



Theme: Archaeology (Grades 9-12)

Pre-Visit Activity #2

Modern and Ancient Tools

Overview:

Humans have used tools throughout history in order to make their lives easier and more efficient. Tools have revolutionized how humans eat, travel, build homes, and care for the sick. The purpose of this lesson is for students to discover unique tools and how they are revolutionizing modern societies or how they have revolutionized ancient societies. This lesson will prepare students for the classroom activity at the Springs Preserve, where they will be studying Native American tool usage.

Objectives:

- Students will discover unique tools and how those tools are advancing modern societies or have advanced ancient societies.
- Students will be able to interpret, select, and combine information using a variety of strategies, resources, and technologies.
- Students will research, in systematic ways, specific information from a variety of sources.
- Students will analyze and evaluate the chosen information.
- Students will be able to integrate chosen information in a way that effectively meets the requirements of a learning task and/or solves personally defined problems.

Materials:

- Paper
- Access to a library (for research)
- Access to the internet (for research)
- Access to a computer/printer

Background:

Prehistoric peoples made great use of stone, bone, and wood for the production of tools and functioned perfectly well without metal of any kind. They skillfully shaped these materials into a variety of tools for grinding, cutting, pounding, chopping, perforating, scraping, polishing, and weaving. They used digging sticks for farming, the stone axes for clearing land, bow and arrows for hunting, and sharp-edged stones for cutting. They ground corn with manos and metates and wooden spindle whorls for weaving. Over time tools have been created to simplify difficult tasks for everyday

life. However, these tools are constantly being modified. Unlike prehistoric peoples that mainly obtained their tool making materials from the area in which they lived, and via localized trade, we now have the convenience of mass transportation. This allows us to receive materials from virtually anywhere around the world. This is known as globalization, and it has changed the way people live and work.

Activity:

1. Have the students choose an appropriate modern or ancient tool from any society to research.
2. Students will design a power-point presentation answering the following questions:
 - What type of tool (cooking tool, surgery tool, manufacturing tool) is it?
 - Who uses the tool (people from a certain demographic, men, women, or both)?
 - How is it used (are there any trained skills needed to use it)?
 - Who made it?
 - Why did they make it?
 - How did they get the idea of making the tool?
 - Who currently makes the tool (a manufacturing firm or by hand)?
 - How many tools have been made to date (is this tool in mass production or made for a small group of individuals)?
 - Is this tool beneficial (has it changed or helped a particular person or group of people; has this tool made it easier to produce something; has it saved lives or simply made life more convenient)?
 - What modifications have been made to the tool over time (has the tool been modified from its original design after its initial use in order to improve its usefulness)?
3. Students need the following slides:
 - Slide 1: Students must include an introduction slide (including their name, name of tool, and date)
 - Slides 2-11: Students must include one slide for each question in number 2 (including enough information to answer the questions)
 - Slide 12: Students must include a summary slide (including the main points of the presentation)
 - Additional Slides: Students may include pictures in slides 1-12. If additional slides are needed for pictures or text allow them to add 3 slides. If the presentation is more than 15 slides, it will be too long

***Note:**

- a. The PowerPoint text should be typed using bullet points (no more than 7 points per slide). If the presentation is too wordy, it will be hard for the audience to read
- b. Text should be large enough to read
- c. The slide background color should contrast the text color, making it easy to read

4. Students will present their power-point to the class. They should also provide a print out (in note form to save paper) to the teacher.
5. Teachers may grade the assignment by their own criteria.

Discussion:

What was the most interesting tool students learned about? Why did they find it interesting? If they could invent a tool to assist them with a task, what would it be and how would they do it? What do tools tell us about different cultures? What tools do they think Native Americans of the Great Basin and Southwest, United States needed? Tell students they will learn the answers to the last question during the classroom activity at the Springs Preserve.