For Teachers

HANDS ON HISTORY DIG!

Dig! activities for schools will help you explore the fascinating world of archaeology in the classroom.

Archaeology is a topic that can be used to teach a variety of subjects. As well as history, it also covers a range of curriculum areas for KS2; including Art and Design, English, Maths and Personal and Social studies. You can find full details of the curriculum links for all of the UK Nations below.

Use any of the Dig! activities individually or as a set across a term. If you are planning to use all of the activities, we recommend the following order (each activity is available as an individual download online):

Activity 1. Introducing archaeology (Get colouring) an ideal introduction to archaeology. Ask the class to find each of the tools on the sheet as they colour it in. The sheet can also be used on your interactive white board. **60 mins**

Activity 2. Create an excavation – complete either in small groups or one excavation as a class. The pit you create should ideally be left to decay for eight weeks, so if you complete it early on, the class can return to the excavation at the end of the term to dig up the artefacts and see how they have changed. **90 mins x 3**

Activity 3. Paper excavation (Roman pot) – while you wait for your excavation pit to be ready to dig up, this activity will help the class try out their archaeology skills on paper first. **60 mins x 3**

Activity 4. Poos from the past (Roman, Viking, Tudor) – Use the yuck–factor to get your class interested in archaeology. **60 mins x 2**

Activity 5. Cress cropmarks – explore how landscape change is used by archaeologists to understand the past (and cover some areas of Science too). **60 mins**

Dig a little deeper
On the 'Taking it Further' download, you will find ideas for more activities and discussion points to help you explore the subject further with your class and extend each of the core Dig! activities.

Times are all approximate and may need to be adapted to suit the age and skills of your class.

bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory

Activity 1 – Get colouring

England
Art and Design
Design and Technology
History

Northern Ireland
The Arts
The World Around Us – History
The World Around Us – Science and Technology

Scotland
Expressive Arts
Social Studies

Wales
Art
Design and Technology
History

Activity 2 – Create an excavation

England
Design and Technology
English – Speaking, writing and listening
History
Mathematics
Personal, Social and Health education
Science

Northern Ireland
Language and Literacy
Mathematics and Numeracy
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
The World Around Us – History
The World Around Us – Science and Technology

Scotland
Health and Well Being – Planning for choices
 and changes
Languages: Literacy and English and/or Literacy
 and Gaidhlig
Mathematics
Sciences
Social Studies
Technologies

Wales
Design and Technology
English and/or Welsh
History
Mathematics
Personal and Social Education
Science

Activity 3 - Paper excavation (Roman pot)

England
Art and Design
Design and Technology
English – Speaking, Writing and Listening
History
Mathematics

Northern Ireland
Language and Literacy
Mathematics and Numeracy
The Arts – Art and Design
The World Around us – History
The World Around us – Science and Technology

Scotland
Languages: Literacy and English and/or Literacy
 and Gaidhlig
Mathematics
Social Studies
Technologies – ICT and Computing Science,
 Engineering, Design and Graphics

Wales
English and/or Welsh
Design and Technology
History
Mathematics

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BBC HANDS ON HISTORY DIG!

Activity 4 – Poos from the past (Roman, Tudor, Viking)

England
English – Speaking, Writing and Listening
Geography
History
Personal, Social and Health Education
Science

Northern Ireland
Language and Literacy
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
The World Around Us – Geography
The World Around Us – History
The World Around Us – Science and Technology

Scotland
Engineering, Design and Graphics
Health and Well Being – Planning for Choices and Changes
Languages: Literacy and English and/or Literacy and Gaidhlig
Sciences
Social Studies
Technologies – ICT and Computing Science,

Wales
English – Speaking, Writing and Listening
Geography
History
Mathematics
Science

Activity 5 – Cress cropmarks

England
Art and Design
Design and Technology
English – Speaking, Writing and Listening
History
Mathematics

Northern Ireland
Language and Literacy
Mathematics and Numeracy
The World Around Us – Geography
The World Around Us – History
The World Around Us – Science and Technology

Scotland
Engineering, Design and Graphics
Languages: Literacy and English and/or Literacy and Gaidhlig
Mathematics
Sciences
Social Studies
Technologies – ICT and Computing Science,

Wales
English and/or Welsh
Geography
History
Mathematics
Science