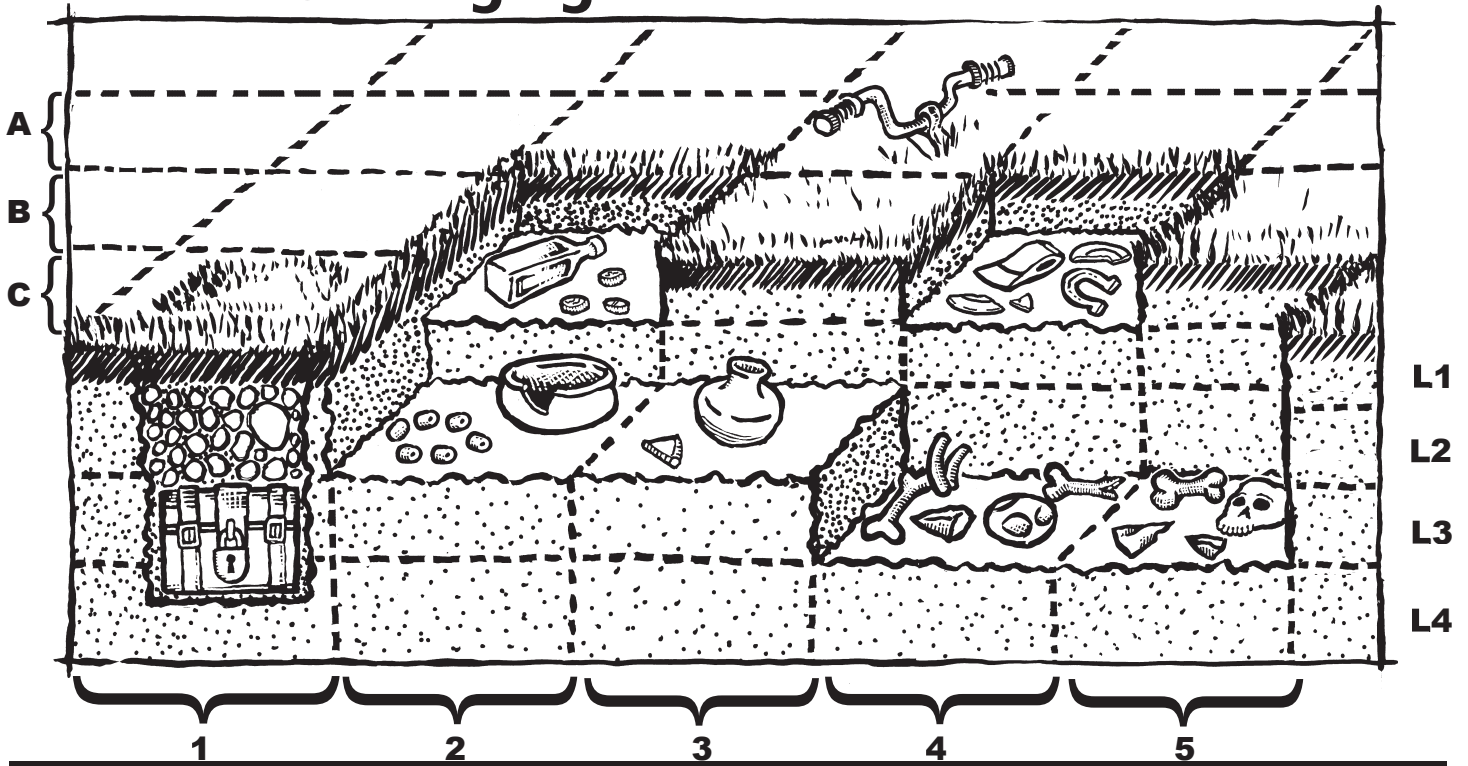


Cataloging artifacts

Name: _____



	B2.L1.01				

Cataloging artifacts

Instructions:

An important part of an archaeological dig is keeping good records. On a dig, archaeologists must not only keep track of the objects they find, but also of the places they find them. Every object is then given a unique identification number to help with cataloging and to remember where the object was found. There are many ways archaeologists can do this.

Use the graph to help catalog the items found at a recent dig and give each object its own unique number. To do this you are going to find each object's position on a grid as well as the depth they are found at.

Each object's number is in three parts.

Example: the bottle is object number: B2.L1.01

The first part of the number is the area on the grid the object was found in. "B" and "2" intersect with each other at the bottle.

The second part of the number is the level or depth the object was found in. In the case of the bottle it is "L2" because it was found at the second level.

The third part is the order in which the object was cataloged or found. In the case of the bottle it is "01" because it is the first object cataloged. If it was the second object it would be "02" or if it was the twenty-first it would be "21." In the case of the objects found at this dig, number them corresponding to the order on your worksheet.

In addition to these methods, archaeologists use other ways to identify objects. Some may add the year it was found or the place they found it.

Cataloging artifacts

Answer key

The last category; "order in which the object was found" numbers will vary from student to student but should show a linear order from the top layer to the bottom layer. The numbers for this are suggestions.

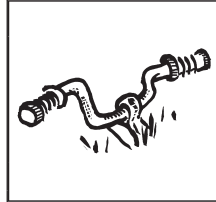
Bonus Question: The Scientific name of the fort is "21Mo20." 21=Minnesota Mo=Morrison County 20=20th recorded archaeological site in the county.

In addition to these, you may wish to discuss the other two objects in the illustration that are not cataloged. The Chest and the bike handle bars.




























Questions to ask:



- The chest is at the same level as the stone tools. Is it of the same time period?
- How did it get there?
- Look at the soil around the chest. Does it look disrupted?
- How do archaeologists date the items they find?



- Are the bike handle bars something an archaeologist would be interested in cataloging?
- Much of what archaeologists dig up today was the unwanted garbage of yesterday. What's the difference between studying today's garbage and the garbage of ancient China?

 B2.L1.01	 B4.L1.10	 B4.L1.19
 C3.L2.02	 C2.L2.11	 C2.L2.20
 B2.L1.03	 C4.L1.12	 C4.L1.21
 C5.L1.04	 C2.L2.13	 C2.L2.22
 B4.L1.05	 C4.L1.14	 C5.L1.23
 B2.L1.06	 C2.L2.15	 C2.L2.24
 C2.L2.07	 C4.L1.16	 C5.L1.25
 B4.L1.08	 C3.L2.17	 B4.L1.26
 C5.L1.09	 C4.L1.18	 B2.L1.27