

ARCHAEOLOGY ARTIFACT MATCHING

Hey Kids! All of the following artifacts can be found on archaeological sites in Indiana. Do you know what they are? Some are very old and were used by prehistoric Native Americans. Others are historic and were probably used by your Grandparents! Match the picture with the correct term to learn more about these artifacts and what they were used for.



Perforator: Also referred to as drills, these stone tools probably served a variety of piercing functions (for example, punching holes in animal hides). Like a projectile point, they are made of chipped stone; however, they have very narrow parallel-sided blade edges.



Nail: A commonly found historic artifact made of iron or other metal that was used in the construction of buildings, barns, etc. You can often tell how old a nail is by how it was made.

Prehistoric Pottery: Pre-European contact period clay vessels which probably served a variety of functions from cooking to storage. Sometimes these vessels were plain, but sometimes they were decorated.

Ceramic Plate: A commonly found historic artifact used for serving and eating food. Ceramic dinnerware is very common on historic archaeological sites not only in the form of plates, but also cups, bowls, saucers, platters, etc. Ceramics such as these not only give archaeologists clues about when the vessel was made, but also about the economic status of the person to whom they once belonged.

Sherd: A fragment of a clay or ceramic vessel that can be prehistoric or historic in origin. Whole vessels are very rarely found on an archaeological site, so archaeologists often use sherds of pottery to reconstruct partial or complete vessels.

Effigy: A clay form molded after shapes of humans or animals. The exact function of effigy figures is unknown, but they probably held some sort of ritual meaning.

Button: A commonly found historic artifact that was used as a clothing fastener. Buttons can be very fancy or very simple and were made of bone, shell, ceramic, glass or metal.

Projectile Point: A type of chipped stone tool generally defined by shape which probably served a variety of functions. Often referred to as arrowheads, these stone points functioned not only as arrowheads (arrowheads are very small), but also as spear points and knives.

Bottle: A commonly found historic artifact made of glass that once contained beverages, cosmetics, medicines, etc. Methods of manufacture and glass color can all help date an archaeological site.

Grooved Axe: A type of ground stone tool which probably served a variety of chopping functions (like a modern axe). They have a sharpened blade on one end and a groove for attaching them to a stick on the opposite end.

