

Prehistory

Mini-Lesson—cut this out and glue to the right hand page of your notebook.

Prehistory includes all the time before writing was developed and used to track information. You are probably now thinking, “Well, that would include the span of time referred to as prehistoric!”, and you would be correct! So, how do we know so much about prehistoric times? Well there are special scientists in the world called **archaeologists**, and they study fossils. Fossils actually include more than just bones. **Fossils** include items like bones, petrified remains, skin impressions, petrified eggs, leaf impressions, petrified shells, amber, solidified footprints, etc. **Artifacts**, which are human made items left behind from prehistoric times, are studied by a different scientist (discussed in the next interactive notebook assignment). Archaeologists on the other hand like to study the **Paleolithic**, **Mesolithic**, and **Neolithic** Ages. The ending part of each word, “-lithic” is Greek for stone, and the beginnings of each word is Greek for “Paleo-”, old; “Meso-”, middle; and “Neo-”, new. These three eras (spans of time) is how science has divided up the time humans have existed on earth, including our primate ancestors. So, we have the old stone age, the middle stone age, and the new stone age.

One of the steps in an archaeologist’s job is to use string to grid off an area that contains fossils. Once that is done they use tools like rock hammers, chisels, paint brushes, and dental tools to clear away the soil and rock they don’t want to uncover the fossils they do want. Every piece that is found is catalogued by which grid square it was removed from, approximate depth, photographed, numbered, and more. In the end a simulated drawing can be made by a computer show exactly where everything had laid in the ground. Archaeologists that specifically go after dinosaurs are called paleontologists. Oops, there is that prefix again, “paleo-”, meaning . . . That’s right OLD. The other cool thing about being an archaeologist is getting to travel all over the world! It is a very cool deal for just digging around in the dirt looking for things that are really, really, old.

Directions to complete left hand notebook page.

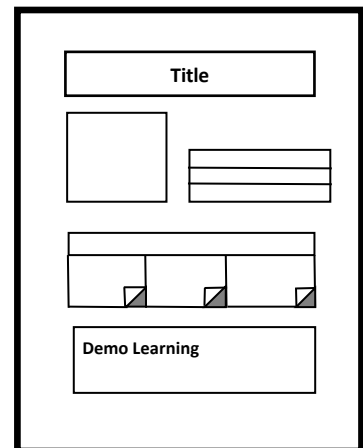
Step 1 – Color the parts that need it. (Title, pictures, flaps, lined rectangle, and background of “demonstrate your learning”).

Step 2 – Cut all the big rectangles (the little ones are part of a larger rectangle), and then the lines between the small rectangles to make flaps.

Step 3 – Use a glue stick or tape to attach all the elements to the left hand side of your notebook as shown in the picture. Careful to put glue only on the bar on top of the flaps.

Step 4 – Define archaeologist in lined rectangle next to picture, define each of the ages under the appropriate flap and glue the appropriate picture to the top of the flaps.

Step 5 – Do the “Demonstrate your learning” activity.



Demonstrate your learning.

At the bottom of the left page explain the difference between a fossil and an artifact. Be sure to give examples of each and explain how they do and don’t fit the definitions of fossil and artifact.