

Question: Wondering if paleontology is allowed to be addressed this year. Our local experts say the overlap is enough that they are part of archaeology. If kids can explain the connection are you okay with that?

Answer:

This year's Innovation Project topic is:

"In the UNEARTHED™ season, your team's challenge is to identify a problem faced by archaeologists and propose a solution that can help."

Based on the requirement of "a problem faced by archaeologists" it is important to understand what an archaeologist is and isn't. The definition of archaeologist from the [Cambridge Dictionary](#) is "someone who studies the buildings, graves, tools, and other objects of people who lived in the past". The teams should use the definition of archaeologist of who and what an archaeologist does and not similar fields of study. While we understand that other fields of study may have overlap in some problems, however, teams should show that their solution solves the problems of an archaeologist. We realize that teams' solutions may or may not be beneficial to other fields of study.

A great resource is the WI FLL Coaches call from Aug 25, 2015 where Professor Nam Kim does a great job talking about archaeology and what an archaeologist does. The link can be found [here](#).

The "Office of the State Archaeologist from Iowa" has provided another great resource for teams. It can be found [here](#).

Question: How should teams approach AI use? Is working with chatGPT/copilot to write code considered "prompt engineering" so it's actually the kids work?

Answer:

FIRST has published a blog post on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a guide to teams. The link to the blog post is [here](#).

While we agree with and support **FIRSTs** position, we want to remind teams to consider the [rubrics](#), some examples are working with and getting feedback from experts and other people/groups for your innovation project solution. Also remember they need to be able to understand and explain all of the team's work to the judges.