

Chapter 1

Use with Section 1

ENRICHMENT**• How Science Works****Archaeology Volunteers**

There are many opportunities for volunteers to share in archaeological discoveries. Here are some examples:

Dinosaur Excavation, Montana

Tasks: Volunteers will plot locations of fossils on a topographic map, construct trenches for excavation, excavate fossils using hand tools, and screen-wash sediment to sort fossils.

Mayan Ruin, Belize

Tasks: Volunteers will participate in field surveys, making maps, taking photographs, excavating, recording, and cataloging.

Hopi Ruin, Arizona

Tasks: Volunteers will work in both the field and the lab. Field work includes excavating, photographing, mapping Hopi artifact locations, and completing forms. Lab work includes washing, cataloging, sorting, and analyzing ceramics, stone items, and bone and shell tools.

Mammoth Remains, South Dakota

Tasks: Volunteers will use shovels, brushes, and dental tools to excavate bone beds. They will map, record data, and stabilize and preserve bone.

Answer the following questions, using complete sentences.

1. What skills might be useful for a person wishing to volunteer for an archaeological dig?

2. What sciences are used in these archaeological studies?

3. Suppose you could volunteer at one of these sites for two weeks. Which would you choose? Why?
