

Think Like An Archaeologist Vocabulary

Session 1	
Archaeology	Archaeology is the study of human history using material evidence from the past
Archaeologist	A person who does archaeology
Artifact	An object made by a human
Hypothesis	A possible explanation about the meaning of material evidence
Material evidence	Artifacts and other things you can see and touch; what archaeologists use to learn about the past
Session 2	
Archaeological site	A place with important material evidence that an archaeologist studies to learn more about the past
Excavation	Digging carefully to find material evidence
Survey	Searching for material evidence
Stratigraphy	Layers in the dirt
Session 3	
Arrowhead	A type of stone tool used for hunting; the tip of an arrow
Charcoal	Burnt wood, often from a fire
Context	Where material evidence is found in an archaeological site
Decompose	How material evidence breaks down over time
Midden	A garbage pile of material evidence from the past
Post	Wood used to build structures
Posthole	Hole in the earth left when posts decompose
Potsherd	A piece of broken pottery
Pottery	Artifacts made from clay, sometimes also called ceramics
Stone tool	Artifacts made from rocks
Wetu	A house lived in by Narragansett and Wampanoag people of the past
Session 4	

Conservator	Someone who puts together and preserves archaeological artifacts
Hypothesis	A possible explanation for the meaning of material evidence (a guess!)
Laboratory	A place archaeologists use for research and to analyze material evidence
Museum	A place where people research, display, and learn about material evidence