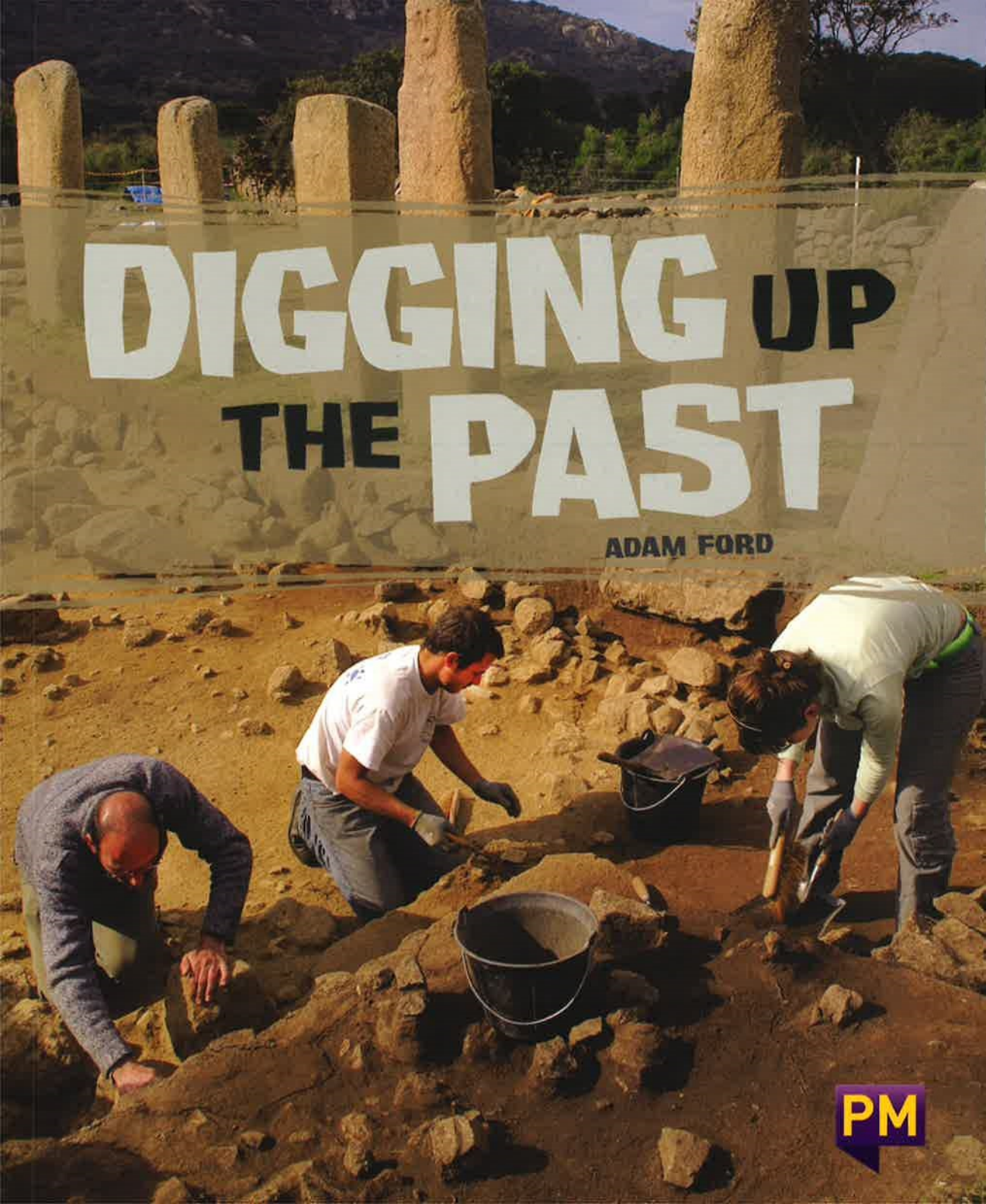

DIGGING UP THE PAST
ADAM FORD
PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Digging Up the Past

Level 30

Running Words 2402 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–21
Personal Recount (Informative) pages 22–29

Curriculum Areas Humanities – Geography; Humanities – History; Science

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Explain why archaeologists have to be extremely careful when they dig at a site.
2 Justify the importance of the work accomplished by archaeologists.
3 Not all artefacts found beneath the sea are from shipwrecks Establish why this might be so.
4 Suggest reasons why the advanced engineering knowledge from the Roman Empire 2000 years ago was lost for so long.
5 Imagine you are at an organised archaeological dig and have found an important object. Describe how everyone at the site reacted, then describe what happened next

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'The Terracotta Army'.
2 Prepare the text for a slide show of this exciting discovery.
3 Edit and revise your text and photographs.
4 Present the slide show at a senior school assembly.
5 Critically evaluate feedback from the audience.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 29	Book	Information Report/Explanation	*Mapping the World*
Level 30	Book	Information Report	*They Fought for Justice*

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DIGGING UP THE PAST

ADAM FORD
ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURA SUA

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What Is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of human history through the discovery, recovery and examination of physical remains left behind by peoples of the past. The word "archaeology" comes from ancient Greek words: *arkhaios*, which means "ancient" and *logia*, meaning "the study of". It is pronounced *ar-key-o-lo-gee*.

An archaeologist is the name given to a person who works in the field of archaeology. An archaeologist looks at **fragments** of the human past, from the first ape-like toolmakers of east Africa, about 4 million years ago, to the relatively recent history of the early twentieth century.



The author, archaeologist Adam Ford (left), and a colleague uncover human remains at a 10 000-year-old site in Turkey.



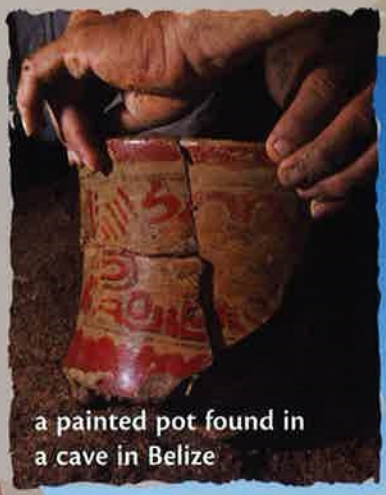
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Archaeologists look for clues to explain some prehistoric stone structures, found at an archaeological site in Corsica, France.

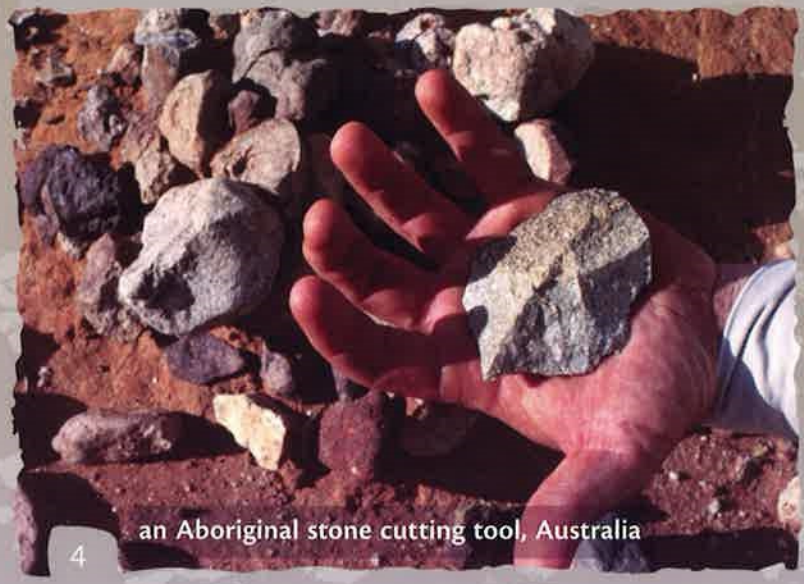
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Historians generally use written records, such as books, art and **inscriptions**, to piece together what happened in the past. But archaeologists look at objects, known as artefacts, for clues about the ancient history of people.

An artefact is anything that has been made or altered in some way by humans. Artefacts can be things that were owned or used, such as stone tools, pottery or glass **vessels**, and metal objects such as weapons. They can be things that people wore, such as jewellery and clothing. Artefacts can also be **remnants** of where people lived, including the ruins of houses and castles, or where people prayed, such as temples and churches. Artefacts can be tiny, such as a single glass bead, or they can be huge, like the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. The most personal artefacts are, of course, the remains of the people themselves: their skeletons.

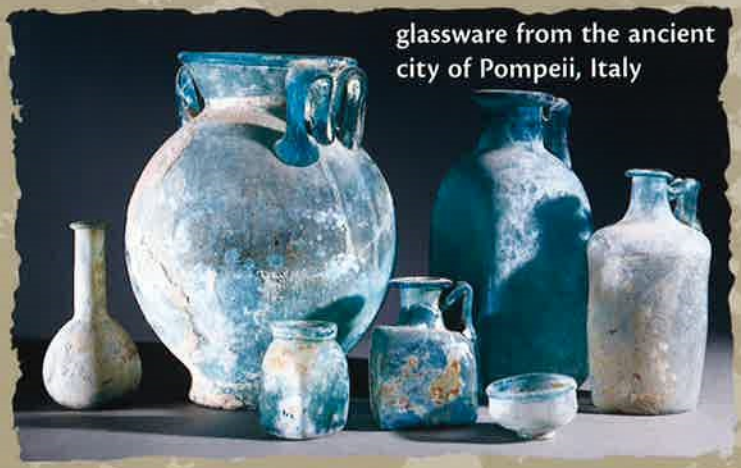


a painted pot found in a cave in Belize

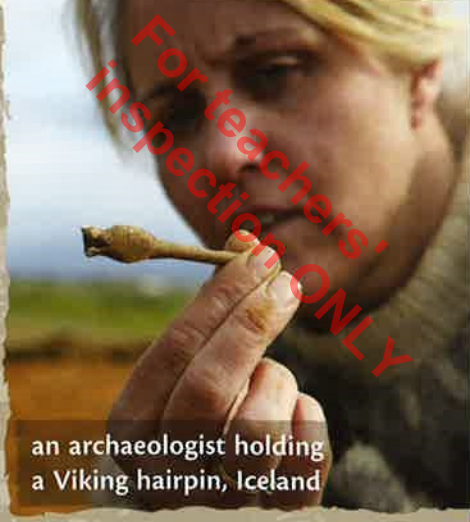


an Aboriginal stone cutting tool, Australia





glassware from the ancient city of Pompeii, Italy



an archaeologist holding a Viking hairpin, Iceland

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the Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

What Does an Archaeologist Do?

Sometimes, people are confused about what archaeologists do. Archaeologists do not study dinosaurs. Dinosaurs died out about 60 million years before the earliest humans appeared. Dinosaur remains are **excavated** and studied by palaeontologists. Archaeologists do not study gold, either. Gold is the focus of geologists. However, the discovery of a golden dinosaur would be of interest to any archaeologist!

In order to discover evidence of the historic activities of our **ancestors**, archaeologists dig holes in the ground, very slowly. This process is called excavation. Archaeological excavation is paced slowly, because archaeologists know that an excavation is an unrepeatable experiment. The archaeologist has only one chance at digging a **site**.



Brushes and trowels are used to carefully uncover human remains.

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A team of archaeologists slowly excavates an ancient indigenous site at Shields Pueblo, in Colorado, the USA.

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PM Level 30

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Did you know that some people travel around the world digging things out of the ground for a living? Archaeologist Adam Ford explains exactly what his job involves. Read about the types of places an archaeologist can work in and the sorts of things they find. And find out what makes an ordinary house turn into a ruin over many years.

Adam recounts the childhood event that made him want to become an archaeologist, some of the faraway places his job has taken him to and the amazing discoveries he's made while "digging up" the past. Learn why peering into history – through archaeology – can teach us so much about today.



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