

I AM AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

My name is Sarah and I am an **archaeologist**. What is an archaeologist? An archaeologist is someone who studies the past using the **artifacts** that people have left behind. Artifacts are the objects that have been created by people, for example stone tools or a clay pot. **Archaeology** is the study of the human past using artifacts. The artifacts that an archaeologist studies are found at **archaeological sites**. Sites can be any place that the evidence of humans exists and may be small, like an ancient campsite, or large, like the pyramids in Egypt.

There are different kinds of artifacts. Items that were made by humans and can be moved are called artifacts. Items that were made by humans but cannot be moved are called **features**. Ancient house floors or fire pits are features, for example. **Ecofacts**, such as seeds or animal bones, are another type of artifact. All of these are important clues in learning more about the past. One of the best places to find clues about the past is something called a **midden**. A midden is the term an archaeologist uses for a garbage pile.

Archaeologists study people all over the world. We also study people throughout time. The remains that people today (like you) leave behind are as interesting to archaeologists as the remains that people left behind thousands of years ago.

What do you think the artifacts you leave behind will tell an archaeologist like me about you?



I AM AN ARCHAEOLOGIST VOCABULARY

Define the following vocabulary in your own words.

Archaeologist – _____

Archaeology – _____

Archaeological site – _____

Artifact – _____

Feature – _____

Ecofact – _____

Midden – _____

I AM AN ARCHAEOLOGIST QUESTIONS

1. What different types of artifacts do archaeologists use to study the past?

2. At what types of places can you find an archaeological site?

3. What is one of the best places to find clues about the past?

4. What civilization would you like to learn more about and why?
