

Jewish Museum

MY ARCHAEOLOGIST'S NOTEBOOK

NAME

Welcome to the Jewish Museum's simulated dig site.
You are invited to take on the role of an archaeologist
and make your own discoveries.

Use this notebook to record what you find.

What do archaeologists do?



Archaeologists dig for artifacts! An **artifact** is an object made by a person; it can provide us with information about what life was like in the past and in more recent times. In our dig, you will discover **replicas**, or copies, of artifacts in the Jewish Museum's collection.



How do they dig?

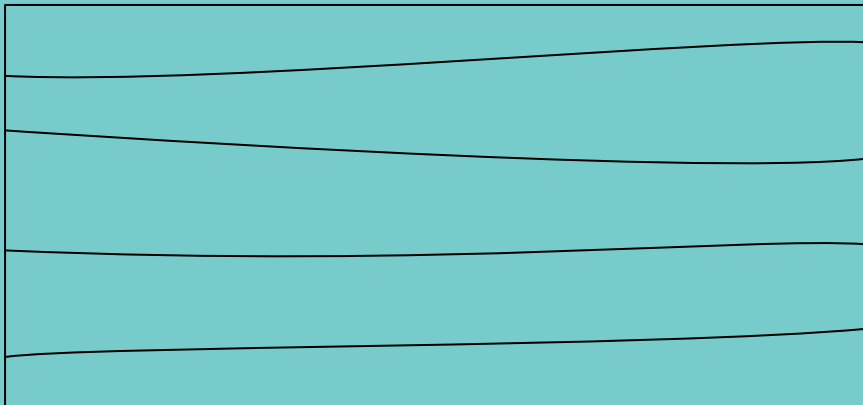


Find examples of tools in this room used by archaeologists to dig for and discover artifacts. Learn more about each tool at the back of this notebook.

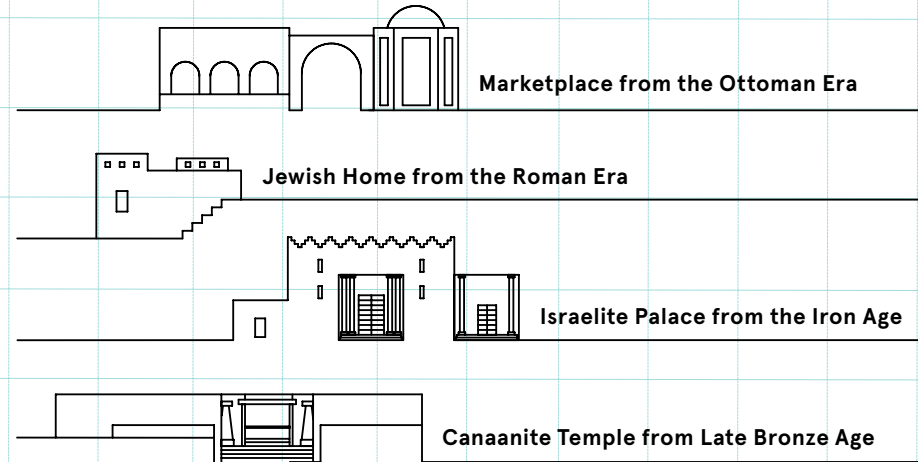
Strata or Layers of Time



Each dig pit represents a different era of time. Notice the timeline on the wall and the layers or **strata** to show how the deeper you go, the older the artifacts discovered are.



On this imaginary site, each layer once housed a different building or neighborhood from a different moment in time.

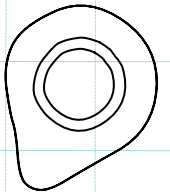


Can you find the original artifacts from the Jewish Museum's collection that are from these four eras of time?

☐ Jug ☐ Jar Handle ☐ Oil Lamp ☐ Coffee Pot



Choose one object and draw its shape or outline.

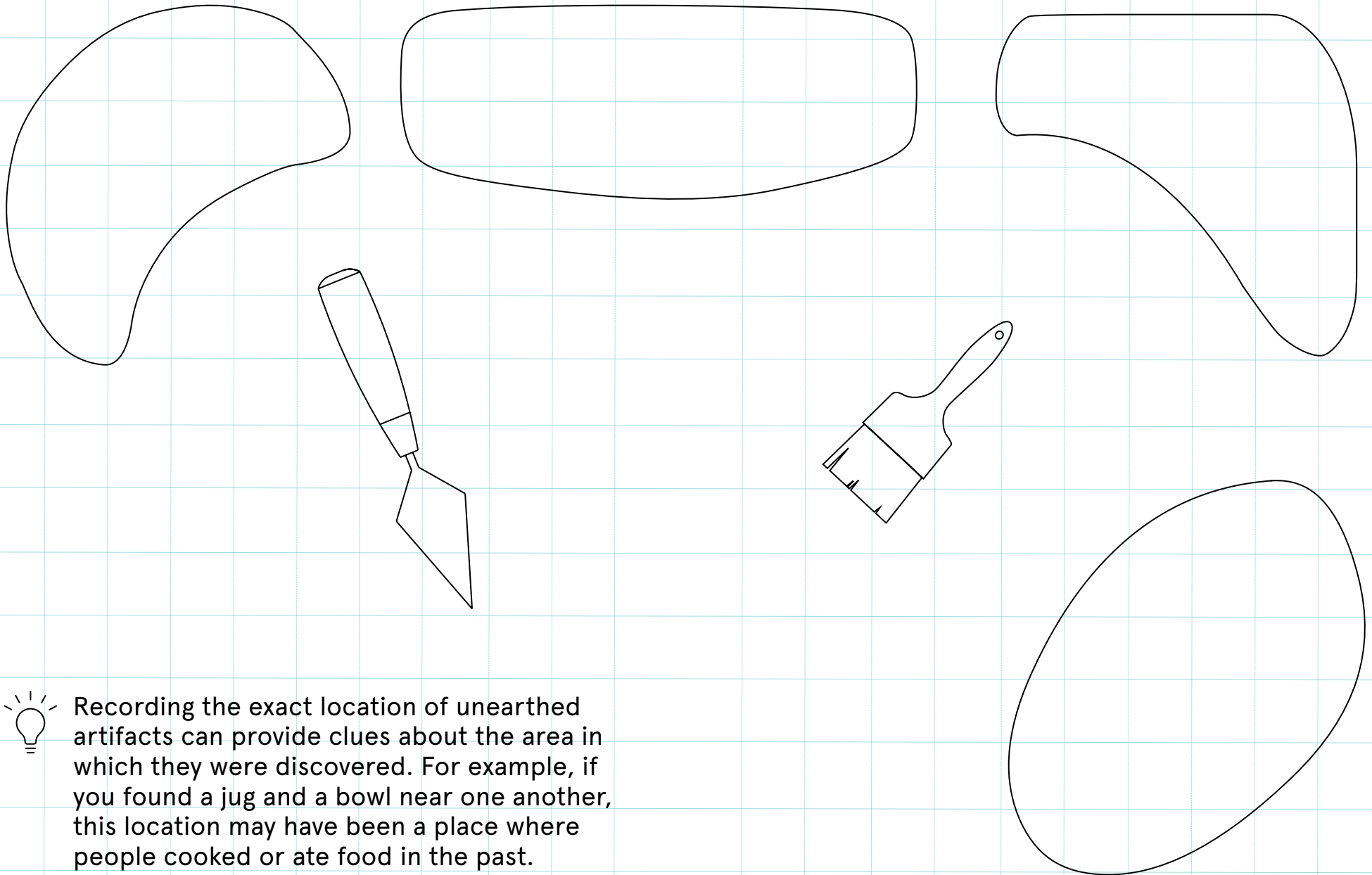


Let's Dig!

Gather a trowel and brush and choose a dig pit to investigate.



After you find an artifact, mark its location – the place where you discovered it – on the diagram.



Recording the exact location of unearthed artifacts can provide clues about the area in which they were discovered. For example, if you found a jug and a bowl near one another, this location may have been a place where people cooked or ate food in the past.

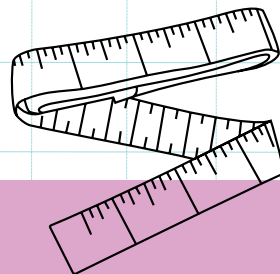
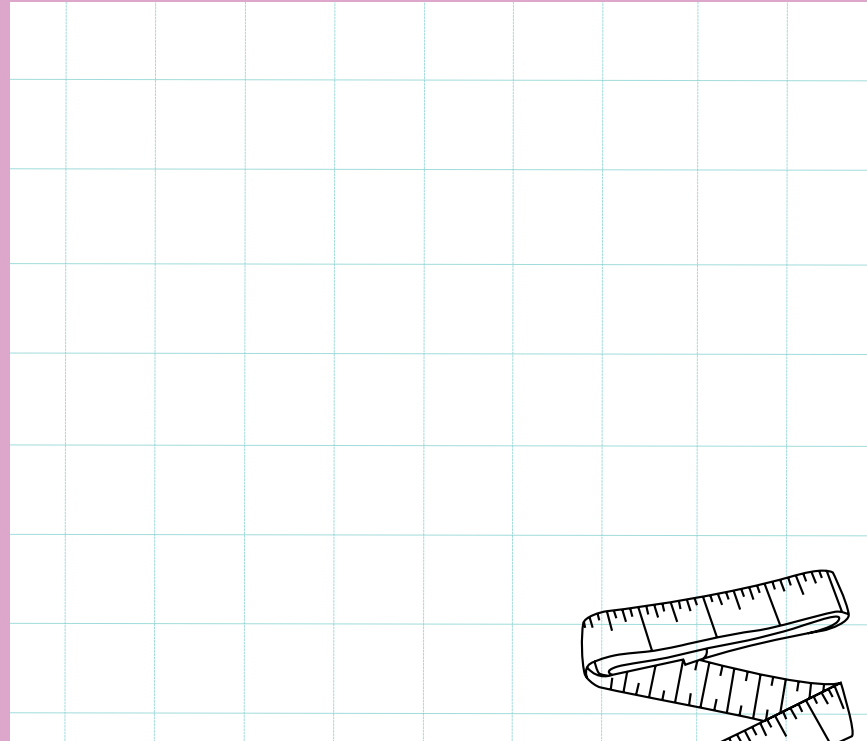
Draw and Observe

Congratulations on your find! Now it's time to study, examine, and make observations about the artifact.

One of the best ways to begin making observations is to draw what you have found.



In the space below, draw your objects from two different perspectives: top, bottom, or from the side!



Measure your artifact.
Write your measurements on your drawing.

Texture and Material



Archaeologists learn a lot about an artifact by analyzing its texture, surface, and any unique details to figure out the material from which it was made.



Make some notes to describe the texture and try to identify the material.



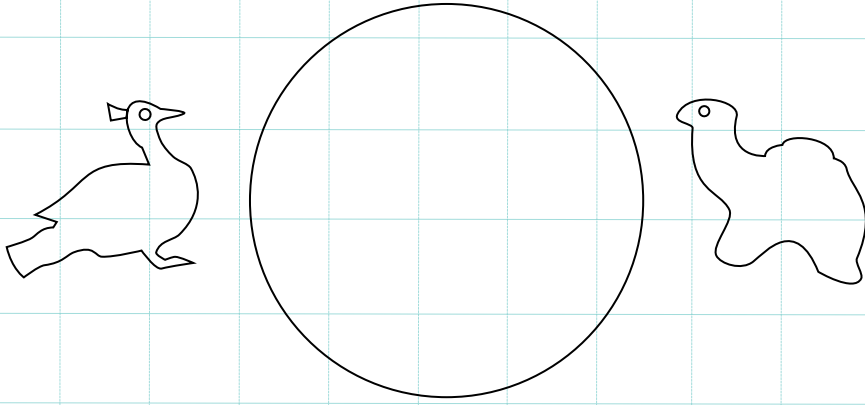
Since this is a replica or copy, you can handle the object and study it in different ways. Place the artifact under this page and lightly rub the page with a pencil. This quick rubbing will record the texture!



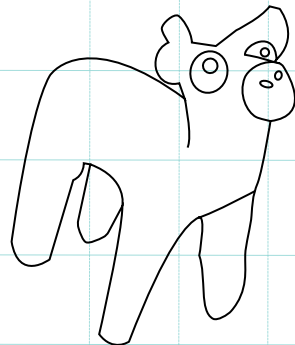
A pattern, symbol, or unique detail may provide more information about how an object was used and if it held special meaning.



Draw a unique detail from your artifact in the small circle below.



If you discovered other artifacts, feel free to draw them here. These other artifacts will give you more clues about the site.



Reflect and Share



Now let's try to make a thoughtful guess or hypothesis as archaeologists about the artifact you uncovered. Talk to a grown-up or friend about your artifact and make notes below!

How do you think your object was used?

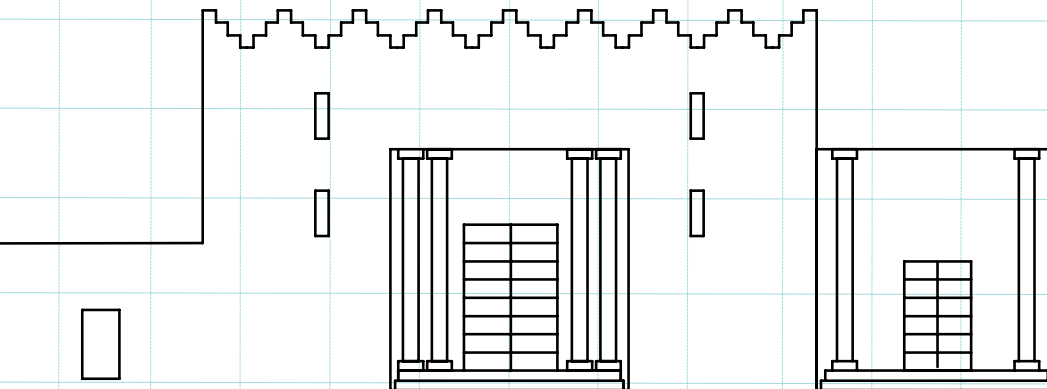
Does the object remind you of something in your daily life?

Describe any details you found unique.

At Home

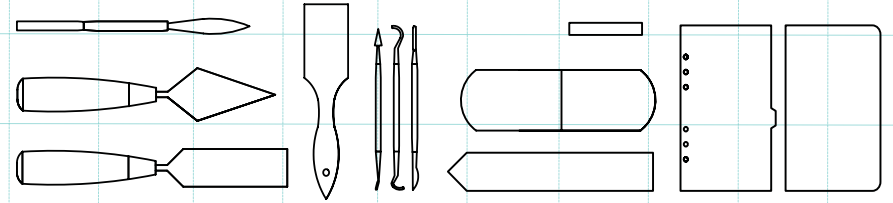


Look around and create a list of several objects or artifacts your family uses or enjoys in your home. How do these artifacts tell someone about what life is like in your home? Draw a picture of one artifact that is special to you!



Archaeologist Tools

Discover how these tools are used below:



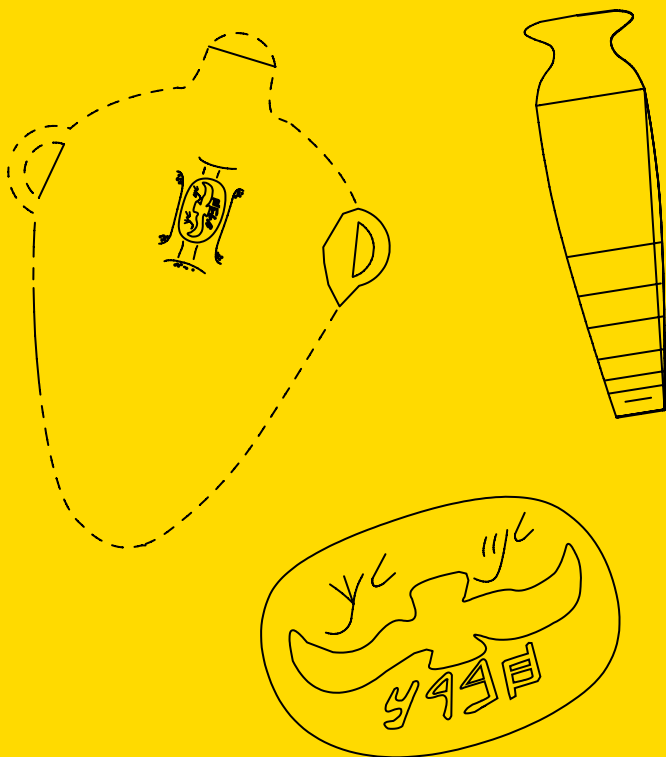
Artifact	Any object made or used by people. Artifacts are studied to learn how people once lived.
Trowels	Used to carefully scrape away layers of dirt to reveal artifacts buried under the ground.
Brushes	Different sized brushes, from soft paintbrushes to brooms, are used to gently sweep away dirt from fragile artifacts to avoid causing damage.
Dental Picks	Used to remove stubborn dirt from small artifacts, similar to the way a dentist uses these picks to clean your teeth.
Level	A tool containing a liquid-filled tube with an air bubble that moves to show when the surface is straight horizontally, which helps archaeologists create a grid of strings and stakes to map the site.
Compass	Used to make accurate site maps and record the precise location of artifacts to indicate where the object was found in relation to others.
North Arrow	Including this scale in photographs of artifacts or structural features, such as a building or firepit, helps determine the actual size of artifacts and structures in the photograph.
Photo Scale	
Munsell Soil Chart	A chart to note differences in soil color, which helps archaeologists understand what is left in the soil, what may have disappeared over time, and whether an artifact was moved after it was buried.
Notebook	Used to record observations about the artifacts that are uncovered, the soil in which the artifacts were buried, and the depth of the soil.

Thank you for visiting the Jewish Museum.

For information on Family Programs at the Jewish Museum, visit TheJewishMuseum.org/Families or sign up for our eNews at TheJewishMuseum.org/eNews.

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5th Ave at 92nd St, NYC
TheJewishMuseum.org
Under the auspices of the
Jewish Theological Seminary

