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CONTINUE TO THE NEXT ROOM 'BODIES AND BONES'

Osteo-archaeologists (specialist archaeologists who study skeletons) can help us understand more about diseases and the health of a population.



Look around the room.

Write three other pieces of information we can get by studying skeletons.

A.

B.

C.

10

CONTINUE TO THE LAB – DATING ARTEFACTS

Go to the display case to the left. Inside are artefacts that have been dated using different scientific methods. Refer to the labels and tick the methods you would use to date the artefacts below.



Dating Methods ▼	Artefacts ►	A wooden bowl	A sword	A leather shoe	A ceramic pot	Animal bones
Typology (styles and trends)						
Radio Carbon dating (artefacts made from a once living thing)						
Dendro-chronology						
Thermo-Luminescence (objects made from soil)						

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SOIL SAMPLES

Archaeologists also sample soil around burials and artefacts they have excavated. In the first microscope you can see that walnuts were discovered in a Viking house.



(A) Read the information beside the microscope.

What ideas can you form about Viking society from this evidence?

Look in the other microscope and find the beetle 'Cercyon Unipunctatus'.



(B) Read the information beside the microscope.

Can you think of two reasons animals may have been indoors?

A.

B.

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CONSERVATION

Excavated artefacts can be fragile and in need of urgent conservation as they can often decay further once they are exposed to the air.

Open up the blue folder in the corner of the lab. You will see a picture of the axehead from the first display case before it was conserved. Powerful but delicate lazer beams were used to chip away the grit around the artefact and expose the original surface.



Do you think you would have recognised this artefact as an axehead if you had excavated it from the ground?

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Finally

Read the question posted at the end of the exhibition. Write a response to this in the space below.



Outside an Excavation Site

Archaeology is underneath our feet, under the paths and roads we walk on every day. When construction is planned on a site, developers must employ archaeologists to survey the area. If they find any archaeology then a full excavation takes place. This type of urban archaeology can often reveal how cities, like Dublin, were established.

Site Hut

Excavation

Post-Excavation

Library

Wood Quay

Bodies and Bones

The Lab

Archaeology Today

**TRY ON THE
HIGH VISIBILITY
VESTS TO FEEL
LIKE A REAL
ARCHAEOLOGIST!**



take a picture!

1

WALK ONTO THE SITE HUT

This is where an excavation is planned and organised from. As archaeologists dig through layers of earth they draw each layer onto a map with grids of squares, carefully marking any archaeological discoveries.



The archaeologist on the screen mentions a number of methods for recording artefacts and features (areas of archaeological activity). Write four methods that she mentions.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

2

Watch the silent presentation. Archaeologists discovered a row of post holes during this excavation. What did this tell them?



The site you are about to enter is based on an actual archaeological excavation located along South Great Georges street in the city centre very near Dublinia. Dunnes Stores now have their offices there but long before that it looked very different!

3

WALK ONTO THE EXCAVATION SITE

Once the remains of a demolished building are removed, archaeologists scrape back the surface of the ground to look for archaeological 'features'. These can look like stained areas on the surface of the ground where the archaeology has decayed or appear as the physical preserved remains of something.



Use the stratigraphy wall outside the site hut door to follow the Viking layers and write two Viking artefacts that have been uncovered.

A. _____

B. _____



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If we look a bit closer, artefacts can tell us more about what society was like in the past. Now go to the display case with the remains of a Viking warrior in it. Look for these two artefacts.

A. Comb

B. Knife Blade



(A) Why do you think a comb was buried with this Viking warrior?

(B) What do you think the Viking used the knife blade for?



5

When human remains are being excavated archaeologists record the specific details of the burial. These details can help us to understand who was buried and the burial practices of the time.

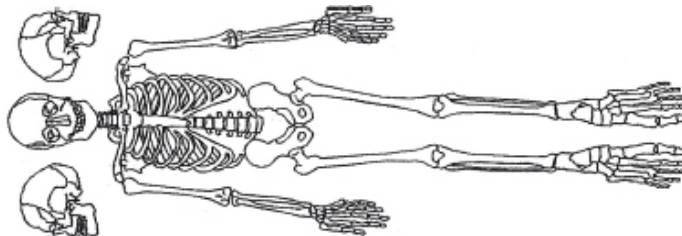
Look closely at the skeleton. Just as an archaeologist would, fill out the Human Remains Report Card below.



Skeleton Recording Sheet — Adult

Site Location: _____

Circle the parts missing from the skeleton.



Fill in the appropriate boxes below:

Preservation: good ☐ moderate ☐ poor ☐

Position of remains: supine (lying on the back) ☐ left side ☐
right side ☐ crouched ☐

Burial: coffin ☐ stone lined ☐ simple ☐ cist ☐

Artefacts buried with remains: _____

Additional comments noticed: _____

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On the medieval levels one archaeologist is photographing a cobbled pathway she has discovered.



What would you expect to find nearby this feature?



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 **A primary source** is a source from the time being studied.

 **A secondary source** is a source from after the time being studied.

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POST-EXCAVATION PHASE

All the artefacts, finds and records are studied and researched to build a picture of what the site looked like in the past. Archaeologists work with historians to help them build this picture.



GO TO THE LIBRARY

(A) Listen to the historian.

What types of primary sources does he use to help archaeologists find out about sites they excavate?



Now you can have a go at being an historian!



(B) Go to the Ordnance Survey Map on top of the map chest. Locate Sth.

Great Georges Street. It is located south east of Dublin Castle in the centre of the map. The excavation site you just visited took place where this street meets Stephen Street Upper.



(C) Pull out the bottom drawer to find what the site looked like in 1610.

What do you notice about the site drawn in 1610 compared to 2010?

What do historians think?

Historians use information to form theories on the past. Some believe that this site is part of an area where the Vikings docked their longships when they first arrived in Dublin.



(D) On the 1610 map, what geographical feature to the north of the site supports this theory?



(E) What limitations should the historian be aware of when using a map drawn over 600 years after the Vikings settled in Dublin?



The names given to streets and areas can also help historians develop theories. Look back to the Ordnance Survey Map. Find 'Dubh Linn', now the gardens of Dublin Castle.

(F) What does 'Dubh Linn' mean in english?

(G) What does this suggest?

8

Read the information panels.

(A) Why do archaeologists and developers sometimes clash?

(B) Watch the footage on Wood Quay. How do you feel about what happened?