Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9W2

Archaeology Provocation Pack

What does "archaeology" mean?
Archaeology is the science or study of people and civilizations through material artifacts. The word comes from the Greek *archaiologia*, meaning "ancient" and *ology* meaning the "study of".

When did the Royal BC Museum start collecting archaeology artifacts?
The collections were started in the 1800s.

How big is the archaeology collection?
Our archaeology collection contains about 215,000 artifacts and belongings.

What is an artifact?
An artifact is any object that has been made, modified or used by human beings. Can you name an artifact in the room? Almost all the objects in your classroom are artifacts. Ancient artifacts usually show evidence that they were shaped by activities such as cutting, grinding, flaking or pecking.

Who works in archaeology collections?
All museum collections have a variety of people who work in them. Typically, there is at least one curator and one collection manager. A curator's job is to decide what is important to keep in the collection and what specimens to accept into the collection. Every museum collection has a goal: at the Royal BC Museum, our goal is to tell the story of people in British Columbia throughout space and time. A collection manager's job is to take care of the collection by keeping each specimen well preserved and facilitating how specimens come in and out of the collection. Many other people visit the collection such as scientists, researchers, volunteers and community members.