

# HISTORY HUNTERS PRE-VISIT CLASSROOM LEARNING SHEET



YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

1

## Archaeologists



Dublinia  
Viking  
archaeologists  
evidence  
artefact

Use the words in the box to fill in the missing words in the text below.

\_\_\_\_\_ are people who dig in the ground looking for clues left behind by people who lived in the past. Each object they find is called an \_\_\_\_\_.

Archaeologists can dig up buildings, toys, food, weapons and lots more. Sometimes they even find skeletons.

They carefully record, photograph and draw everything they find. When they are finished digging they study all the \_\_\_\_\_. This helps them piece together the past.

In Dublin archaeologists uncovered a \_\_\_\_\_ settlement at Wood Quay. Some of the artefacts uncovered there can be seen in \_\_\_\_\_.



**Strand:** Working as an historian.

**Strand Units:** Time and chronology, cause and effect, using evidence, empathy.

**Suggested integration:** (Science) Working scientifically, living things. (Units) Observing, analysing, predicting. Plants and animals. (Geography) Maps, globes and graphical skills, geographical investigation skills, a sense of place and space.

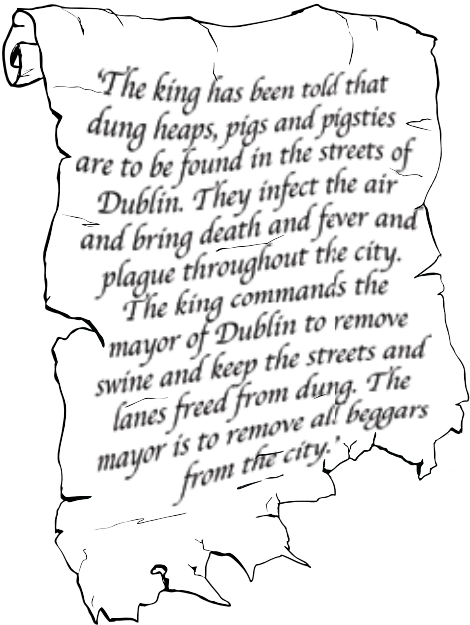
2 HISTORY HUNTERS PRE-VISIT Classroom Learning Sheet

2

Historians



Historians often visit libraries. They study old documents, maps, letters, manuscripts as well as artefacts in museums.



The documents that historians study can give us a lot of clues about what life was like in the past. Read the document and answer the questions.

1 Why do you think pigs ran freely through the streets of medieval Dublin?

2 What do you think the city smelled like?

3 Who was in charge of problems in the city?

4 What do you think it was like to be a beggar in medieval Dublin?

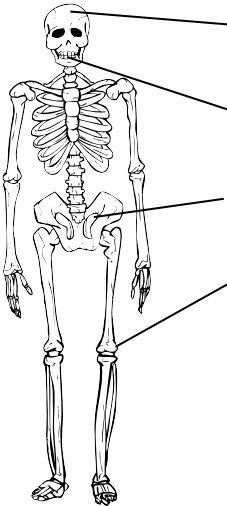
3

Bone detectives



Archaeologists might uncover skeletons as well as artefacts. If they do, an archaeologist who specialises in skeletons is asked to study the bones.

In Dublinia there is a skeleton. We named her Maggie. She lived in medieval Dublin around 800 years ago. We know a lot about her from studying her bones.



- Teeth and skull**  
can tell us a person's age
- Teeth**  
The condition of teeth can tell us about her diet
- Pelvis**  
can tell us if it is a man or a woman
- Bones**  
can tell us if the person had a disease, or injury

Match up the sentences to make sense. Use the diagram to help you.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 They discovered Maggie was 40 to 60 years old by         | A they measured the length of her bones.      |
| 2 They think the food she ate was gritty and stony because | B looking at her teeth and skull.             |
| 3 They know Maggie was about 5 foot 11 inches tall because | C the bones there were very decayed.          |
| 4 She may have had sore hip and knee joints because        | D her teeth were very worn down from chewing. |



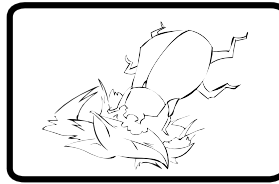
## 4

## Scientists

Scientists also help us find out about the past. They use powerful microscopes to look at the soil dug up from an archaeological dig.

Sometimes they find tiny insects, which are clues to the past, such as dead beetles. Scientists know that some beetles prefer to live in wet leafy places and others only live in dry warm places. Finding these beetles means finding out if a place was wet and damp, or dry and warm.

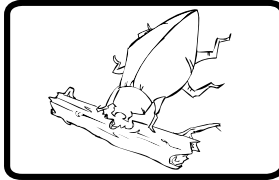
Read the text. Draw a line and match up the beetles with their homes.



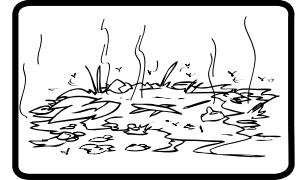
This beetle likes to live in smelly, damp, areas and eat pool!



A wooden Viking house



This beetle eats wood and likes dry conditions



A Viking toilet!



This beetle eats seeds and likes warm places



A grain store

## 5

## Crossword

### Across

1 Bone detectives are specialist archaeologists who study these.  
(9 letters)

2 Archaeologists dig in the ground to look for these  
(9 letters)

3 Historians study these  
(9 letters)

4 Bone detectives can tell the age of a person by looking at these (5 letters)

### Down

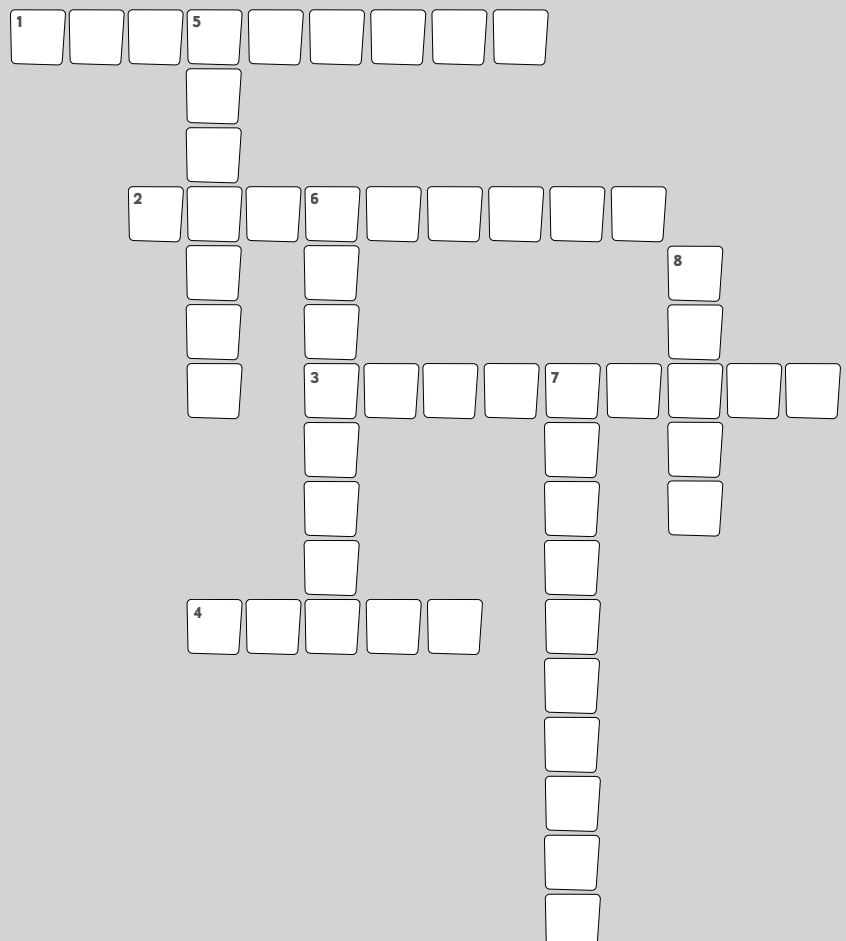
5 Historians are often found in one (7 letters)

6 Proof that people lived in the past (8 letters)

7 Scientists use this to look for things they cannot see with their eyes (10 letters)

8 Skeleton's \_\_\_\_\_ tell us so many things (5 letters)

Look back over the learning sheet to help you with your answers.



## 4 HISTORY HUNTERS PRE-VISIT Classroom Learning Sheet

6

### Think spot



Look at your history copybook and all the work you have done in this book. Now think of what happens when you are finished using this copybook. You might bring it home and leave it in a drawer. In a few years when you are older, you might open up the drawer and find your old copybook.

This old copybook will be evidence! Think about what it will tell you.

Answer the questions below.

**A** Look at what you have written on the front cover.  
What does it tell you?

**B** Does it have any scribbles or drawings on it?

**C** Can you find out any information about your school or teacher by looking through the copybook?

**D** Write one other piece of information your copybook is evidence for?

7

### Extra challenge



We can learn a lot from looking at evidence. However, we have to be careful not to jump to conclusions!

Imagine you are studying a rare old manuscript written by an angry Irish monk.

Read the text and answer the questions.

**A** How do you think this monk felt about the pagan Vikings?

**B** Is the monk's view of the Vikings completely trustworthy?

**C** When studying old manuscripts, what should be kept in mind?

