

LESSON DESIGN

ARCHAEOLOGY

DIGGING IN THE CLASSROOM 4

OVERVIEW: Students will excavate a story.

OBJECTIVE: Given a dig box with photocopied pictures, from a picture book pasted on cardboard, the learner will be able to excavate the pictures, measure and record their position, put the pictures in order and tell what story they have excavated.

SET: The teacher says, “All excavations have a story to tell. It is the job of the archaeologist to read that story. The dig boxes in front of you have a story in them. Today you are going to excavate a story and find out what it is.”

INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES: Divide students into groups of four: Digger (digs materials with trowel, brushes, etc.), Measurer (measures finds by triangulation), Recorder (takes notes, records measurement), Sifter (looks for material in screen and moves dirt to shaker area). Switch roles every ten minutes. Whole group notes color and feel of soil and any changes. Emphasize taking measurements before pictures are removed.

TEST OF OBJECTIVES: The teacher monitors, answers questions, checks notes. Each group will tell what story they have excavated and how they know.

EXTENSION: Have the students discuss how the story would be different if some of the pictures had been left out.

GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME: K-2. Tapes, rulers (for K measure with small blocks or strings of beads, how many beads deep, wide, and long), string, line levels, trowels (can be spoons or spatulas), various brushes, small dust pans, whisk brooms to get excavated dirt out of box and into the shaker screen (sieves), extra boxes for the sifter to shake the dirt into, newspaper for tables and floor.

GENERAL COMMENTS: Use boxes about 20mm by 40mm. Tape a line level (a string that is longer than the box) on one corner. Measure depth from the string, held taut over the box to the other side, using tape, ruler, or string of beads. Depending on your purpose you can use one material like sand, potting soil, peat moss, or soil throughout, or use layers of each for a stratified dig. Place pictures at different levels.

ANY QUESTIONS? E-mail me at georgeschneiderg@comcast.net
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