

One method archaeologists use when **excavating** a site is to dig down only 10cm/4" at a time. Everything they find is recorded. As they dig deeper the artifacts and features become older and older; this is called **stratification**. They dig until all artifacts and features are removed or until the archaeologists have answered their questions. The soil they remove is put into a pail and sifted through a screen to find even the tiniest object.

All of the artifacts are cleaned; some photographed; others pieced together. Every artifact, no matter how small, is tagged with information on the location of the site: where it was found in the square and who dug it up and when. They do this to make sure no detail will be forgotten when they put together the puzzle.

Stratigraphy Game

Test your detective abilities by seeing if you can correctly place each object in its proper depth. Each of the artifacts shown here matches with an artifact found in the soil. Note that the deeper we go, the further back in time we travel. And the further back in time we travel, the fewer clues remain:

- metal axe
- buttons
- medicine bottle
- metal ornament
- macoma shell
- .303 cartridge shell
- large projectile point
- atlatl
- fishing lure
- small un-notched projectile point
- notched projectile point
- jack knife
- square nails
- pot shard
- large spear point

Hint: Read Dorothy's story in Alex's diary on page 9.

Answers on page 8.

