



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**ARCHAEOLOGY
ACTIVITY
BOOK**

CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

MSU CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY

is a program that works to manage and protect the archaeological resources on Michigan State University's (MSU) beautiful and historic campus. MSU has a history that exists not only in our rich traditions and educational values, but also underneath our feet, below the ground upon which we walk every day.



Please share your finished Campus Archaeology Activity Books with us on our Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter (@capmsu) using #WeDigMSU

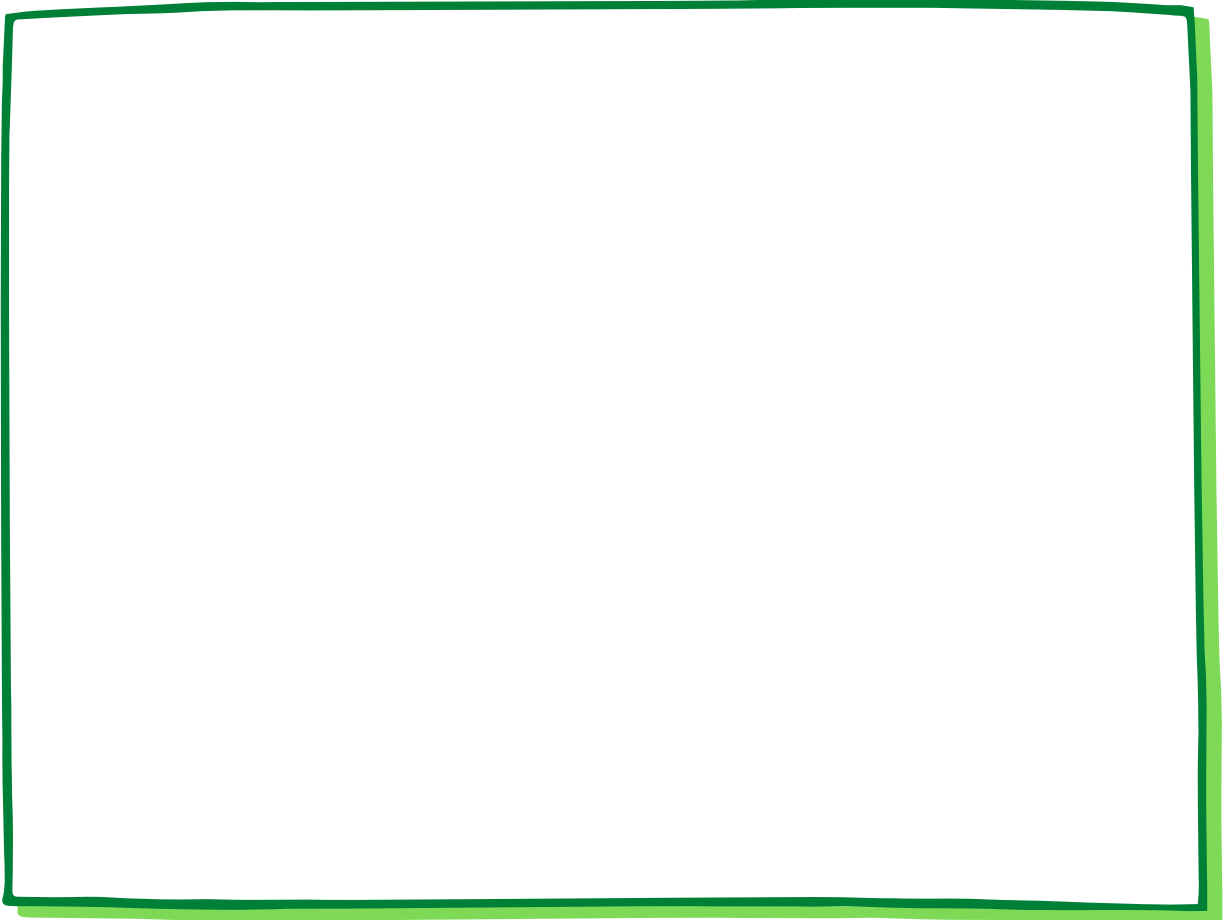
For more information about CAP, visit our website:
campusarch.msu.edu

Name

Date

FUN AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

In the box, draw and color your favorite thing about MSU.



At MSU, I like _____

because _____

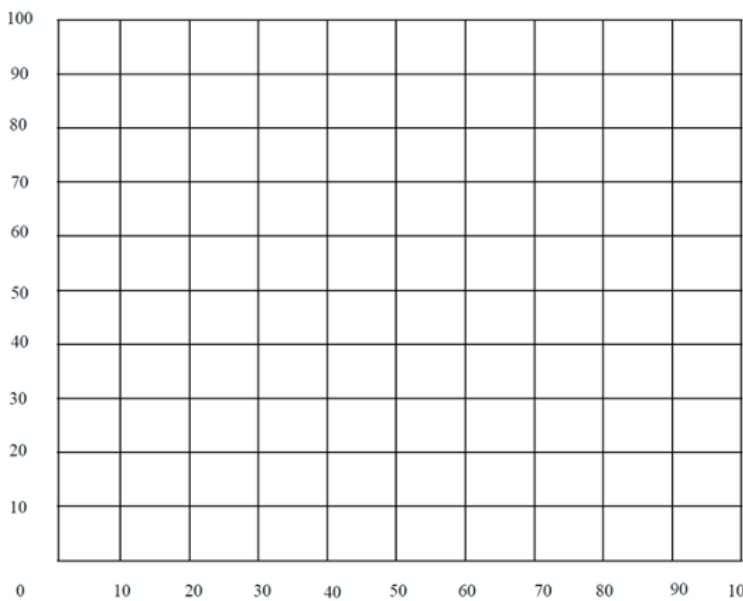
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COOKIE EXCAVATION

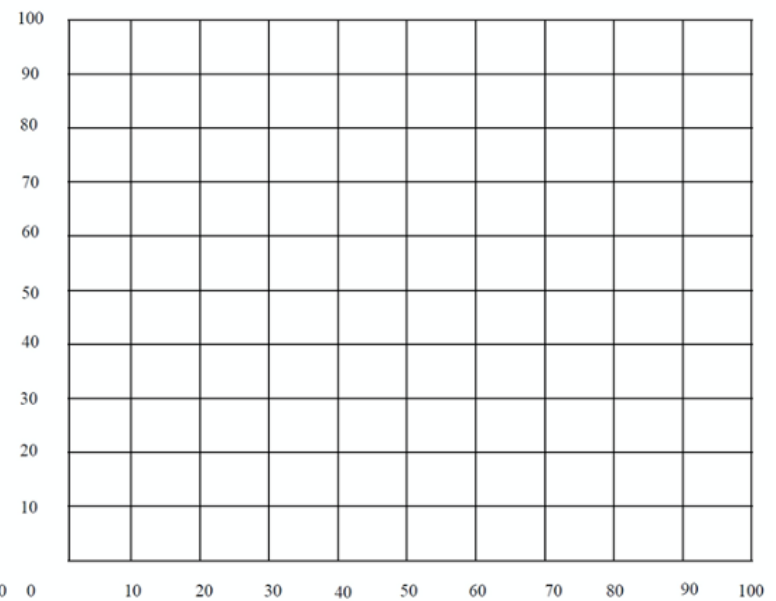
In order to keep track of where artifacts are found and how they relate to each other, archaeologists create detailed maps as they excavate. These maps are created using a grid, like those below! In this activity you will learn the basics on how we create these maps - using a tasty treat!

North Y



East X

North Y



East X

1. Place your chocolate chip cookie in the middle of the left grid. Do you not move your cookie from this spot. This is your archaeological unit.
2. Find the following X / Y coordinates on your cookie
Top: _____ Bottom: _____
Left: _____ Right: _____
3. Transfer (draw) these coordinate pairs to the right grid map and sketch the perimeter of your cookie
4. Plot the chips on the surface of your cookie on the map.
5. Slowly begin to excavate your cookie, revealing hidden chips. When you uncover a chip, plot the coordinates on the right grid map!
6. What problems did you encounter as you excavated your cookie?

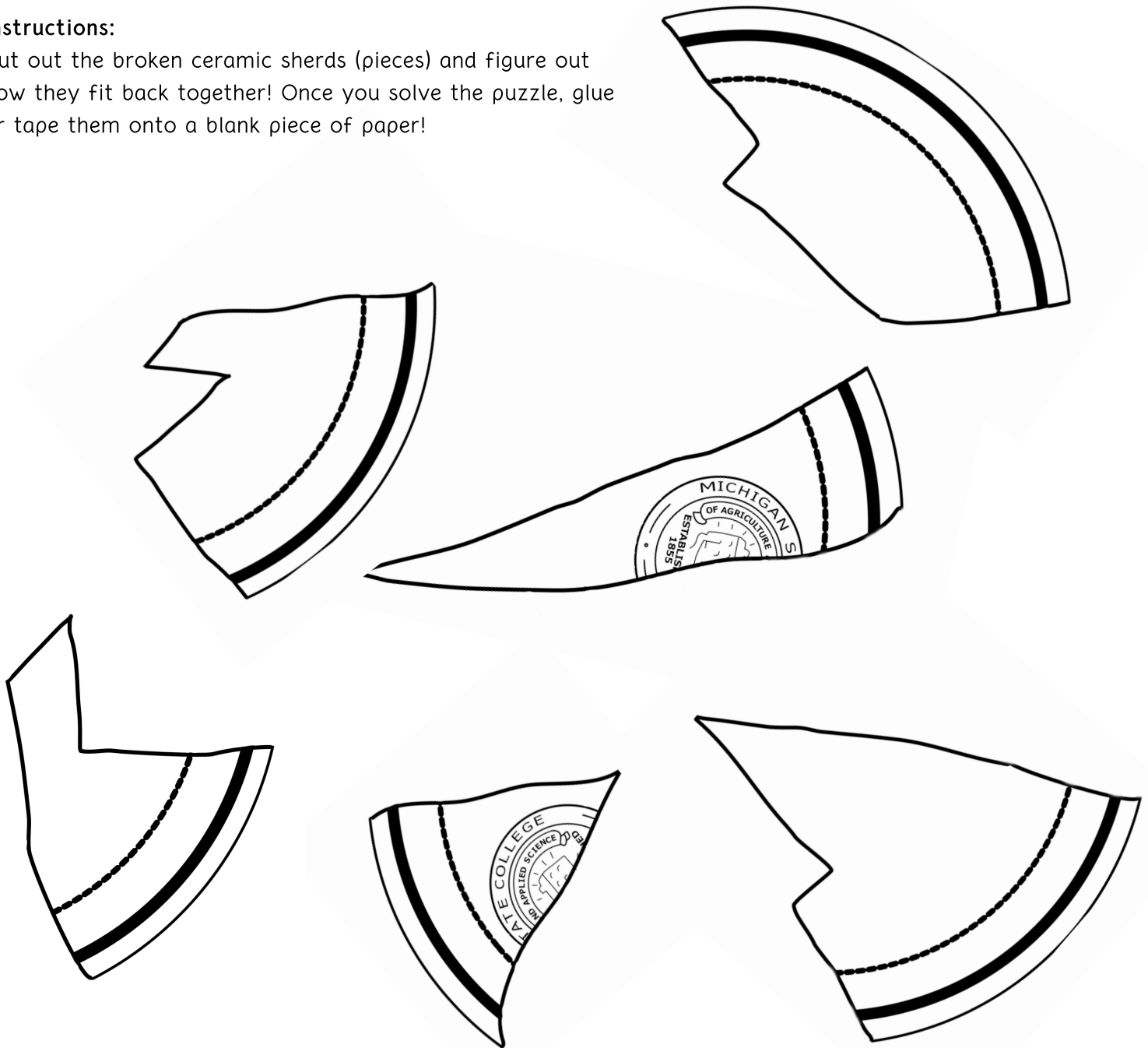
Ceramic Puzzle

Archaeologists usually find broken objects. Can you help us reconstruct a broken historic plate found on Michigan State University's campus?

Refitting broken objects helps archaeologists figure out what the item looked like and can also reveal more information about the object and the people who used it!

Instructions:

Cut out the broken ceramic sherds (pieces) and figure out how they fit back together! Once you solve the puzzle, glue or tape them onto a blank piece of paper!

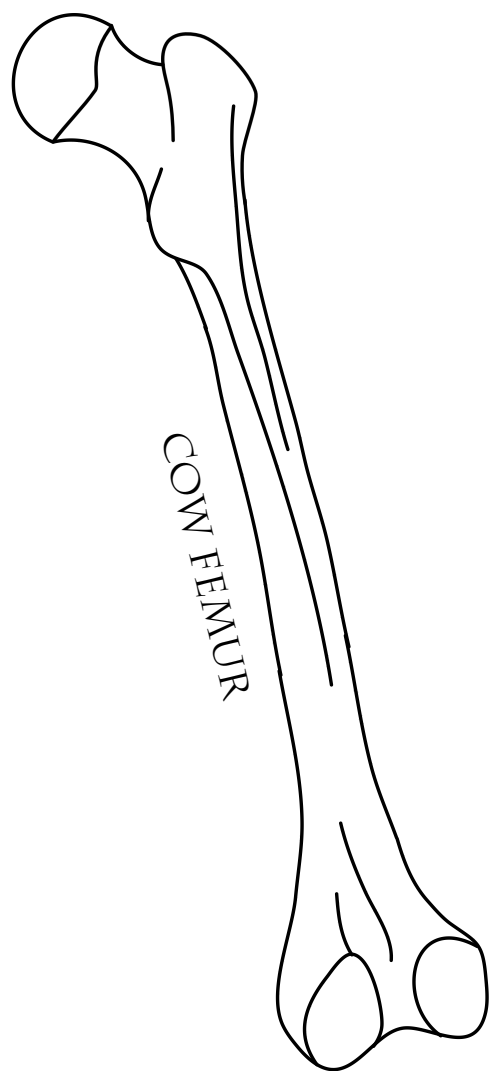
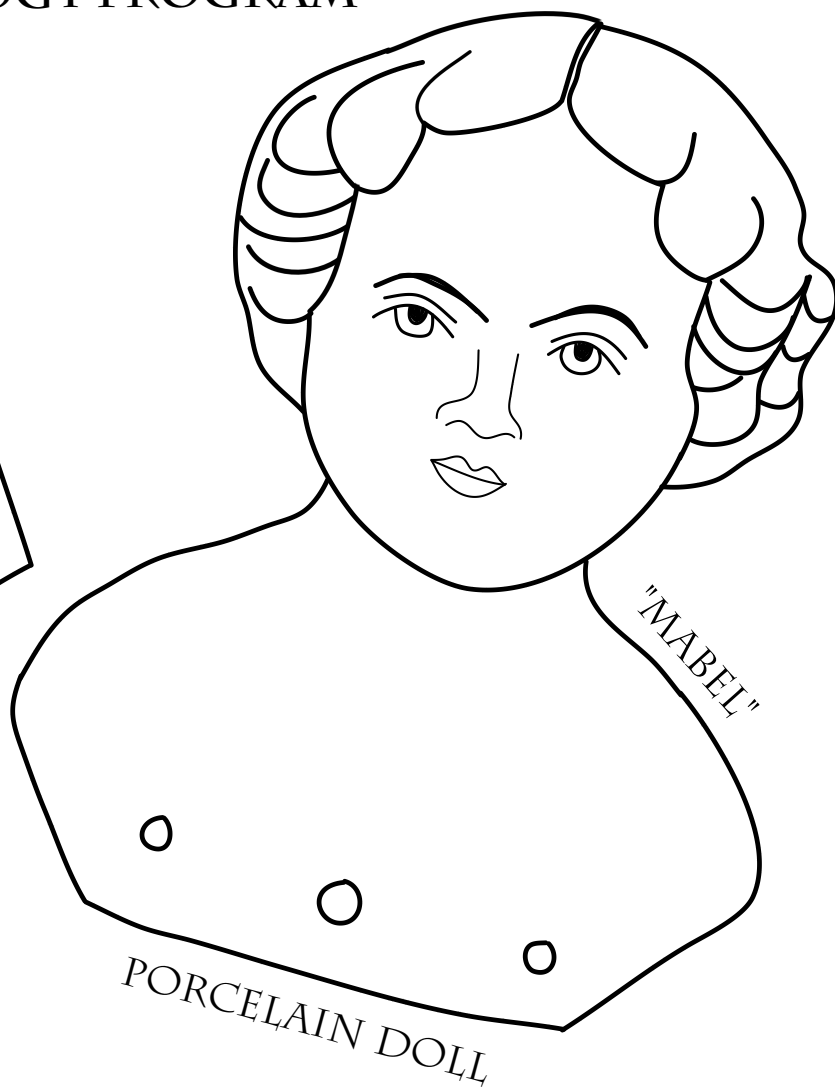
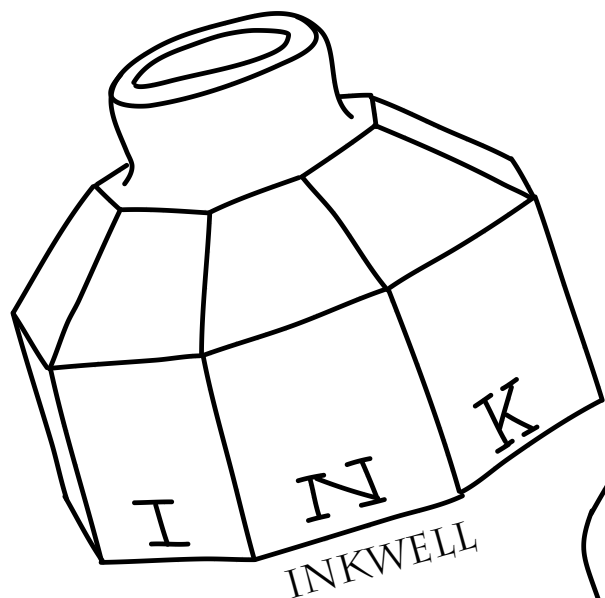


name

date

MSU CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

#ColorCAP





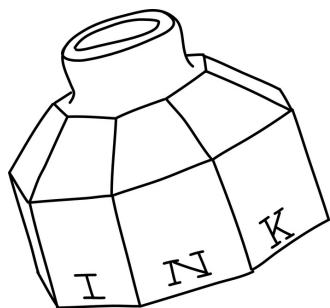
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PORCELAIN DOLL

During the excavation the historic privy (outdoor bathroom) associated with the first student housing on campus, Saints' Rest, a broken doll's head was recovered. Made of china, also known as porcelain, the figurine sports a hairstyle known as a "flat-top" which became popular during the Civil War days.

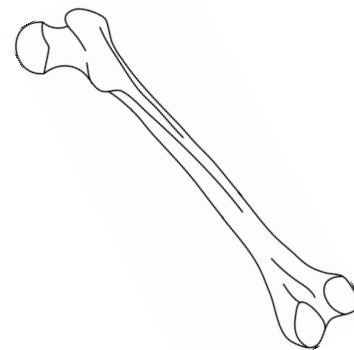


INKWELL

Today, when we need to jot something down on paper, we grab a ballpoint pen or a mechanical pencil. However, throughout the 1800s and even into the early 1900s, inkwells were the main way that someone could transfer their thoughts onto paper. This inkwell was found on campus.

COW FEMUR

During the summer of 2018, construction crews working on Wilson Road near Conrad Hall uncovered several large animal bones. The Campus Archaeology crew excavated the remains and uncovered an entire cow skeleton! It is possible that it was one of the first MSU cows or one owned by a family who lived in the area before MSU purchased the property.



MILK BOTTLE TOP

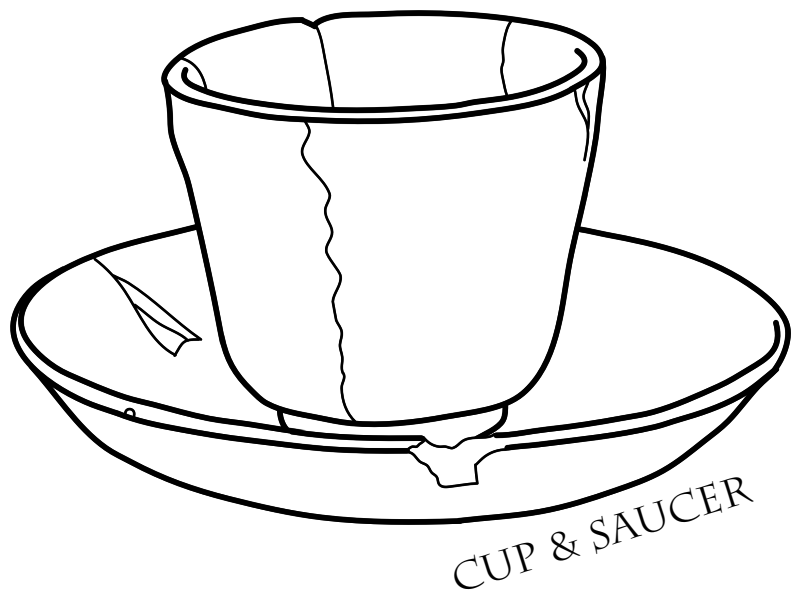
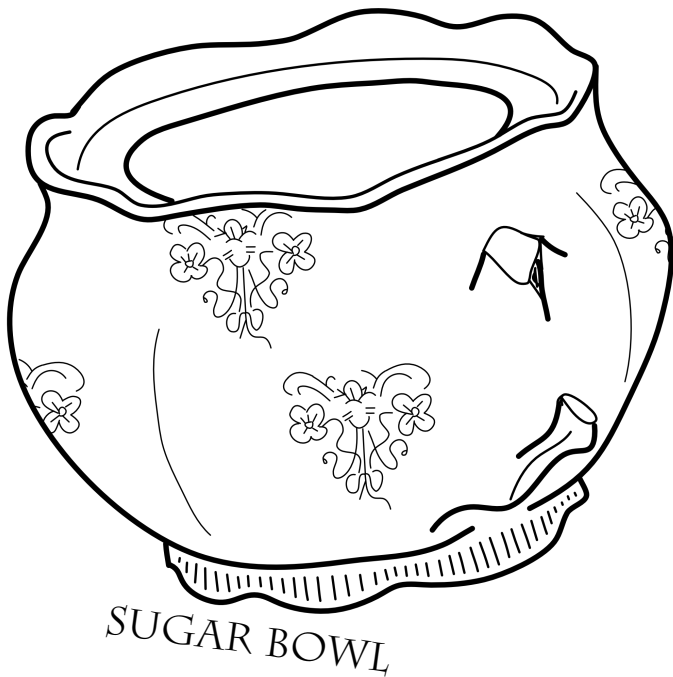
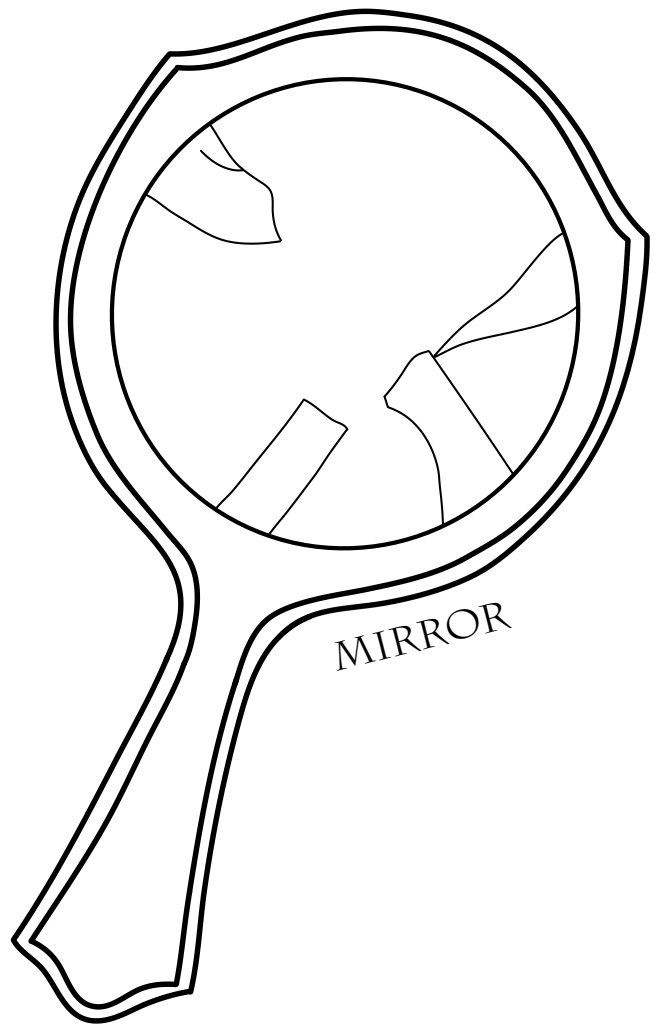
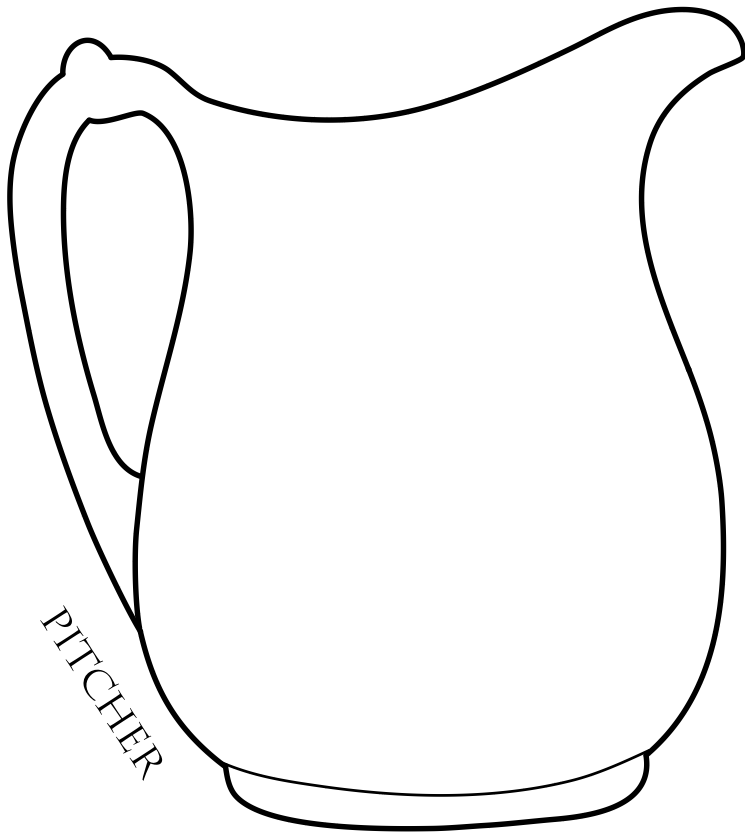
As the university began as an agricultural college, it isn't surprising that there is a rich history of dairy production. The first dairy classes began in 1895. The MSC Creamery exists today, but as the MSU Dairy Store where you can buy fresh MSU milk products including delicious ice cream and cheese. Glass milk bottles would have been closed with a paper top, like this Michigan State College one!

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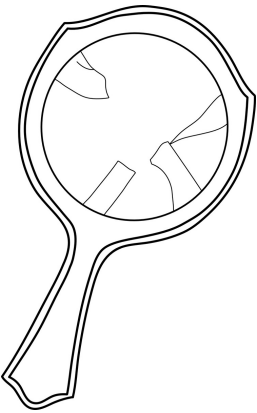
PITCHER

The pitcher was found at the location of Michigan State University's first dormitory, called Saints' Rest. Built in 1856, Saints' Rest was the only dorm on campus until Williams Hall was built in 1871. Unfortunately, Saints' Rest caught fire and burned down during the winter of 1876. Based on the date of the fire, we know that the pitcher is at least 142 years old!



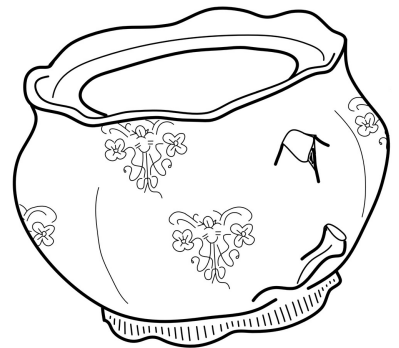
MIRROR

This mirror was uncovered during construction near Brody Hall, the site of a historic East Lansing city dump. It is unusual because it is made out of Bakelite, the world's first man-made plastic that was invented in 1909!



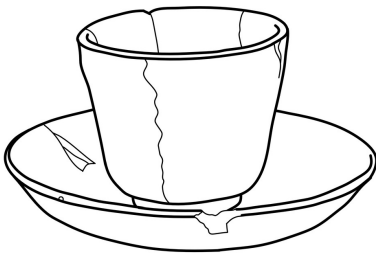
SUGAR BOWL

This sugar bowl was made in Germany between 1880 and 1918. We uncovered it near Brody Hall, the location of a historic East Lansing city dump. This sugar bowl would have been used during tea time by someone living in the East Lansing area, either at home or at a local tea house.



CUP AND SAUCER

These two items were found in the privy (outhouse) next to the first dorm on MSU's campus. While the cup doesn't have a handle like a typical teacup, it has the same pattern and style as the saucer. It's possible that this cup and saucer were used by some of the first students that attended Michigan State!



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MSU CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

Identify objects used to excavate archaeological sites

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IDENTIFY OBJECTS USED TO EXCAVATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Please share your colored excavation tools with us on our Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter (@capmsu) using #ColorCAP

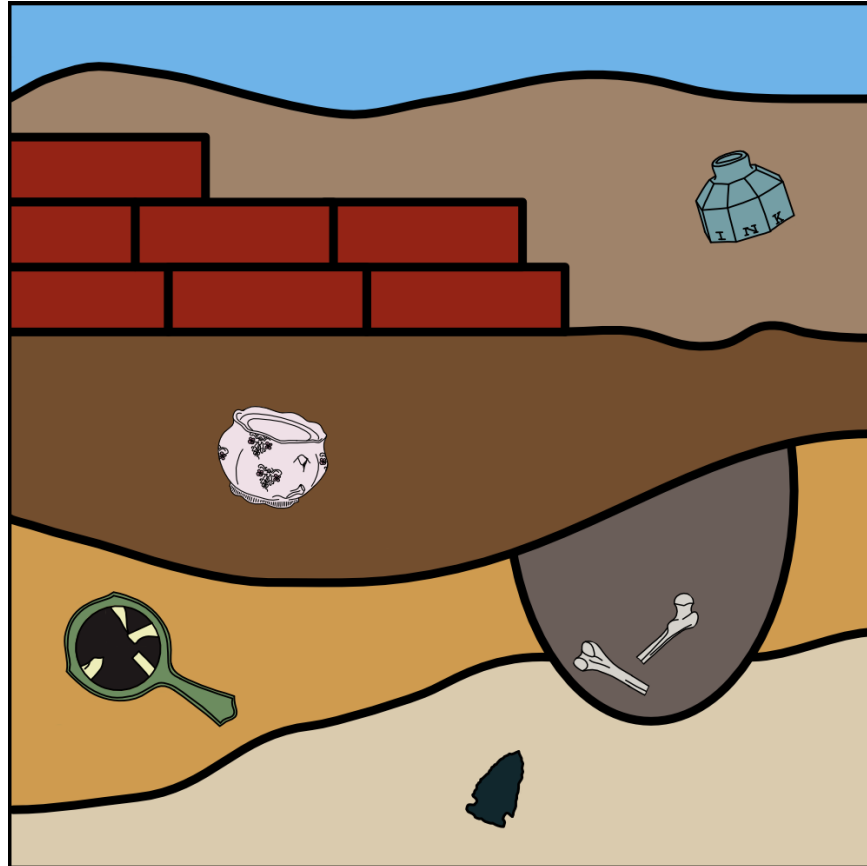
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Name

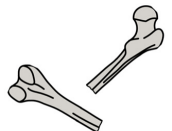
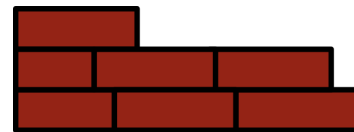
Date

Stratigraphy Game

One way archaeologists tell time is through the principle of stratigraphy. The main idea behind stratigraphy is that older things will be buried below more recent things, making it possible for archaeologists to determine that some types of objects or sites were used before or after others.



Order the objects below (1-6) in the order that they were buried, with #1 as the oldest object and #6 as the youngest. Hint: Start with the oldest object, which will be at the bottom of the drawing!



Artifact Sorting: Creating a Typology

In order to track changes in material culture (artifacts) over time and between sites, archaeologists organize different types of artifacts based on style. This is called a typology! Typologies can be used for a number of things including helping archaeologists place sites into time periods and track the distribution (trade and sale) of objects across space and time!

Archaeologists use varying characteristics to categorize artifacts like lithics (aka: stone tools), beads, and ceramics. Not all archaeologists agree on how to categorize. Some are considered “*Lumpers*” and some are considered “*Splitters*.”

Lumpers include many artifacts into few categories based on just a few characteristics even in the artifacts have some variability within groups. This act of “lumping” them all together gives these archaeologists their name.

Splitters tend to separate artifacts into many types based on many characteristics. The result is that the artifacts are “split” into many different types. When it comes to beads, archaeologists often try to sort by appearance and methods of manufacture. This is often difficult as archaeologists find broken beads, use different terms for shapes, or see different colors than other archaeologists.

Materials:

- Beads of varying shapes, sizes, colors, holes, material, etc. (paper versions provided below)
- Bead Sorting Exercise Form (provided below)

Instructions:

1. Gather your own beads or the pictures of the beads provided below. Color in the pictures of the beads first!
2. Select a random assortment of your beads. Sort the beads in any way you wish, but be sure to keep track of why you sorted them into each group! (example: by color, number of holes, size, etc.)
3. Fill out the Bead Sorting Exercise Form.

This activity was created by the Michigan State University Campus Archaeology Program based on the “Activity Bead Sorting: Building a Taxonomy” in Lytle, Whitney and Ann Vieyra “Archaeology Tools for Teaching: Teacher Packet and Resource Guide.” Legacy: Hands on the Past, UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, <http://www.car.utsa.edu/>

Bead Sorting Exercise

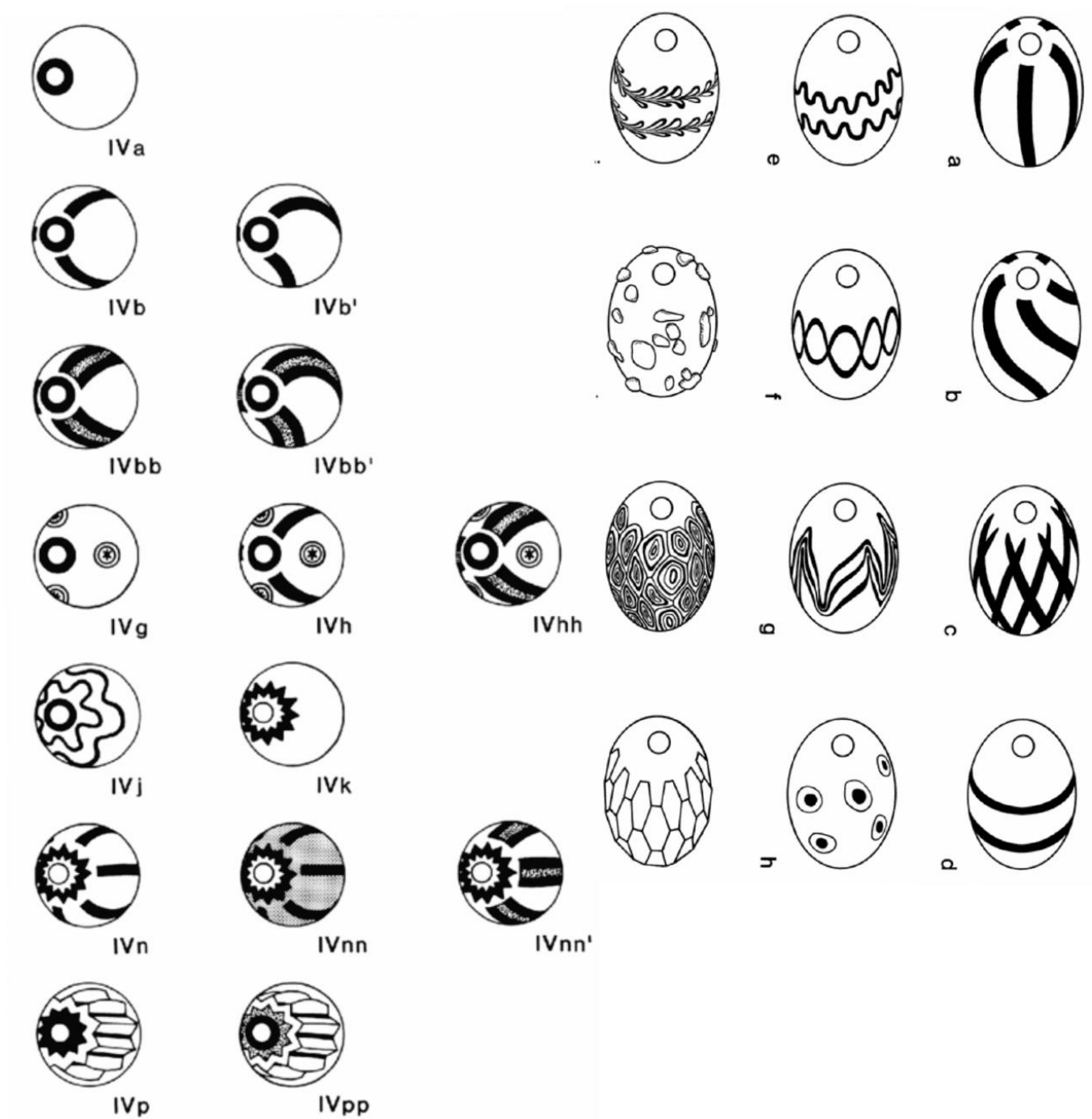
How many groups of bead types did you come up with?

What factors are helping you select bead attributes?

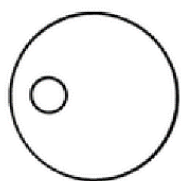
Do you think there are other ways to sort the beads?

Fill out the chart below based on how you sorted your beads (you may not need to use all of the rows)

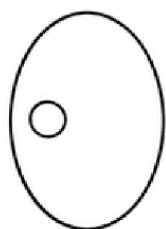
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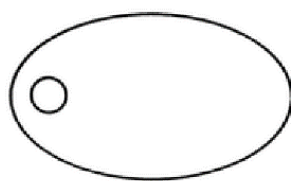
Taken from: Karklins, Karlis. (2012). Guide to the description and classification of glass beads found in the Americas.
 Beads J. Soc. Bead Res., 24, 62-90.



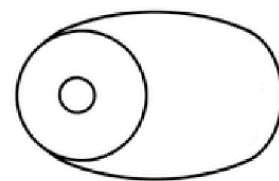
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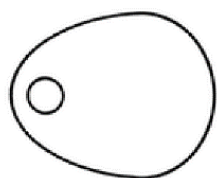
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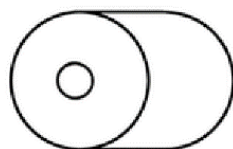
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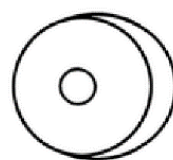
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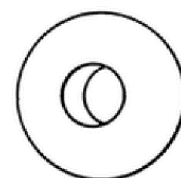
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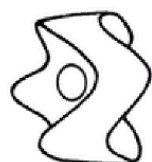
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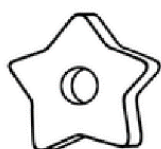
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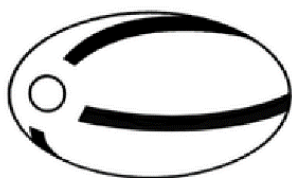
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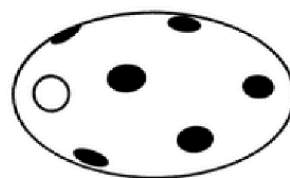
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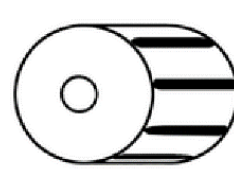
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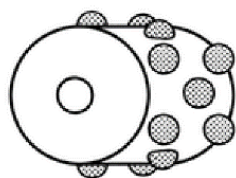
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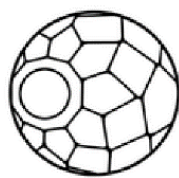
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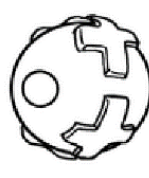
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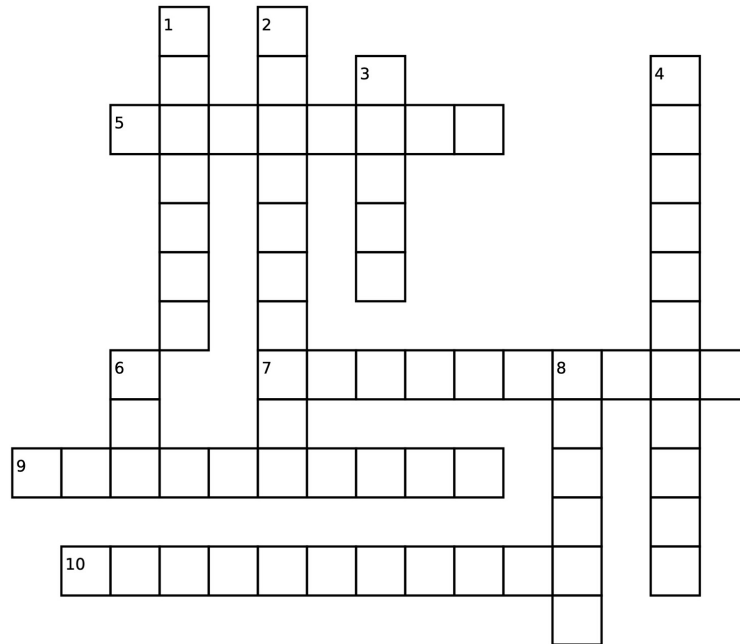
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PM IIh

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

MSU CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY



Down:

1. Material cups & plates are made out of
2. First dormitory on campus
3. Nickname of doll found in dorm privy
4. The study of past people through artifacts
6. The school's first initials
8. Tool used to excavate

Across:

5. An object made or used by past people
7. How archaeologists find artifacts
9. Where the first professors lived on campus
10. Oldest building on campus

.....

Need help figuring out the clues?
Visit campusarch.msu.edu to search for the answers!

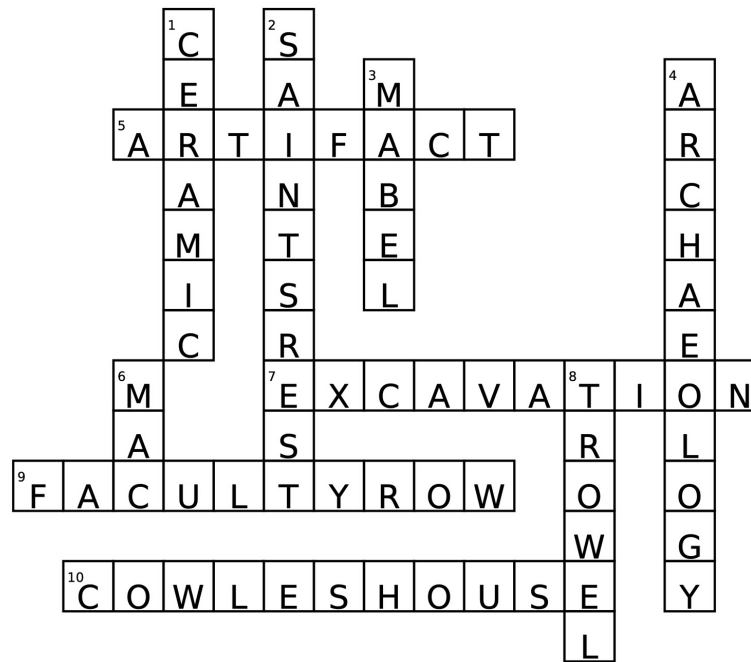
NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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MSU CAMPUS ARCHAEOLOGY

ANSWER KEY



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