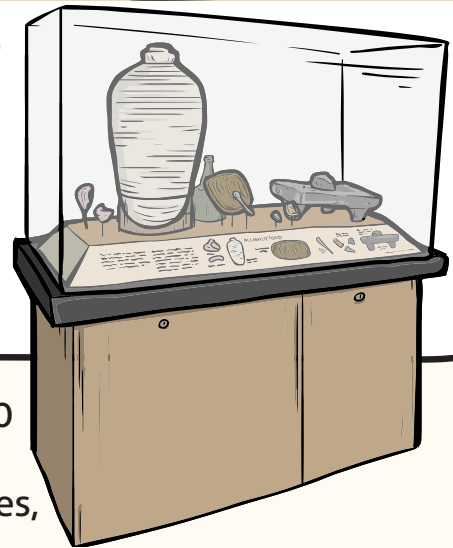


CONTEXT CLUES

Name _____

Date _____ Park _____

Archaeology is the study of people and cultures from the past. Archaeologists are scientists who try to find clues about how people in the past lived by studying artifacts—the tools, art, writing and structures which those cultures left behind. Being an archaeologist is like being a detective.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



Let's break it down.

Florida State Parks have more than 2,200 archaeological and historic sites! Park Rangers must think like archaeologists. When rangers need to dig holes, they watch for buried artifacts to be sure they are not disturbing an archaeological site. Look around, can you see where someone has needed to dig a hole?

Rangers who have received training monitor archaeological resources to help preserve Florida's rich history. Many of Florida's archaeological resources were lost before they were protected. Now anything over 50 years old qualifies as a historical resource.

Understanding how people lived in the past can help us to better understand ourselves and why parks are so special.

Can you find an exhibit, kiosk or brochure which describes ancient people who have used the park before you? Who were they?

What does the evidence tell you about what they did or the way they lived?

Name one way in which your life is similar.

Name another way in which your life is different.





CULTURAL RESOURCES ACTIVITY

CONTEXT CLUES

Site Investigation

Archaeologists document sites by photographing or sometimes drawing the artifacts they find. They keep track of how close items are found to each other. This

is called an item's context. Archaeologists find context important because where items are found can indicate how they were used.

Below you will find different groups of items which people have left behind. Write what you think each person was doing based on the group of items.

1.



2.



3.



Draw and then write the names of three objects you used on your visit to the park today. Ask someone else if they can guess what you were doing based on your list.
