

UNCOVERING THE LIVES OF NATIVE AMERICANS THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY

**What We Are Learning at
the William Trent House Museum**

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Who were the **Native Americans** that lived on the Trent house property before Trent?



The **Native American** people who lived on the Trent House property are called the **Lenni Lenape**.

The Lenni Lenape

They settled in the New Jersey area thousands of years ago.
They fished and hunted and collected seeds, roots and nuts.
After some time, they began to farm the land.



As more and more European colonists came, the Lenni Lenape were pushed from their lands and eventually most were relocated to Oklahoma where many descendants still live today.

These are descendants of the ancient
Lenni Lenape people

How can we learn about the **Lenni Lenape** people through **archaeology**?



We can study the things they left behind thousands of years ago.

What did the **Lenni Lenape** leave behind?

They left behind pottery, also called *ceramics*, made for cooking and storing food



They are most often found in pieces



These pieces are called *potshards*

These *potshards* were found at the Trent House!



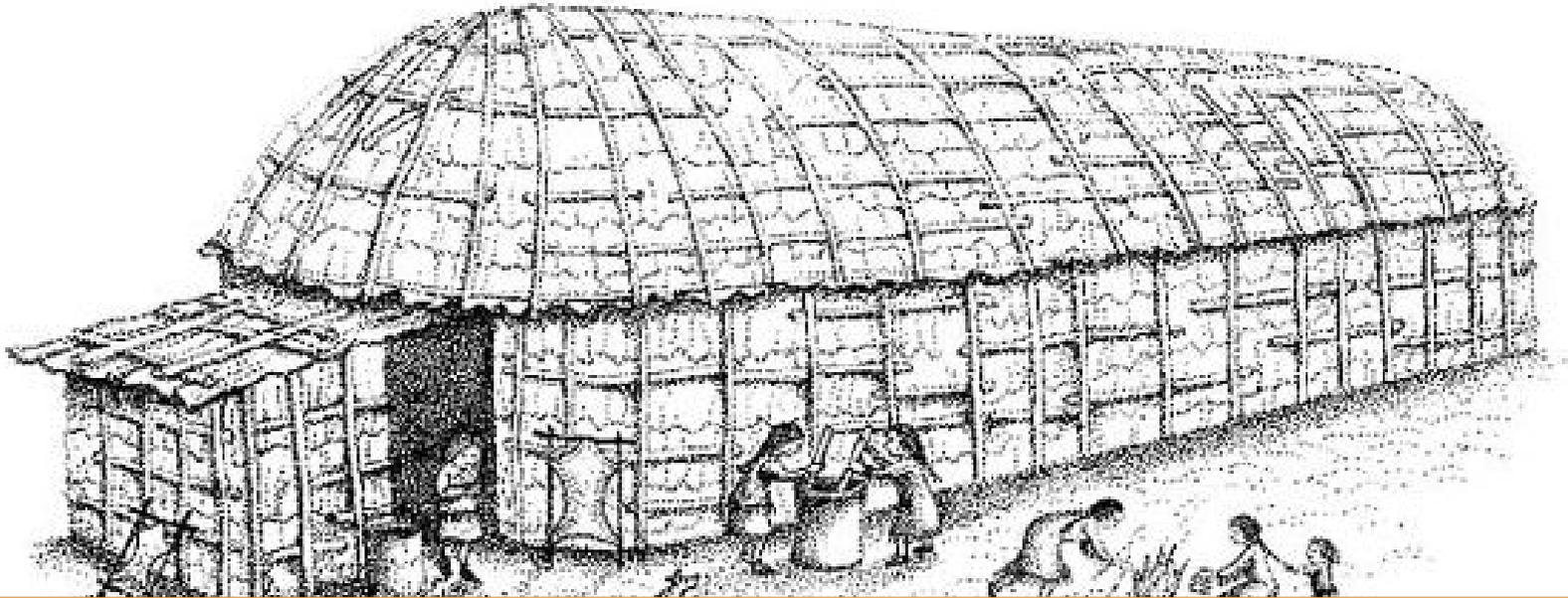
What did the **Lenni Lenape** leave behind?

They also left behind arrowheads –
chipped stone tools used for hunting
animals -

and *wampum*, which was made from
clam shells and used as jewelry and
money



Some of what the **Lenni Lenape** left behind would not last under the ground



For example, the houses the Lenni Lenape built would not last. They are made of wood, which is organic.

Organic means that something comes from living things.
Organic things rot or **decay** under the ground.

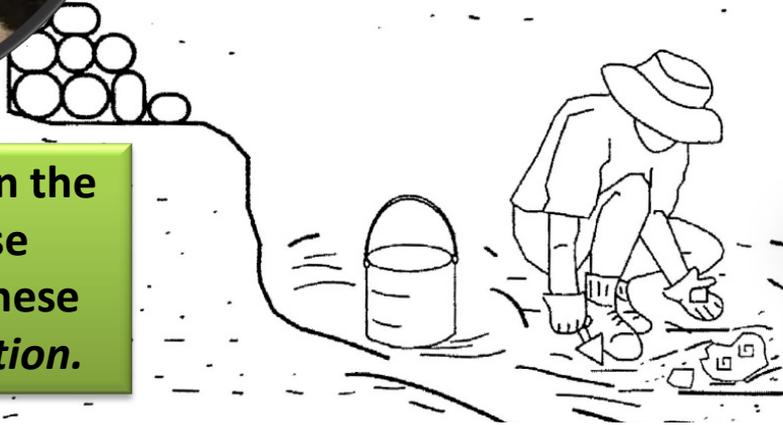
What is Archaeology?



Square holes are dug in the ground to find these belongings. Digging these holes is called *excavation*.



These belongings, like the pottery and arrowheads made by the Lenape, are called *artifacts*



Archaeology is the study of how humans used to live by uncovering the remains of their belongings from the earth.

What are Artifacts?



Artifacts can be from recent times, like this coin



Or they can be thousands of years old, like this arrowhead

Artifacts are objects made or changed by humans. For example, the pottery pieces and nails that you see here are **artifacts**.

**Most artifacts are in pieces when found.
Archaeologists try to put the pieces back
together.**



It is called mending and it is like putting a puzzle back together.

What is an archaeologist?



Archaeologists *excavating* at the Trent House



The work is done very carefully

An **archaeologist** studies how humans lived in the past through the **artifacts** they find.

Archaeologists are different from Paleontologists

Archaeologists look for *artifacts* –
remains of human belongings



Paleontologists look for *fossils* –
remains of dinosaurs and extinct
animals



Archaeologists are also different from Historians



Archaeologists study the past through
the artifacts they find



Historians study the past through
written documents

Since the Trent house is both an **archaeological site** and a **historic site**, both **archaeologists** and **historians** have studied it.

What do archaeologists use to find artifacts ?



Maps for finding sites



Measuring tape for measuring how deep you are digging



Shovel and bucket for digging



Trowels for scraping the soil



Paint Brush for brushing soil from artifacts



Screen for sifting soil

What kind of tools do archaeologists use?



Compass for finding sites



Plastic bags for bagging artifacts



Notebook and pencil for taking notes



Camera for taking pictures of the site and excavation



Computer for cataloging artifacts

Archaeologists look for **sites**.

What are **sites**?

Sites can be *prehistoric* –
before written history

Or they can be *historic* –
with a written history



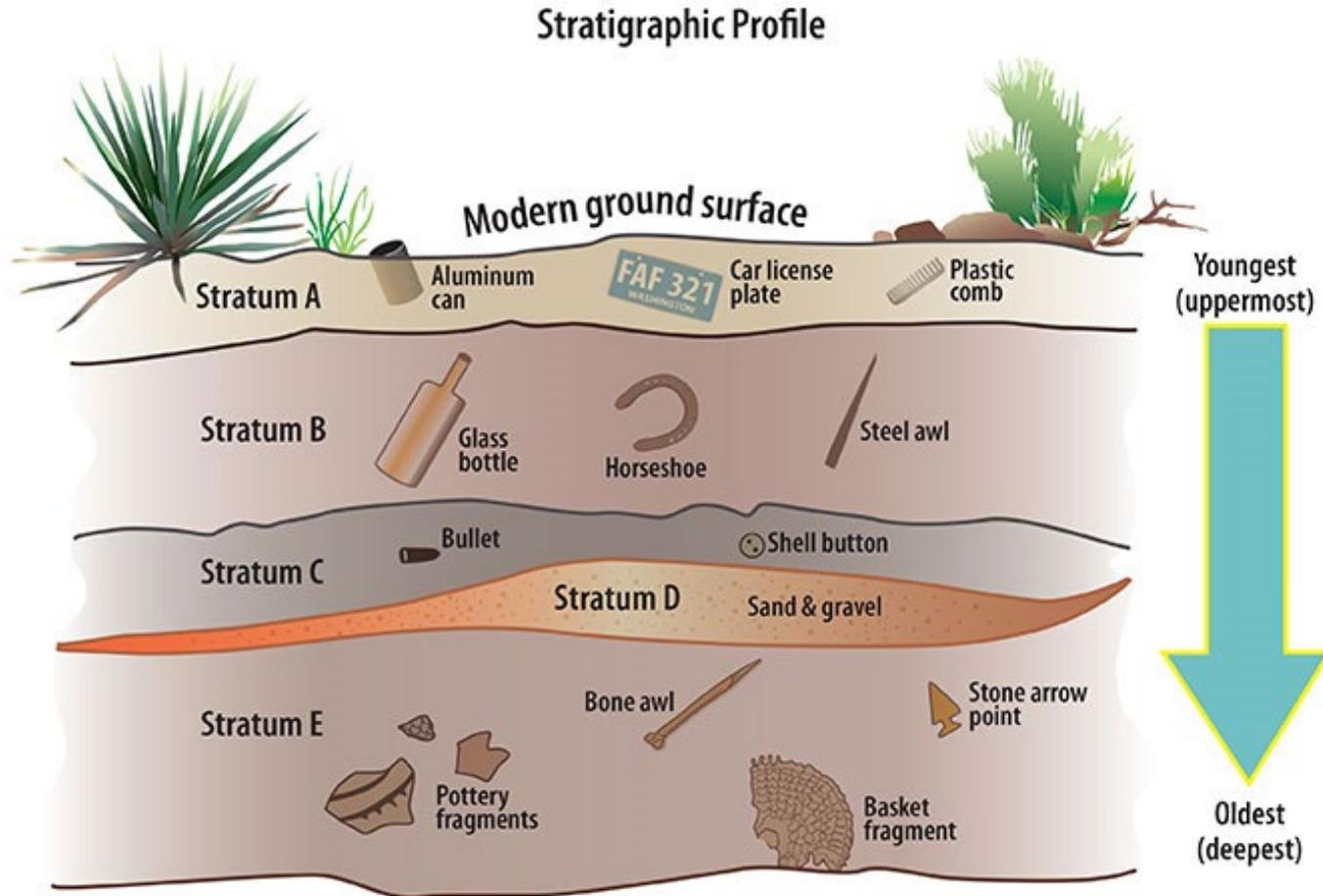
The Trent House site is both a *prehistoric*
and a *historic* site. People have lived there for thousands of years.

Sites are places where humans once lived that contain **artifacts**.

The Trent House is an **archaeological site**.

Many **artifacts** have been found at the Trent House.

How can archaeologists tell how old an artifact is?



Generally speaking, the deeper you find something in the ground, the older it is. Notice how the modern artifacts are at the top and the Native American artifacts are at the bottom.

What do **artifacts** tell us about **Native American** people?



Arrowheads tell us that the Lenape hunted animals.

Some of these animals were large like deer and some were small like rabbits. Some of the stone used for arrowheads came from other parts of the country, meaning that the Lenape either traveled to get them or that other native groups traveled to meet with the Lenape.



Pot shards tell us that the Lenape made pots to cook in and store food and water.

Often times the pottery was decorated. Sharpened stones, sticks, and cord were used to make designs on the clay.

Native American pottery is most often found in pieces because it is very fragile.

What do **artifacts** tell us about **Native American** people?



Wampum tells us quite a lot about the Lenni Lenape.

It tells us that the Lenape, and other Native Americans of the Northeastern United States made and wore jewelry, like necklaces, bracelets and earrings. It also tells us that the Lenape had a system of currency or money.

What do **artifacts** tell us about **Native American** people?



These artifacts are evidence that Native Americans traded with Europeans at the Trent House, for things like copper kettles. They would take the kettles and cut them up, making them into different things. The artifact on the left is thought to be a pendant for a necklace.

What have you learned about archaeology and Native American people?



Take this fun quiz to find out!

Archaeology Quiz

Who were the Native Americans that lived on the Trent House Property?



Archaeology Quiz

Most descendants of the Lenni Lenape live in which state?



Archaeology Quiz

What kinds of things did the Lenni Lenape leave behind?

Artifacts

Ceramics

Arrowheads

All of the above

Archaeology Quiz

What is *wampum* made from?

Wood

Very small rocks

Purple and white clam shells

Turtle shells

Archaeology Quiz

What is the object in the picture below?



A potshard

A Native American
Artifact

A piece of ceramic

All of the above

Archaeology Quiz

Very carefully digging square holes to find the remains of human belongings is called _____.



Archaeology Quiz

TRUE OR FALSE

Archaeologists and Paleontologists are the same thing.

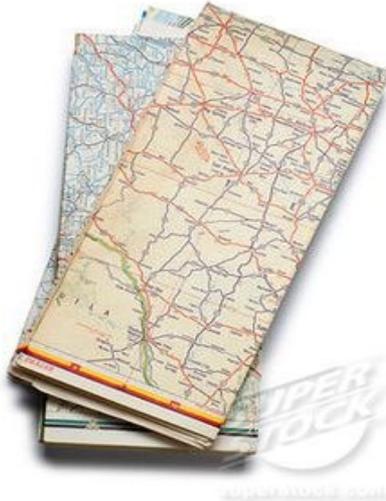


Archaeology Quiz

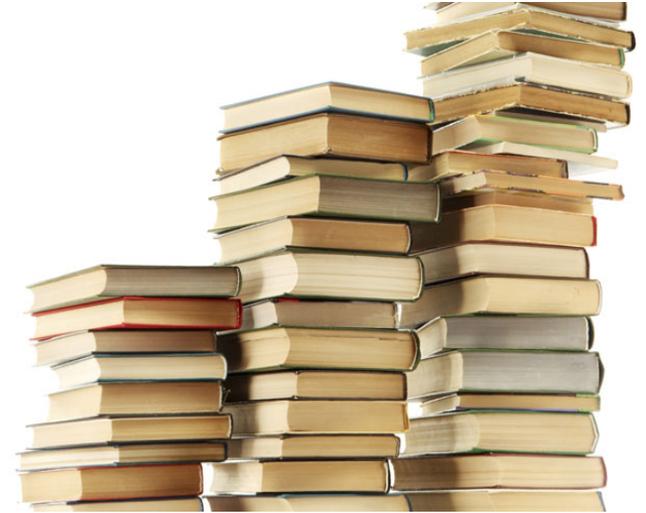
Which of these things do historians use to study the past?



Letters



Maps



Books

All of these things

Archaeology Quiz



An object made or changed by a human is called

_____.

Archaeology Quiz

Which of these is *organic* and will *decay* under the ground?



Arrowhead



Wood



Bottle



Coin

Archaeology Quiz

TRUE OR FALSE

*Archaeologists study the past through the **artifacts** they find.*



Archaeology Quiz

Which of these is NOT an archaeologist's tool?



Wrench



Shovel



Screen



Measuring Tape

Archaeology Quiz



What do archaeologists use these for?

Painting the artifacts

Painting a picture of the excavation

Carefully brushing soil away from artifacts

Dusting off antiques

Archaeology Quiz

What type of archaeological site is the Trent House?



Old

Historic

Prehistoric

Both Prehistoric and Historic

Archaeology Quiz

TRUE OR FALSE

The deeper the artifact is in the ground, the older it is.



Archaeology Quiz Answer Key

1. The Lenni Lenape

2. Oklahoma

3. All of the above

4. Purple and white clam shells

5. All of the above

6. Excavation

7. False

8. All of these

9. An artifact

10. Sticks (wood)

11. True

12. Wrench

13. Carefully brushing soil away from artifacts

14. Both Historic and Prehistoric

15. True

Resources

<https://www.saa.org/education-outreach/teaching-archaeology/k-12-activities-resources>

<https://thehomeschoolresourceroom.com/2017/07/28/introduction-to-archaeology-and-the-ancient-world-streaming-media/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/native-american-heritage-0/>

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