



The Archaeologist
History – Junior Cert
Quick Notes

The Archaeologist

Archaeology is the building up of a picture of the past, without checking written evidence. Archaeology is helpful for studying lifestyles in prehistoric times. Artefacts are objects from the past that can end up in a variety of places e.g. deserts or bogs. Archaeology is also of great benefit to tourism e.g. Newgrange. However, with this comes the danger of theft, and erosion so these sites need to be protected, from natural threat as well as everything else. The archaeologist's work involves excavating remains left behind, from skeletons to stone tools to houses. The site of excavation is known as the dig. Archaeologists use brushes trowels and sieves. Archaeologists use four main methods to date their finds – stratigraphy, carbon-14 dating, dendrochronology and pollen analysis. Archaeologists may discover sites by accidental discovery, local knowledge, surface features, clues from ancient literature, mapwork, aerial photography, phosphate analysis. Some archaeological finds in Ireland were the Céide Fields in Mayo and Wood Quay in Dublin.

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