

ARCHAEOLOGY TOOL MATCHING

Archaeologists use a variety of tools when working on an excavation. You may already know what they are used for, but did you know that archaeologists use them while working to recover information about the past? What do they use them for? Match the pictures below with the correct definitions and find out.



Shovel: A digging tool used to move large quantities of dirt from an archaeological site during the initial phases of excavation.

Bucket: A container used to carry dirt from the area of excavation to the screen. It can be turned upside down and used as a seat during lunchtime!

Dental Pick: Archaeologists use this dentist's tool to remove dirt from around small fragile artifacts.

Screen: Tool used by archaeologists to recover small artifacts. Dirt is sifted through a mesh screen allowing artifacts to be caught in the mesh, while the dirt falls through.

Brush: A tool used by archaeologists to lightly sweep away loose dirt from artifacts and to clean up excavation areas.

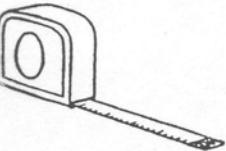
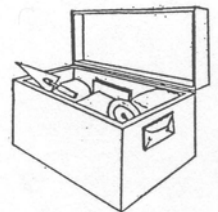
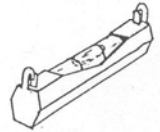
Tape Measure: Archaeologists use this tool to keep precise measurements when mapping or recording artifact locations and excavation progress.

Tool Box: A box used by archaeologists to store the equipment that they need to perform precise excavations. Tools found in a typical archaeological tool box include dental picks, trowels, brushes, measuring tapes, line levels, storage bags, pens and pencils.

Line Level: An instrument hung on a string or a line used in conjunction with a tape measure that allows for more precise measurements to be taken on an archaeological site.

Forms: Archaeologists keep precise records on everything they do. Once a site is excavated, information is lost, so archaeologists have to record every detail about an excavation. They record where they dig, what they dig, artifact locations and what they find. They also record information about the soil, sketches of site maps and virtually everything they do on the site. These paper forms become an important part of the archaeological excavation record.

Trowel: A small hand tool used by archaeologists to slowly and carefully remove soil from archaeological sites when recovering artifacts.



Div. of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 W. Washington St., Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317.232.1646; www.ai.org/dnr