

# LESSON DESIGN

## ARCHAEOLOGY

### WHAT GETS PRESERVED?

***OVERVIEW:*** The students will learn about the types of cultural and non-cultural materials that may become preserved overtime.

***OBJECTIVE:*** After viewing a video, a film, slides, or a book on a culture from one of the cultural areas, the student will be able to list the items that would be the most likely to be preserved overtime.

***SET:*** The teacher shows a series of objects, or pictures of objects, and asks, “If these items were buried which ones would be most likely to be preserved?”

***INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES:*** The teacher can show a video, film, slides, or read a book and show pictures about a culture. Have the students concentrate on the materials that make up the dwellings and artifacts of the culture. What kind of plants and animals do they see? What parts of these plants and animals would leave traces centuries later? What if the soil is acidic or has calcium carbonate in it. You can have the students work in groups or by themselves in fill out the lists.

***TEST OF OBJECTIVES:*** The teacher moves around the room monitoring students as they make out their list or check those list that have already been completed. The teacher will check to see that all of them have been listed. As the teacher moves about she/he can comment on items that have or have not been listed.

***EXTENSION:*** The students can write about why certain items would be preserved and under what conditions. They could discuss how pollen might be preserved in storage areas or ceremonial areas. Plant and animal remains might be preserved in cooking and processing areas.

***GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME:*** 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Wood, stone, cloth, fiber, plants, bone, and/or pictures of these items. Paper and pencil. Videos, films, slides, pictures, books on various cultures. You can also just use classroom objects as a starting point and make this an activity about what future archaeologists would think of our culture. One to two periods depending on how involved you get.

***GENERAL COMMENTS:*** This can be combined with a recycling project. Visit a recycling plant and the local landfill, research what kinds of things get preserved and why?

***ANY QUESTIONS?*** E-mail me at [georgeschneider@comcast.net](mailto:georgeschneider@comcast.net)  
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