

# “What Is an Archaeologist?” Outreach Presentation



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s OPENOUT (Old Pueblo Educational Neighborhood Outreach) program offers 60-minute presentations by professional archaeologists.

“What is an Archaeologist?” is designed to give children an idea of what archaeologists do, how they do it, and how they learn about people through their work. This presentation includes examples of the tools archaeologists work with, real and replica artifacts, and activities to help children experience how archaeologists interpret the past.

The hands-on materials and fun lesson plans in our OPENOUT programs bring archaeology and the past alive for children and are a perfect prelude for the OPEN3 simulated archaeological excavation program.



## Fees for one-hour outreach program

ONE presentation..... \$75

For two or more consecutive presentations on the same day, the prices are as follows:

TWO presentations.....\$88  
THREE presentations..... \$101  
FOUR presentations.....\$114  
FIVE presentations.....\$127  
SIX presentations..... \$140

Fees include archaeologist’s drive time within 30 miles of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, located at Tucson Unified School District’s Ajo Service Center, 2201 W. 44th Street in Tucson. Additional fees are charged if one-way distance is more than 30 miles from Old Pueblo.



For scheduling and more information about our programs please contact Cris Wagner in Tucson at 520-798-1201 or [info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org)



## Classroom Scholarships

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center raises funds to help economically disadvantaged schools attend our classroom programs at reduced program rates. The degree of scholarship support is based on the amount of money that Old Pueblo has available and the percentage of students in the school who qualify for free or reduced cost meal support as reported by the Arizona Department of Education’s most current on-line “Free and Reduced” report.

# What Is an Archaeologist?



**A hands-on program  
bringing archaeology  
to the classroom**



*Old Pueblo Archaeology Center*

**2201 W. 44th St., Tucson AZ**  
in the Tucson Unified School District’s  
Ajo Service Center

**PO Box 40577**  
**Tucson AZ 85717-0577**

# Overview of the “What Is an Archaeologist?” Outreach Presentation

**Subject:** Science and social studies  
**Skills:** Knowledge, comprehension, application  
**Strategies:** Discussion, reading, choosing, relating, comparing, explaining, identifying, contrasting, and deciding  
**Duration:** 60 minutes



## OBJECTIVES:

In their study of archaeology, students will listen to a presentation and participate in an activity to:

- Gain an understanding of archaeology and the misconceptions surrounding archaeology.
- Understand basic spatial and temporal concepts: context and association.
- Explain the importance of site preservation and ethics

## PROGRAM OUTLINE:

- 1) What is archaeology, anyway? (25 minutes)
  - a) The archaeologist from Old Pueblo will distribute a short pre-test to the students
  - b) The class will review the questions and discuss the misconceptions surrounding archaeology, what archaeologists are, and what archaeologists do, using real-world examples, props, and artifacts
  - c) The archaeologist will discuss the steps in the archaeological process and the goals of archaeology
- 2) What is context? (10 minutes)
  - a) The class will discuss observation, context, and inference

- 3) Context activity (15 minutes)
  - a) Students participate in an activity that requires them to think like archaeologists
  - b) Students infer the use of an individual artifact
  - c) Students further infer utilization when other artifacts or scenarios are added
  - d) The archaeologist asks:
    - i) How many students correctly inferred the use of the artifact when it was alone? Did they have evidence to support this inference?
    - ii) Why was it more difficult to infer the use of the artifact when it was alone?
    - iii) Is one object taken out of context (like an artifact removed at random) able to give as accurate a picture as are all of the objects in their place of origin?  
This activity demonstrates that removing an artifact from a site removes it from its context, making it very difficult to get a complete understanding of past people.
- 4) Questions (10 minutes)
  - a) The archaeologist spends the remainder of time answering student questions

## RELATED ARIZONA STATE STANDARDS:

Reinforces most of Science Standards Strands 1 and 2 for the 4th-8th grades

### 4th & 5th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Strand 1: American History

Concept 1: Research Skills for History

PO 4. Describe how archaeological research adds to our understanding of the past.

### 6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Strand 1: American History

Concept 1: Research Skills for History

PO 4. Formulate questions that can be answered by historical study and research

### 5th Grade Science

Strand 2: History and Nature of Science

Concept 1: History of Science as a Human Endeavor

Identify individual and cultural contributions to scientific knowledge  
PO 2. Describe science-related career opportunities

Concept 2: Nature of Scientific Knowledge

Understand how science is a process for generating knowledge

PO 1. Explain the role of experimentation in scientific inquiry

### 6-8th Grade Science

Strand 2: History and Nature of Science

Concept 2: Nature of Scientific Knowledge

Understand how science is a process for generating knowledge

PO 1. Describe how science is an ongoing process that changes in response to new information and discoveries

PO 2. Describe how scientific knowledge is subject to change as new information and/or technology challenges prevailing theories  
PO 3. Apply the following scientific processes to other problem solving or decision making situations:

- Observing
- Questioning
- Communicating
- Comparing
- Inferring
- Generating hypotheses
- Identifying variables

