

Fort Ancient

Digging the Past Workshop (Grade 4)

Description: One class will create a culture by making artifacts and the other group will be the archaeologist. When the culture group has made the artifacts they will be hidden in three archaeological units. All students will then conduct a dig and record their information. The archaeologist will then try to tell the story of the culture group by analyzing the artifacts. We will end with spear throwing and doubleball and a discussion about Fort Ancient.

Location: Fort Ancient State Memorial, Oregonia (Warren), Ohio

Availability: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
September, October, April, and May, by appointment
Maximum 18 students

Time Allowance: 1¾ hours

Cost: Add \$3.00 workshop fee to \$3.00 admission per student

Social Studies Standards Addressed (by Alignment of Benchmarks and Grade-Level Indicators):

Grade 4: Social Studies Skills and Methods – A4, B6

DIRECTIONS:

From I-71 take exit 36 (Wilmington Road). Turn right onto Middleboro Road and then make a right on 350. Fort Ancient is located 1/4 mile on the left.

From I-75 take the Monroe Route 63 exit. Turn towards Lebanon. Route 63 turns into Route 123. Take Route 123 thru Lebanon to I-71. Go north on 71 and take exit 36(Wilmington Road). Turn right onto Middleboro Road and then make a right on 350. Fort Ancient is located 1/4 mile on the left.

Fort Ancient is operated by the Ohio Historical Society, a nonprofit organization that serves as the state's partner in preserving and interpreting Ohio's history, archaeology, and natural history.



Digging the Past Vocabulary

Adaptation - Change to suit the environment

Archaeologist - One who systematically recovers and examines physical evidence of past human activity and then attempts to explain a people's way of life from this evidence.

Archaeology - The study of past human life as revealed by examination of physical remains.

Artifact - Any object made or used by humans

Artifacts - Any objects used or made by human beings that can be brought into a laboratory for study.

Astronomical Alignment - This pertains to Fort Ancient State Memorial and the straight line between an opening in the earthen walls and a mound during the Summer Solstice.

Baulk - A wall of dirt left between adjacent squares, which provides tight controls of measure.

Core Samples - A soil sample taken by forcing a tube into the ground and pulling it out with the soil inside.

Culture - The way the members of a group of people think, believe, and live, the tools they make and the way they do things.

Dig - Common term for an archaeologist excavation

Environment - All of ones surroundings

Excavate - The act of removing earth in a controlled manner in order to expose to view potential underlying cultural features and artifacts.

Exports - Carrying goods to another place

Feature - Any distinctive marks found in a dig (discoloration of soil) that can not be normally transported into the laboratory.

Grid - A pattern of horizontal lines forming squares of uniform size to divide and archaeological site so that digging can be done in a systematic and controlled manner.

Hilltop Enclosure - Walls built of earth by people along the summit of high hills

Historic - Written record from a past time or culture

Imports - Bringing goods from another place

Prehistoric - Existing in time before written history

Site - The place of location containing human activity

Square - The unit or area under excavation by which earth is removed to recover archaeological artifacts and features.

Stratum/Stratigraphy - Horizontal layers of soil. Usually the deeper the strata, the older the object found in them.



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Technology - A method for handling a specific problem

Test Trench - A narrow ditch dug through a possible site to ascertain the likelihood of finding artifacts and or features in that location.

Treaty - Any agreement between nations relating to peace or land.

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