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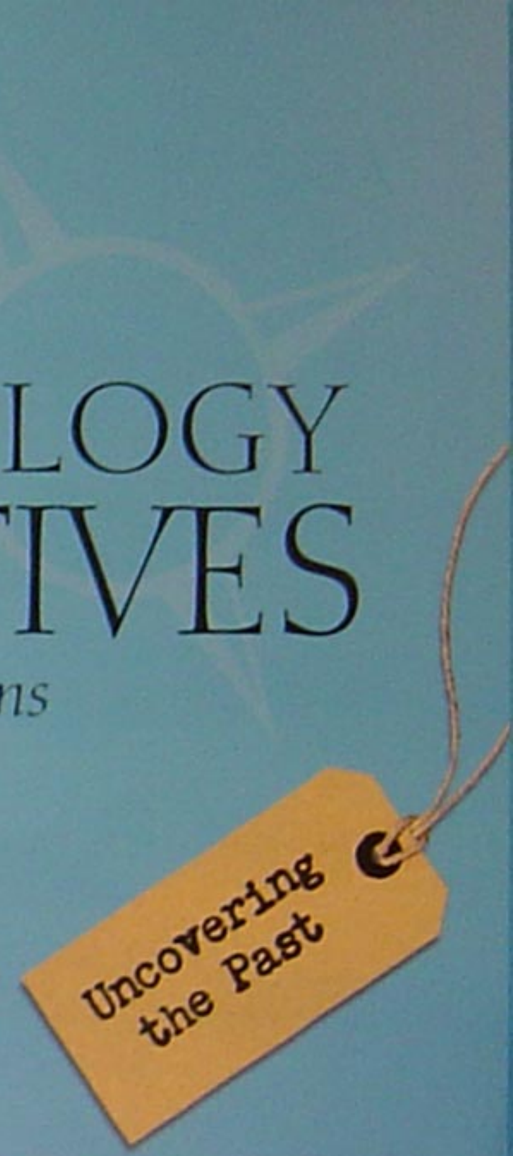
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WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

ARCHAEOLOGY IS DETECTIVE WORK IN TIME. LIKE DETECTIVES AT A CRIME SCENE, ARCHAEOLOGISTS EXAMINE EVIDENCE FROM HISTORY.

The word "archaeology" comes from the ancient Greek, meaning "the study of what is ancient". Historians study old documents, while palaeontologists study fossils. Archaeologists study both of these, as well as many other sources of information – bits of pottery, tools and weapons, human remains, sunken ships, buried treasure and the foundations of old buildings. You name it, they examine it! Every piece of material is studied to build up a picture of the past.

Archaeology can be hard, often unrewarding work. But every so often an archaeological detective will uncover a forgotten palace or buried tomb stuffed with priceless artefacts. Such finds make archaeology the most exciting form of detective work there is.

Archaeologists find ancient towns and cities and sometimes uncover great treasures.

They discover lost civilizations and understand better how people lived in the past.

SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES

Archaeologists use a wide range of scientific tools and techniques to help them locate, excavate, examine, date, preserve and display ancient remains. This Egyptian mummy is being given a computed tomography (CT) scan. The scan uses X-rays and computer enhancement to examine the embalmed body without removing its outer linen wrapping.





▲ *Human remains can tell archaeologists a lot about the people who lived in an area and the sort of life they led.*

▼ *Archaeologists excavate a site with great care, as they could easily destroy the remains they wish to uncover.*

MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY

Diving equipment and deep-sea submersibles allow archaeologists to investigate underwater settlements and shipwrecks. Sonar is used to locate the remains in the dark, murky waters or buried in the muddy sea floor. It is difficult to bring ships and other artefacts up to the surface as they have often rotted in the salty water.





LOOK CLOSER

Look closer at the world around you and you will be surprised at what lies beneath your feet. For an archaeologist, the earth contains hidden clues just waiting to be discovered.