

Information for Teachers

The Science of Archaeology: Excavation

KS3 Session at Flag Fen



Flag Fen is recognised as the finest Bronze Age archaeological site in northern Europe. This 'Science of Archaeology: Excavation' lasts half a day and celebrates the role of archaeology as a way of investigating the past and understanding a different way of life.



Be an Archaeologist

In our indoor simulated archaeological dig, pupils will use a variety of excavation tools and techniques to unearth and record genuine archaeological finds. Through the experience, they will find out more about archaeology and the role of the archaeologist. In their discoveries, they will learn how to interpret evidence, develop their understanding of chronology and get an insight into life in the past. They will also be introduced to the concept of stratigraphy – a principal process in archaeology.

Please note that we use clean, shredded recycled rubber in our dig pits. The rubber reacts in the same way as soil, but creates an obviously much cleaner and healthier environment to work in.

National curriculum links: Science, English, History.

Vivacity Heritage Education Service
 Peterborough Museum, Flag Fen and Longthorpe Tower
 01733 864 700 or email: museum.education@vivacity-peterborough.com

Learning objectives:

Participating in this session, pupils will:

- use appropriate techniques, apparatus and materials during fieldwork developing their understanding of the scientific method involved in archaeological excavation.
- develop their scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding in relation to archaeological science and stratigraphy.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of archaeological science through participation in an enquiry that helps them to answer specific questions about the world around them.
- be able to record results on a grid.
- understand the importance of accurate recording.
- be able to make deductions using, appropriate technical language, from evidence obtained in excavation.
- understand the importance of team working in the archaeological method.
- show an understanding that science is, and always has been used in the real world.

Other information:

Duration:	Half-day.
Cost:	£135 (Peterborough City Council schools) / £150 (other schools). If there are less than 20 pupils: £120 (Peterborough City Council schools) / £140 (other schools).
Maximum group size:	Maximum number per group is 30 and the site can accommodate 1 group
Recommended ratio:	Minimum 1 adult to 8 students.
What to bring:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable outdoor clothing for predicted weather.
Booking information:	To book, please contact us by phone or email. When the activities and date are agreed, a booking form and risk assessment is emailed to you. To confirm the visit we ask that you complete the booking form and email it back to us.
A note about behaviour:	School staff have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support Flag Fen staff with this where necessary. As you know, pupils benefit significantly when school adults also get involved in the workshops so please join in where appropriate.
Pre-visits:	We welcome and encourage pre-visits as it will give you an opportunity to meet a member of the Flag Fen Education Team; familiarise yourself with the site; go through the risk assessment, format of the day and activities and discuss any further needs. Please note that we accept that there may be a need to bring along dependent children, if this is the case, please advise us in advance. Additional adults and children and additional time on site will be chargeable at the normal visitor rate on the day of the pre-visit.
Optional and additional activities:	If you would like to extend your visit to a full day, we can accommodate 2 groups. The following session works particularly well. Please contact us for more information. Extra charges are applicable. The Science of Archaeology: Water Analysis After collecting water samples from various sites within the Archaeological park, students will apply the scientific method to determine the likelihood of the park's undiscovered archaeology being preserved. They will use specialist scientific equipment to take recordings, collate results and analyse the data.

"Today has been great! We are very keen to come back with another group of students next year to do another Archaeological Science Session at Flag Fen." (Teacher at Thomas Deacon Academy)

"I liked how it was a combination of science and history." (Student at Thomas Deacon Academy)

"I loved it because you experienced being an archaeologist." (Student at Thomas Deacon Academy)

"It was so much fun to dig and find the artefacts." (Student at Thomas Deacon Academy)



We are happy to tweak the sessions according to your needs.