



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Discover Archaeology



Activity Booklet

2025

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

In order to view and complete all the activities here, you'll need to open this document using Adobe Acrobat. It will not work properly in a web browser. You can download Adobe Acrobat Reader for free if you do not already have it on your computer. Some activities can be done digitally, but others you may need to print. If you complete any of the activities in this booklet, you can send an image of the completed activity to the Society for American Archaeology to receive an embroidered patch as a prize. The 2025 patch is pictured on the next page and available while supplies last. Please email either an image, a scan, or the digital file to public_edu@saa.org (sending the digital file, a scan, or a picture).

There is no deadline for completing the activities, and patches will be sent as long as supplies last. Your patch will be mailed to you at the address you provide here:

Name:

Address:

Credits

Donors to the SAA Public Education Endowment made this activity booklet and the patches possible. Thank you to our generous supporters!

For other K-12 activities and resources, visit www.saa.org/activities. For any questions, please contact public_edu@saa.org.

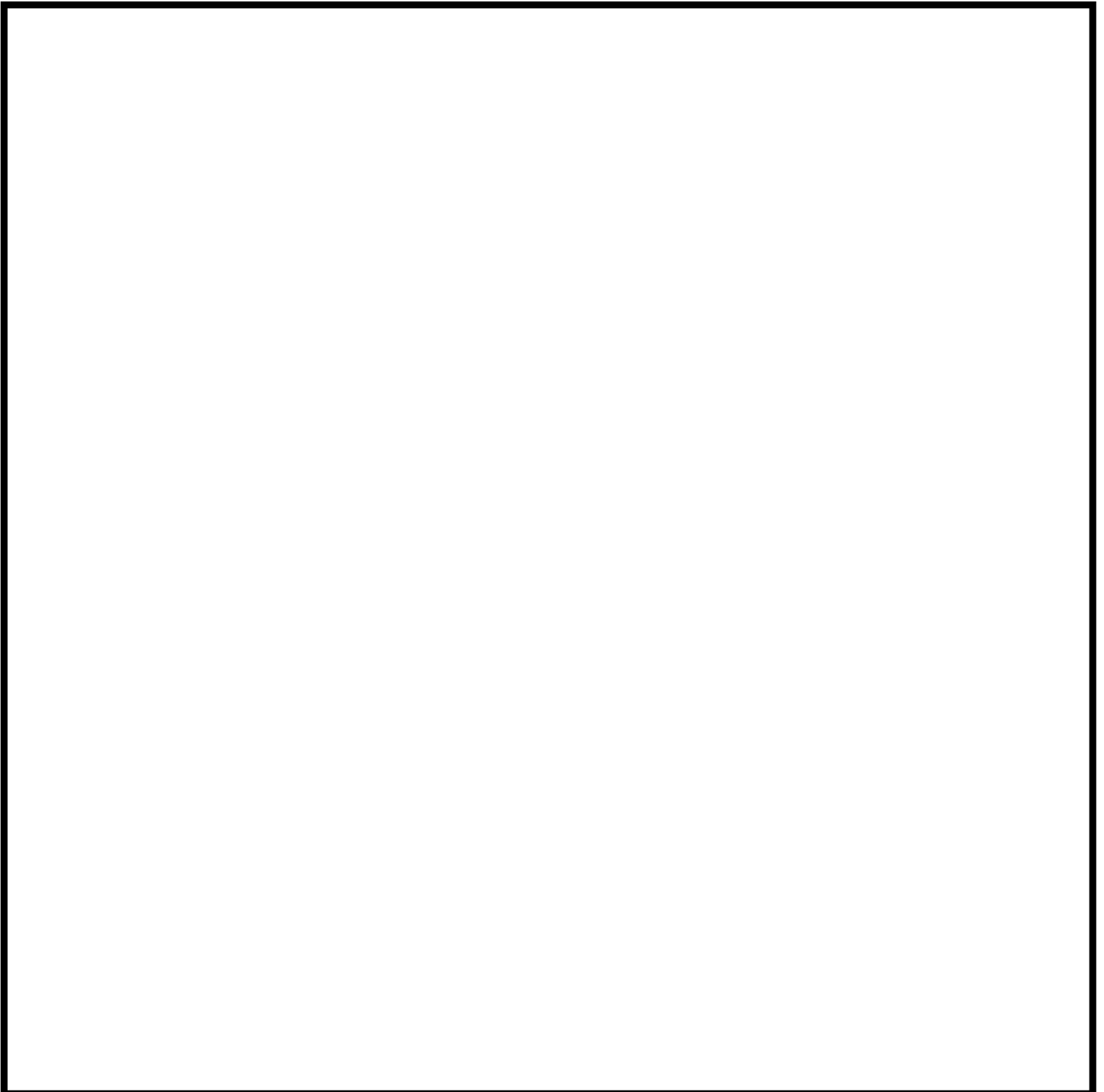


This year's 2025 patch features stratigraphic soil and an outline of the Rocky Mountains to pay homage to Denver, Colorado, where the Society for American Archaeology held its 90th annual meeting.

DISCOVER ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

What is an **artifact**? An **artifact** is an object made or modified by a human being. When archaeologists find an artifact, they note certain details like the location and depth of where it was found. They also take down information about its size and color, and they draw a picture of it.

Find an object around your house that archaeologists might find 100 years from now and draw a detailed picture.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for a student to draw a detailed picture of an object they have chosen.

DISCOVER ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

Find 2 items from around your house, or use the two artifacts pictured on the next page. Measure the length, width, and thickness of each item and record it below. If you have a food scale, weigh your item. Make sure to do this in pencil! Archaeologists use pencils to fill out forms because they are archival. Exclude width and weight if using the 2D images on the next page.

Artifact 1

Length (cm)

Width (cm)

Thickness (cm)

Weight (g)

Artifact 2

Length (cm)

Width (cm)

Thickness (cm)

Weight (g)



DISCOVER ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

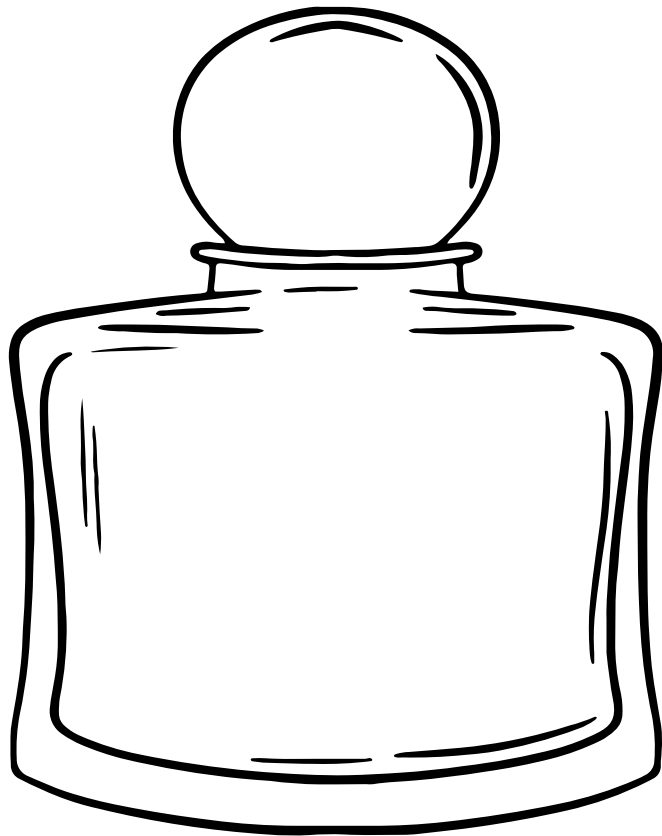
Measure the width (widest part) and length (longest part) of the artifacts below and record on the previous page. Be sure to color them in too!

Artifact 1



Stone Projectile Point

Artifact 2



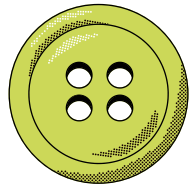
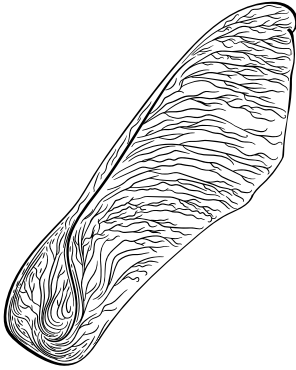
Glass Perfume Bottle



DISCOVER ECOFACTS

What is an **ecofact**? An **ecofact** is a naturally occurring material archaeologists find that provides culturally relevant insights on climate, diet, and the environment. This could be things like animal bones, antlers, and seeds, etc.

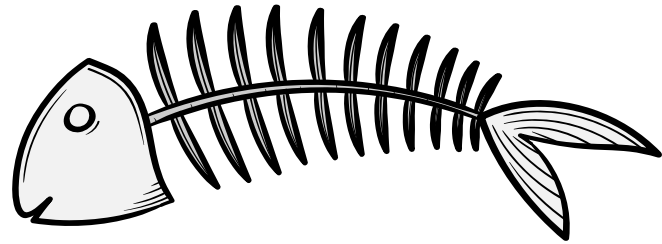
Identify the objects below as **Artifact** or **Ecofact**







DISCOVER ECOFACTS






Answer key on next page



DISCOVER ECOFACTS

Answer Key

		
<u>Ecofact</u>	<u>Ecofact</u>	<u>Artifact</u>
		
<u>Ecofact</u>	<u>Artifact</u>	<u>Ecofact</u>
		
<u>Artifact</u>	<u>Artifact</u>	<u>Ecofact</u>
		
<u>Ecofact</u>	<u>Artifacts</u>	<u>Ecofact</u>

DISCOVER ARTIFACT MENDING

Archaeologists often find broken pieces of the same artifact on a site. For example, they may find many broken pieces of the same ceramic vessel. When they get back to the lab, they will mend the pieces together so they can see what the vessel looked like and what it may have been used for, and what time period it is from.

On the next page, cut out the shapes of the ceramic sherds and fit the pieces together. Using tape mend the pieces and then answer the questions below.

What type of ceramic vessel is it?

What do you think people used it for?

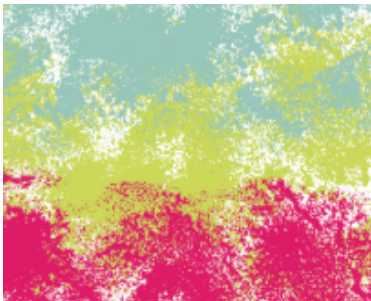
Based on the decoration, using the guide below, which time range is the vessel likely from?



Pastoral 1819-1836



Floral Motif 1826-1842

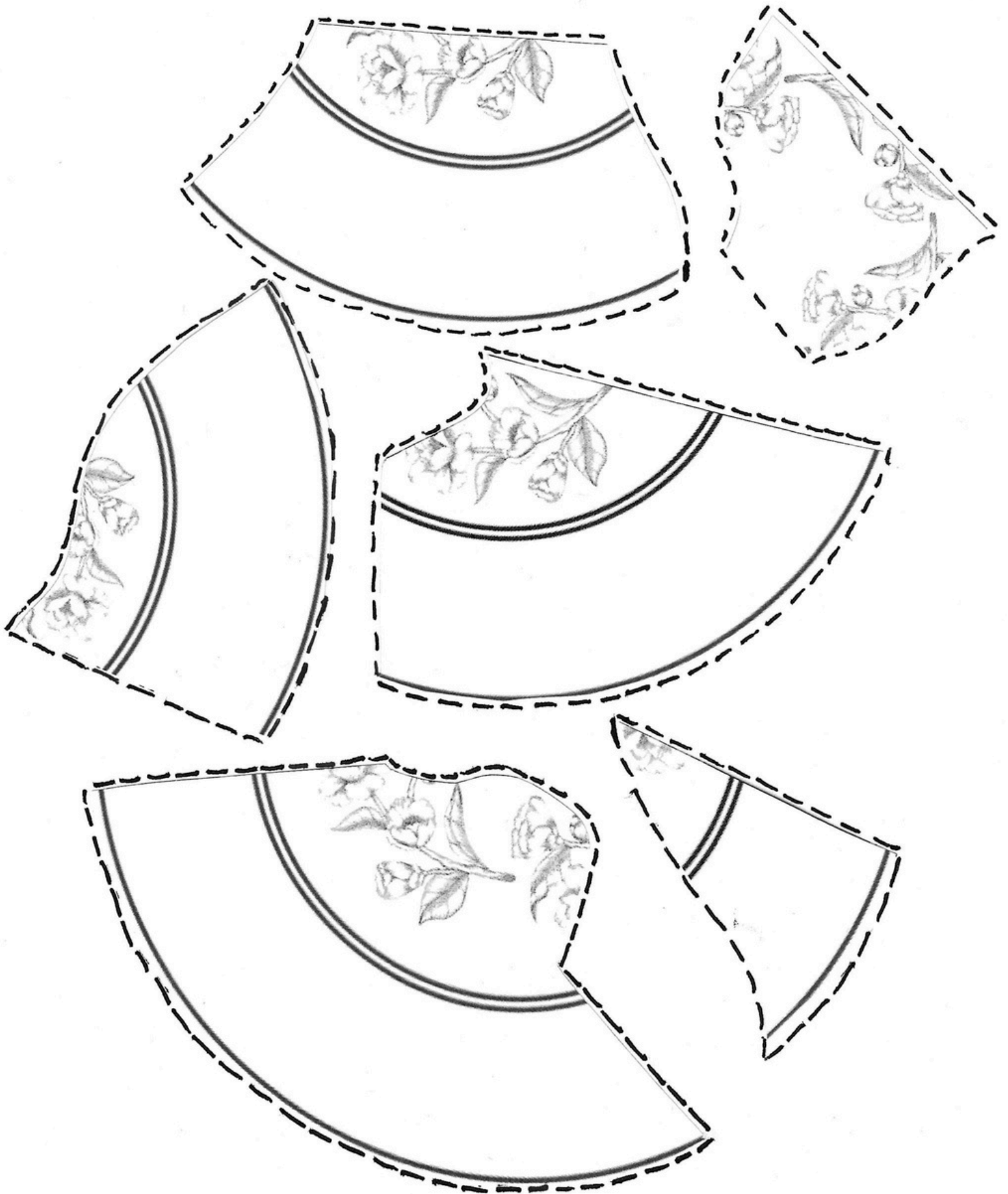


Sponge Print 1820-1860

To learn more about ceramic identification, visit <https://apps.jefpat.maryland.gov/diagnostic/index-Ceramics.html>



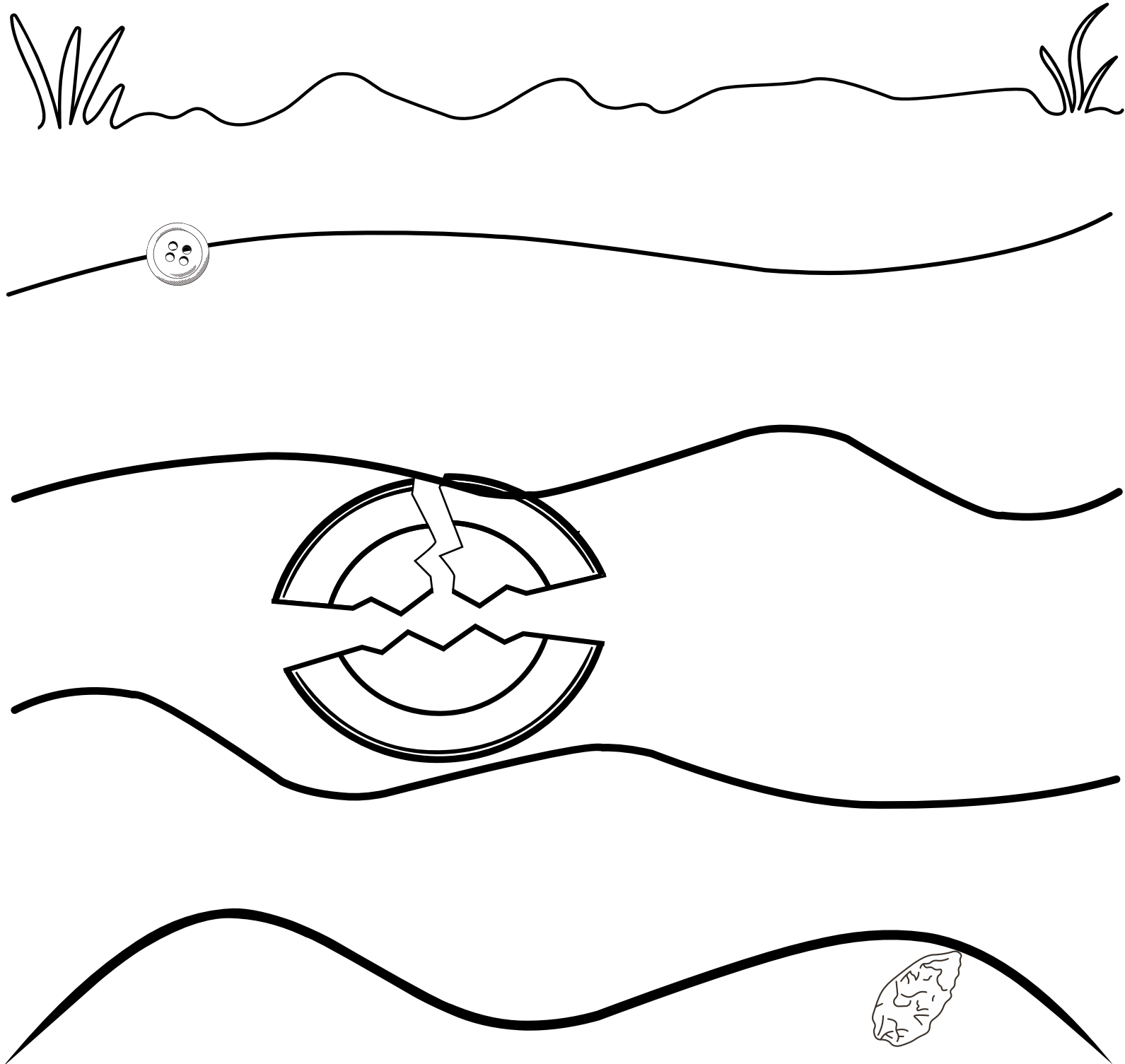
DISCOVER ARTIFACT MENDING



DISCOVER SOIL STRATIGRAPHY

When archaeologists excavate a site, they pay close attention to soil stratigraphy. Stratigraphy is the study of material layers that have formed over time. These layers are called strata and can be formed from rocks and organic material such as leaves, dirt, or sand, often making them different in color and texture. Artifacts left behind by humans can also be in these strata layers, and that helps archaeologists determine what time period these artifacts came from.

Color in the different soil strata and artifacts using different colors and textures, and draw in your own artifacts too!



DISCOVER INDIGENOUS ARCHAEOLOGY

Indigenous archaeology is a form of archaeology that aims to engage and empower Indigenous people in the preservation of their heritage. Indigenous knowledge, principles, and perspectives are the foundations of archaeological research.

Which Indigenous communities are in your area?

Head to Native-Land.ca to find out which Native communities are in your area and fill in the box below.

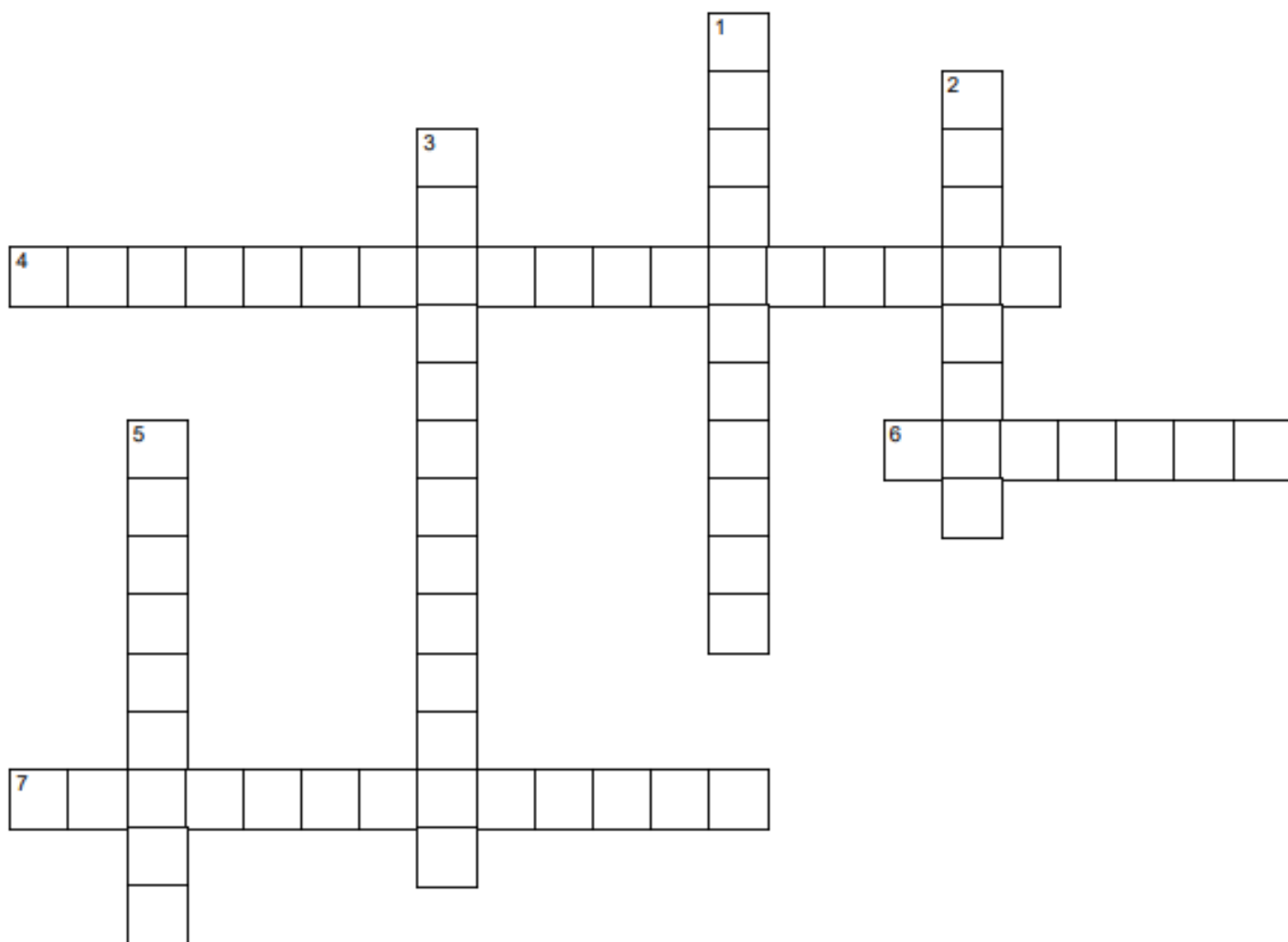


Click on the links provided by Native-Land.ca for the Native people in your area and head to their website(s). Spend some time learning about their history and current cultural practices. Write two facts that you learned in the box below.

DISCOVER FIELD SAFETY

Archaeologists work in a variety of different environments and weather conditions. It is important that they bring the necessary equipment with them to ensure their health and safety. Fill out the crossword puzzle below to learn about some of the things that archaeologists use in the field. The answers to the puzzle can be found on the next page.

Field Safety Equipment



ACROSS

- 4 So others can see you easily
- 6 To keep your head safe
- 7 To keep your toes safe

DOWN

- 1 For use in emergencies
- 2 To deter pests
- 3 To stay hydrated
- 5 To keep your skin protected

DISCOVER FIELD SAFETY

Answer Key

Field Safety Equipment

