



WHEN I GROW UP- ARCHAEOLOGIST

WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

Archaeology is the scientific study of human life by looking at artifacts, at the man-made objects that people who lived long ago have left behind. Palaeontologists are not archaeologists; they study fossils. Historians are not archaeologists; they mostly study written records.

WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST?

Archaeologists are the scientists who study artifacts, man-made objects that people have left behind. Archaeologists are like detectives. By looking at artifacts, they try to figure out how long ago people lived, what art they created, their religious beliefs, their technology, science, and invention, and their daily life. Clues archaeologists use to answer these and other questions about past civilizations can sometimes be found in the artifacts they dig up.

An archaeologist's work begins with finding a site to study. Some archaeological sites, such as ancient cities, are visible on the surface. Other sites are buried deep beneath the ground.



Archaeologists uncovered life-sized Figures in a tomb in China. They dig carefully to uncover sources of evidence from our past.

After finding a site, an archaeologist digs slowly and carefully. This work is called excavation, or a "dig." Archaeologists use spoons, knives, picks, brushes, and other tools in their work. They try to uncover buildings, tools, weapons, art, and anything else that people made. These items are called artifacts.

While looking for artifacts to study, archaeologists can find themselves in some very dangerous situations. Archaeologists have explored ruins deep in jungles; dug up remains of villages in dangerous deserts; and have even searched underwater - but archaeologists are so curious about the past, that they are willing to brave the dangers of poisonous animals and plants, of unclean conditions, or an unfriendly political climate, to discover more about human life through the study of artifacts.

HOW DO I BECOME AN ARCHAEOLOGIST?

Most professional archaeologists have a degree and many also have a postgraduate qualification. You can also become an archaeologist by completing a degree apprenticeship.

You can do a degree in archaeology or a degree that specialises in the different aspects of the work, like:

- conservation
- environmental archaeology
- human evolution
- forensic investigation
- archaeological science

WHO IS A FAMOUS ARCHAEOLOGIST?

Howard Carter was a British archaeologist who discovered the tomb of the 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Tutankhamun in November 1922 in the Valley of the Kings. The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was an accident. Howard Carter's waterboy stumbled across some steps leading under the desert surface. Lord Carnarvon, a sponsor of Carter's work, was impatient of the slow progress at this point, and if the discovery had not been made, then it likely would not have been discovered at all.

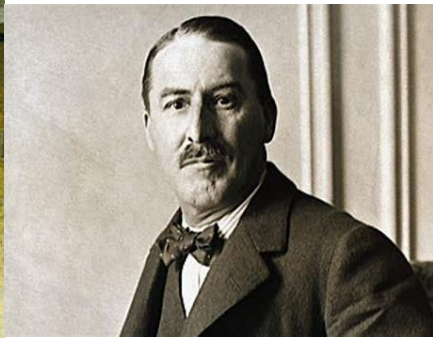
It took Howard Carter ten years to catalogue the finds from the tomb. Parts of Tutankhamun's chest with a beaded collar were stolen after the discovery, along with his skull cap!



Valley of the Kings



Tomb Of Tutankhamun



Howard Carter

FIND OUT MORE...

[How To Do Archaeology – For Kids! \(Online Course\) | DigVentures](#)

[PSHE KS1 / KS2: Proud to be an archaeologist - BBC Teach](#)

[Howard Carter Facts for Kids \(kiddle.co\)](#)

[KS2 History: Ancient Egypt. King Tutankhamun - BBC Teach](#)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What do archaeologists study?
2. Find 3 examples of artefacts.
3. Who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb?
4. How long did it take to list everything in Tutankhamun's tomb?
5. What tools do archaeologists use to dig up artefacts?

