



# The Intriguing Past: Fundamentals of Archaeology

## A Teacher's Guide



### IN A NUTSHELL

Developed by: Shelly Smith,  
Jeanne Moe, Kelly Letts,  
Danielle Paterson

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Heritage Education Program  
P.O. Box 758  
Dolores, CO 81323

phone: (970) 882-4811 Ext. 120  
e-mail: dramsay@co.blm.gov

Cost: \$15.00 + s&h

### SUBJECTS

Language Arts  
Science  
Social Studies

The eight lessons in this teacher's guide are drawn from an earlier, larger collection, *Intrigue of the Past: Investigating Archaeology*, which was a product of Utah's archaeology program. Lessons range from fifteen to ninety minutes in length and many are designed for classes divided into smaller groups. Students learn about the importance of studying the past and develop important cognitive skills, such as classifying different objects, forming hypotheses, and understanding the difference between observing and inferring. By means of games, discussions, and other activities, students become familiar with the nature of archaeological research, develop a time line of important events in their own lives, and take part in an archaeological 'dig' in a pile of garbage. Each lesson is referenced for subject, skill, learning strategies, duration, and class size. Objectives, materials, important vocabulary, background information, and links to the larger curriculum are included. Each lesson also lists closure and opening suggestions, worksheets and masters. Illustrations consist of black-and-white drawings and charts.

Grade Level  
4-7

Length  
40 pages

Date Published  
1997

THE BOTTOM  
LINE

"Activities require students to bring in photos or objects that represent their past—an excellent hook for instilling a sense of ownership."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Cites sources of information. Field tested by a large number of teachers.	Few opportunities for inquiry. Does not reflect urban archaeology.
	Depth	Increases awareness of built environments of the past.	
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Develops a wide range of critical thinking skills. Learners are encouraged to draw their own conclusions.	
	Action Orientation	Promotes civic responsibility.	Addresses problem of artifact collecting, but does not provide suggestions for student action.
	Instructional Soundness	Uses a variety of instructional methods. Clearly states goals and objectives. Material is made relevant to learners' lives.	Relies heavily on paper and pencil activities.
	Usability	Material is clear and easy to use. Workshops are available to help teachers incorporate archaeology into the classroom. Supplies needed are easily accessible.	

"Not enough moving activities. Children in this age group need to move around."

"Good for teaching basic archaeological concepts."