

## Rodeph Sholom Excavations 2017!

Now that we've studied about the importance of archaeology and what it teaches us about history, it's time to put on our archaeology hats and experience an excavation ourselves!

### *Phase I: Excavation*

#### Directions:

1. For this project you will be split up into groups of 3-4. Each group will be assigned a specific excavation box. You will work as a team to excavate the box.
2. Your box has three strata, or layers: Strata A, Strata B, and Strata C. For each layer, team members are assigned different jobs. After you finish the layer, you will rotate jobs and begin the next layer. By the end of the excavation, every student will get a chance to perform each job *at least* once:
  - a. Excavator (1-2 students)
  - b. Recorder (1 student)
  - c. Photographer/measurer (1 student)
3. Excavator:
  - a. As an excavator, it is your job to carefully dig through the layer and discover artifacts. You must dig in a way that allows your layer to remain flat as you continue. You may not dig a deep hole that will mix your layer together with another layer. If you do so, you and your team will have loose points. As you uncover artifacts, you will alert your team members about their location before you remove them. Then you can take them out, give them to the recorder, and continue digging until you begin to see a new color soil (which means you have reached a new layer!). Each layer has 3-4 different *types* of artifacts.
  - b. As you excavate, you will place the dirt that you remove into a small bin. When the bin is full, you and your teammates will dump the bin into a larger class garbage bin that is labeled by strata before you continue to dig. Make sure you do this without spilling the dirt. Cleanliness counts!
4. Recorder
  - a. As a recorder, it is your job to record the findings on the dig recording sheet for your group. You will record information about the soil, about the artifacts, and you will assign each artifact a number:

- b. Artifacts found in Strata A should be labeled A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4. Using a sharpie, you will label baggies A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4 and place each artifact type in the corresponding baggie. Please be aware that each *artifact type* should be given the same label. For example, if the excavator finds 3 different pieces of pottery, you will place all three in one baggie and give them one label, such as A-1.
  - c.
5. Photographer/Measurer
- a. As a photographer/measurer, it is your job to measure and take pictures of each artifact that is found. You will place a ruler under the artifact, and then take the picture so you can record the measurement at a later date if need be. If you do have time, measure the length and width of each artifact and write the information on the dig recording sheet.
  - b. You will take pictures with a laptop and then add them digitally to your dig recording sheet in the correct boxes (do this by first putting the picture on the desktop. Then drag it to the document).
6. At the end of the second day of excavations, I will collect your artifacts. Make sure you have pictures of each of them for later analysis.

### *Grading*

- 1) Grading will be comprised of the following:
- i) Did your group work efficiently and make good use of time?
  - ii) Did your group work together and help each other out when necessary?
  - iii) Did your group do the jobs assigned to them?
  - iv) Did your group keep materials and supplies clean and organized?
  - v) Did your group record properly, excavate properly, and take photographs properly?
  - vi) Did your group actively listen to and follow instructions when given?
  - vii) Did you personally contribute to the project?

1) The group made good use of time and worked efficiently

Great 5	Average 4	Needs work 3
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2) The group worked well together and helped each other without arguing.

Great 6	Average 5	Needs work 4
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3) The group excavated using proper scientific techniques that they learned in class, such as digging in a level manner (no holes) and not taking out artifacts without digging around them first

Great 6	Average 5	Needs work 4
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4) The group recorded and took photographs with accuracy

Great 6	Average 4	Needs work 3
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5) The group put back supplies when they were done with them and did not leave anything behind or lose them (dig recording sheet notes, laptops, etc)! The group worked neatly and with care and DID NOT DUMP DIRT ON THE FLOOR!!!!

Great 5	Average 4	Needs work 3
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6) Personal contribution to the group?

Great 7	Average 5	Needs work 3
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**There will be an analysis of the findings after the excavation is completed. You will learn more about this phase of the project at that time.**

**Congratulations on your first excavation! I hope it is the first of many more to come!**

- Ms. Karlin