



Society for American Archaeology

# ArchaeologyLand!

ArchaeologyLand! was created to provide professional archaeologists with a set of hands-on interactive activities that could be replicated at local archaeological events. In 2005, ArchaeologyLand! premiered as the first hands-on interactive “forum” ever held at an SAA annual conference.



## Organizing an Event

This CD contains a number of hands-on archaeology and cultural history-based activities that have been successfully used with children (and adults) at archaeological events. Activities are laid out in a “recipe” style so that they may be reproduced for use at a local or state archaeology “fair” or other event where the audience is not necessarily “captive” or cohesive, as in a classroom setting.

## Space and Setup

All of the activities contained on this CD can be done indoors or outdoors. The only major consideration in using an outdoor space would be weather. The only activity that has a special space consideration is the Pictograph Wall activity. It requires a wall that can have paper taped to it. The number and nature of the activities chosen for use at an event will depend on the available time, space, and number of volunteers.



## Orienting the Visitor

Since visitors to the event bring with them various experiences, it is helpful to provide some information regarding the archaeological process that will provide a general base of knowledge. It is also helpful to provide the visitor with a “map” listing the activities. Since the primary audience for these activities is generally under the age of 18, it is important to make both the map and the information as interactive and entertaining as possible. Examples of two maps and one information page are provided on the CD.

## Supplies and Suppliers

In addition to the products that visitors create, it can be very helpful to provide visitors with a bag of handouts, thereby extending the visitor experience and offering the possibility of additional contact. If the Pictograph Wall activity is used, each visitor can personalize their bag with a handprint. Many organizations have small items that can be provided for archaeology events free or at a nominal cost. Examples of handouts that have been provided in the past include:

- balloons with a preservation organization’s contact information
- pencils from the State Historic Preservation office with their logo
- *American Archaeology* magazine, donated by the Archaeological Conservancy
- *PIT Traveler* newsletters from the US Forest Service

- “Don’t let the past become history!” bookmarks from a state-based archaeological organization
- bookmarks from the Bureau of Land Management
- archaeology event coloring books

### Activities

**Pottery Design Replication:** Visitors use clay and incising tools to replicate ceramic designs.

**Pottery Design Transfer:** Visitors use an ink transfer process to record pottery designs.

**Split Twig Figurines:** Visitors learn the process of making split twig figurines and receive information on the original effigies.

**The Archaeological Laboratory:** Visitors measure, weigh, and draw artifacts or replicas of artifacts.

**The Cordage Site:** Visitors make a cordage bracelet using raffia and a bead.

**The Petroglyph Site:** Visitors produce a petroglyph on a “rock”.

**The Pictograph Wall:** Visitors contribute to the production of a rock art panel by leaving a hand print.

**The Pottery Village Site:** Visitors color pot designs then cut them into “sherds” to make a pot puzzle.



### Activity Organization

The activities include information that will help the organizer with preparation of the event as well as preparation and procedures for each activity. Each activity is laid out in an identical format that includes the following categories.

**Age:** The minimum age for children based on manual dexterity and the ability to write, count, draw, and measure as the specific activity requires.

**Objectives:** The essence of what the activity is trying to teach.

**Materials:** A listing of all materials including those provided in the lesson and those that will need to be purchased.

**Preparation:** What needs to be made, copied, or produced prior to the actual event.

**Number of volunteers:** Generally, a ratio of one adult volunteer to four children will work for most activities, but some activities require more personalized attention.

**Procedure:** What is done by the volunteers and the visitors at the event.

**What they take away:** Products that will be taken by the visitor along with a fact sheet containing a preservation message.

**Preservation message:** How to report a find, how to protect a resource, and how to contact the State Historic Preservation Office.

### Credits

The Petroglyph Site activity was designed by Phoebe Eskenazi. Nancy Hawkins created the Pottery Design Transfer and Pottery Incising activities. The Archaeological Laboratory, Cordage Site, Pictograph Wall, Pottery Village Site, and Split Twig Figurines activities were designed by Carol Ellick. Editing assistance was provided by Cameron Walker and Joe Watkins. SAA President Lynne Sebastian tested the Split Twig Figurine instructions. Special thanks to the SRI Foundation for providing support for the production of these materials.