

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Archaeology Alive!***

### **Digging Down: A Virtual Archaeological Excavation**

Here's your chance to participate in the archaeological process! Follow along as "Alex the Archaeologist" conducts his virtual demonstration "excavation," and use this sheet to take notes and answer questions about the artifacts he uncovers.

1. What is stratigraphy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What differences do archaeologists find between the layers of dirt in an excavation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why is it so helpful to archaeologists when they find artifacts with dates on them?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it happens very often? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was chain mail used for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What time in history does the piece of chain mail most likely come from? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why might an archaeologist find two objects from very different dates, one much older and one much newer, in the same layer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Alex says, "In archaeology, we always look towards the \_\_\_\_\_ to identify how old the layer is."

7. Archaeologists uncover several objects together in a single layer, but these objects were made by cultures from very distant places. It may be a sign that these cultures \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
8. A very thick layer of dirt between buried artifacts can be an indication of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
9. How could the stone tools found in the lowest layer be used? What is the evidence for your conclusion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
10. When an archaeologist comes to the “sterile layer” in an excavation, this means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Alex says: “Just remember, the past is all around you, just waiting to be studied!”**

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Vocabulary:

antiquity	cuneiform	Paleolithic
armor	cylinder seal	sterile layer
ceramic	Medieval	wall relief
chain mail	Mesopotamia	
coin	Neolithic	

*This worksheet based on a version created by Eileen Horak of the Johanna Perrin Middle School, Fairport NY.*



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