

# VOCABULARY

**ARCHAEOLOGY:** The scientific study of past human life, such as culture, technology, and behavior based on the examination of what the people left behind, including written records, artifacts, structures, trash dumps, and soil.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE:** A place where human activity occurred and material remains were left.



**ARTIFACT:** Any object made or used by humans.

**CLASSIFICATION:** A system of grouping into categories or subjects.

**CROSS-DATING:** The principle that an artifact at one site will be the same approximate age when found elsewhere.



**CULTURE:** A set of learned beliefs, values, and behaviors shared by members of a society.

**EXCAVATE:** To dig in soil in a specific place while recording the site with the purpose of uncovering artifacts.

**GRID:** A network of uniformly spaced squares that divides into units. Used to measure and record artifacts that are excavated.

**HYPOTHESIS:** A scientific guess based on evidence that requires further investigation.

**OBSERVATION:** Recognizing or noting a fact or occurrence.

**PREHISTORIC:** The period of time before written records.

**STRATA:** Many layers of earth or levels in an archaeological site.

**STRATIGRAPHY:** The layering of deposits in archaeological sites. Cultural remains and natural sediments become buried over time, forming strata.

**SURVEY:** The systematic examination of the ground surface in search of archaeological site.

