

WHOSE GARBAGE IS IT?

ARTIFACT INTERPRETATION

*The Archaeology Discovery Box at the Archives contains three packages of garbage for investigation. To complete this activity at home, pair up with a friend. You and your friend should collect and clean 10 pieces of garbage. Meet your friend and trade garbage. Use this activity sheet to investigate your friend and his/her family. *

Look through (excavate) the selection of “artifacts” and think about what these objects have in common. Think about who might have purchased, used, and discarded these items. Answer each question and provide “evidence” of how you came to the answer.

1. Who is represented? (individual, couple, family, other)
2. What is their gender? (male, female, or both present)
3. How old are they? (child, teen, adult, elderly)
4. What is their economic class? (lower, middle, upper)
5. Do you see any other pattern?
6. What other artifacts might you find to confirm your hypothesis (guess)?
7. How do you know the garbage is from your culture?

Summarize your answers and describe the kind of person who used these items:

