

LESSON DESIGN

ARCHAEOLOGY

MEASURING DISTANCE

OVERVIEW: Students will learn measuring techniques by simulating how archaeologists locate, measure and record artifacts using two points of reference on a dig.

OBJECTIVE: Given a sheet of paper with four pre-drawn artifacts, the students will be able to measure and record the metric distance of each from the top of the page (North), the right of the page (East), and from each other.

SET: The teacher will hold up the 8.5” by 11” paper and ask, “How far apart are these artifacts from the top and the right side of the page? How far apart are they from each other? Today we are going to learn how archaeologists locate, measure and record where they find things. We will use these techniques later on our dig.”

INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES: The teacher will show a metric ruler, draw one on the board, and have students count the millimeter marks. The teacher will model how to locate by measuring and recording distances using several pre-drawn rectangles containing artifacts on the board, measuring the closest North and East points to each artifact, and then measuring between artifacts, as archaeologists usually do.

TEST OF OBJECTIVES: The teacher will pass out the pre-drawn sheets of paper and have students measure and record these measurements in millimeters. The teacher will move about the room helping the students.

EXTENSION: The students can measure and record the distances of items at home. Higher students may measure and record longer distances between objects in the room with meter tapes and also help other students.

GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME: 1st and 2nd. Metric tapes and rulers, 8.5”x11” paper (simulating an excavation unit) with artifacts and ordinal directions drawn on them. One to two periods.

GENERAL COMMENTS: Show a short video or pictures of an archaeological dig and point out how the sheets of paper represents a four-sided excavation pit (unit).

ANY QUESTIONS? E-mail me at schneiderg@sbcglobal.net
George Schneider, B.A., M.A. (Anthropology), Elementary Teacher