

## Cookie Excavation

### MATERIALS

1. Chocolate chip cookie (or any cookie with “bits” in it.)
2. Toothpicks
3. Graph/grid paper (1/2 inch squares or smaller)



### CONCEPT:

When Archaeologists excavate a site, they must record everything they find before removing it. Often the excavation process also requires destroying the “context” of the site—without these careful recordings of how things were situated in the ground, valuable information could be lost.

This cookie excavation will also show the care that must be taken while excavating in order to not damage the fragile artifacts (in this case the chocolate chips).

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the cookie on one sheet of graph paper (don't move the cookie once it's in place).
2. On a second sheet of graph paper begin drawing the cookie, using the grid as reference. Be sure to record the outline of the cookie, where chips are located, any bumps or texture on the cookie. These are your visible artifacts in the record of your archeological site.
3. Now that you've recorded your site, you can begin excavating!
4. Using toothpicks, carefully chip away at the dirt (cookie) to slowly reveal any hidden artifacts. Try to not pick up the cookie, keep it flat on the table (you can't pick up an archeological site).
5. Be sure to record the hidden artifacts on your drawing as well.
6. At the end you should have a pile of “back fill” dirt (cookie crumbs) and artifacts (chocolate chips).
7. Count artifacts; excavate a second cookie—which had more artifacts? Look at how the artifacts were distributed. Was there an area of the cookie that had more chips? Archaeologists can often tell how much and what kind of human activity was going on at a site based on the number, type, and location of artifacts.
8. Eat the destroyed cookie!

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