

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM
PRE-VISIT MATERIALS

UNEARTHING HISTORY

(Grades 3,4,8)

TO THE TEACHER:

The pre-visit packet contains lesson background, curriculum standards, and terms and definitions.

During this cultural history lesson, docents will discuss how South Carolina came to be the state it is today. Classroom activities will be supplemented with a tour of the exhibit gallery. Participants will be able to:

GRADES:	3,4,8
LENGTH OF LESSON:	60 minutes
CLASS SIZE:	30 students max.

- ❑ Highlight the impacts of Native American, African and European cultures on South Carolina's past.
- ❑ Identify methods used by archaeologists to uncover the history of South Carolina.

Recovered artifacts indicate humans have lived in what is now South Carolina for about 14,000 years. These groups include Native Americans, West Africans, and Europeans (Spanish, French and British). Each culture left a distinct mark on our state's history. Archaeological evidence, in addition to written records, has been vital in helping us learn about South Carolina's earliest inhabitants. Through excavation we know about their diet, shelters, clothing, tools, and weaponry.

Archaeology is the science and study of recovered material objects such as tools, evidence of buildings, and everyday objects. Archaeologists use specialized methods to locate buried artifacts, or material remains from humans in the past, to examine human culture. In the future, they will use artifacts to learn more about South Carolina today.

**Social Studies Curriculum by Grade according
to South Carolina State Standards**

3rd grade	3-2.1; 3-2.3; 3-2.4; 3-2.5; 3-2.6
4th grade	4-2.1; 4-2.2; 4-2.3; 4-2.4; 4-2.5; 4-2.6
8th grade	8-1.1; 8-1.3; 8-1.4; 8-1.6

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. **archaeology** - The science and study of recovered material objects (e.g. tools, evidence of buildings, everyday objects).
2. **Archaic era** – Time period in South Carolina’s history that occurred about 10,000 to 3,000 years ago.
3. **artifact** - Any object, such as tools or weapons, made by people which is later recovered by archaeologists.
4. **clan** - Any group of people united by family relationships or lineage.
5. **colony** - A settlement or group of settlements far away from their home country, but remains connected through economic or political ties.
6. **excavation** - A scientific method to recover, process, and record archaeological remains.
7. **Lords Proprietors** – A group of English noblemen that were the first to claim and govern South Carolina as a British colony.
8. **Mississippian era** - Time period in South Carolina’s history that occurred about 1,000 to 300 years ago.
9. **Paleo-Indians** - Nomadic hunter-gatherers believed to be the first inhabitants of North America.
10. **palisade** - A wall usually made of logs that provides protection for a community.
11. **settlers** - People who have migrated to different geographic regions.
12. **site** - Archaeological site containing evidence of human occupation.
13. **strata** - Layers of rock or soil where artifacts can be found.
14. **subsistence farming** – Practice of producing only enough food to sustain the individuals working the land.
15. **symbol** - An image that represents an idea, religion or government.
16. **Woodland era** - Time period in South Carolina’s history that occurred about 3,000 to 1,000 years ago.