

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

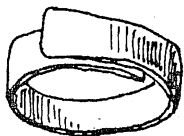
# Become an Archaeologist

A scientist who studies past civilizations is called an **archaeologist**. He or she often travels to a site where a past civilization existed and excavates the area in order to find objects produced or shaped by people of a previous civilization. These items, which are often tools, pottery, or weapons, are called **artifacts**. By studying these artifacts, archaeologists are able to infer what the past civilization was like. To **infer** or to make an **inference** simply means that the archaeologist makes a conclusion based on the artifacts discovered. Here is an example. Suppose an archaeologist is excavating a site and she finds a large number and variety of weapons. She might conclude the civilization spent much of its time at war. If agricultural items such as plows, yokes, or scythes are found, she might infer that the people were farmers.

This sounds simple enough, but it really isn't. First of all, whole or complete items are rarely found. Usually only bits and pieces of pottery, tools, or statues are uncovered. Second, the artifact may have been changed or damaged by the earth or water by being buried for so long. Third, identifying these bits and pieces is not always easy. If a piece of metal shaped like an ax is found, the archaeologist must decide if it is a tool, a weapon, or something else.

Let's see how good an archaeologist you are. Shown below are several artifacts discovered at a site. Listed with each artifact is its composition and a short description. You are to identify the artifacts and state their probable uses. Your next step is to make inferences about the civilization that used them. In other words, what do you know about the civilization based on the artifacts?

- 1. Silver—1 inch in diameter




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- 2. Bronze—sharp at bottom




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- 3. Bronze—3 inches high




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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Terra Cotta—3 inches long



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5. Bone—3 inches long



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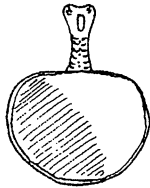
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6. Polished bronze



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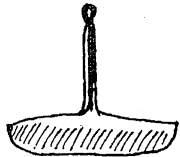
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7. Bronze—sharp on bottom



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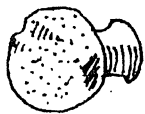
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8. Terra Cotta—length 3/4 inch



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9. Stone—5 feet high



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