**Archaeological Investigation**

 

How do we know what has happened in the past? For our more recent history (the past 7,000 years), we will often have some written sources that will provide us with some evidence about what happened. But what if there are no written sources, or the event took place before the invention of writing? In that case, we are going to need the expertise of an **archaeologist.** Archaeology is a specific **discipline** of the social sciences that specializes in the recovery and study of the physical (bones) and cultural (artifacts) of humans. While early archaeologists were concerned with finding fame and fortune by discovering cities and tombs filled with valuable treasures (think Indiana Jones), archaeologists today are more concerned with determining how people of the past lived. This is often done by looking through **kitchen midden**, or the trash that people leave behind. From this ancient trash, archaeologists can piece together what people ate, the types of tools they used, where people lived, how big their communities were, and who they might have had contact with.

In this activity, you and your classmates are going to play archaeologists, and try to piece together information about a little known tribe, the Cainians. Recently, archaeologists working in the field found a site they believe to be a Cainian settlement that has yielded a wealth of artifacts. As you examine all of the artifacts, please complete the following on your Artifact Graphic Organizer:

1. Record the name of the Artifact
2. Briefly write down what the artifact might tells us about the Cainians

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CER: Claim – Evidence – Reasoning

Now that you have analyzed the artifacts, your job is to make three claims about how the Cainians lived. Remember, a claim needs to be backed up by evidence and reasoning – identify which possible artifact(s) best back-up your claim and explain why.

**Example**: The Cainians had a small child or toddler because there was a used diaper, baby wipes, and a baby food jar.

CER #1

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| Claim: |

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| Evidence: |

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| Reasoning: |

CER #2

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| Claim: |

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| Evidence: |

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| Reasoning: |

CER #3

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| Claim: |

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| Evidence: |

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| Reasoning: |