airplane, erosion and construction.

PAGE 5 Historic Archaeology
Colour in old maps, the airplane, old books, erosion, construction, and old newspapers.

PAGE 6 Match-up Quiz
N. S. woman early 1900s - boot
N. S. boy 1990s - walkman
Mi'kmaq Indian 1500s - arrowhead
N. S. woman 1920s - telephone
Louisbourg man 1725 - coin

PAGE 7 Past and Present
Speed boat matches G
House matches B
Pencil matches C
Lightbulb matches D
Water tap matches A
Automobile matches F
Sneaker matches E

PAGE 9 Site Report
2. Artifacts: tea cup / saucer / spatula / egg timer / stove dial / spoon / pan / penny / knife blade / plastic-bag tag
3. 1990
4. cooking and eating

PAGE 11 Why do these people need a permit?
Answer: Once a site is disturbed by digging, it cannot be put back together, so it must be done right the first time. There is only one chance to record the information. When the first shovelful of dirt is removed, that chance is gone forever.

PAGE 12 Equipment
1. sifting earth
2. carrying artifacts underwater
3. digging
4. sweeping

PAGE 13 Stratigraphy
1. five
2. grandparents
3. baby brother

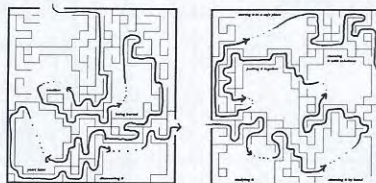
PAGE 15 Level one
Quiz
1. A school
2. 1990s
Record Sheet
2C report card
3D a baseball

PAGE 17 Level two
Quiz
1. An Acadian home
2. 1720
Record Sheet
3B a pipe
4E a cooking pot

PAGE 19 Level three
Quiz
1. A Mi'kmaq village
2. 1500s
Record Sheet
1D a necklace
4C a fish skeleton

PAGE 23
The Case of the Abandoned Kitchen
RED
Water in the sink / in the dog's bowl (McTavish) / in the pitcher
BLUE
stool / sock / toy car / ball / knife / teddy bear / etc...
GREEN
carrots / plants / apple / grapes / ham / bread / the dog's food (Bruno)

PAGE 24/25 What does Conservation Mean?



PAGE 27 What is it?
1. made of plastic whole lawn ornament Mr. Jones
a pink flamingo
2. rubber and metal incomplete riding sons, daughters, moms and dads
bicycle
3. cotton whole celebrating an event
1977 t-shirt
4. birch bark whole transportation
The Mi'kmaq
Mi'kmaq canoe

PAGE 29 Marine Archaeology
Name of the site: The Tribune
Artifacts: cannons / cannon balls / the ship's hull / bottles / coins / lantern / pots and pans / a mug
This ship was used for war.
According to the newspapers of the time, the Tribune sank in 1797.

PAGE 31 True or False

1 False	11 True
2 True	12 True
3 True	13 False
4 True	14 True
5 False	15 False
6 False	16 False
7 True	17 True
8 True	18 False
9 False	19 True
10 False	20 True

PAGE 32/33 Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS	DOWN
1. museum	2. site
4. perishability	3. mask
6. pith	5. trowel
7. screen	6. prehistory
8. fly	7. strata
10. permit	9. Louisbourg
11. top	13. Debort
12. conservation	14. air tanks
14. archaeology	15. Terence
16. Bear	17. survey
18. bag	19. artifact
21. excavation	20. grid
22. marine	24. map
23. analysis	
25. Central Trust Tower	

Discovering Archaeology is an entertaining and informative introduction to the wonderful world of archaeology in our province. Inside you will find illustrated activities that show young Nova Scotians what archaeology is and what archaeologists do. Open the book and let your adventure begin.

