

ARCHAEOLOGY HAS A STORY TO TELL

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL TO FIND THE LAST CHAPTER OF A NOVEL YOU WERE READING MISSING? IF IT WERE AN EXCITING BOOK YOU WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY DISAPPOINTED. THIS IS WHAT ARCHAEOLOGISTS ENCOUNTER WHEN THEY TRY TO STUDY A SITE THAT HAS BEEN COLLECTED OR VANDALIZED BY PEOPLE. IT MAY SEEM HARMLESS TO TAKE AN ARTIFACT FROM A SITE, BUT IT IS LIKE REMOVING PIECES OF A PUZZLE OR PAGES FROM A BOOK. IT DOES NOT TAKE LONG BEFORE VALUABLE INFORMATION IS LOST FROM A SITE FOREVER.



RECONSTRUCTED CERAMIC RIM

HOW MUCH CAN WE LEARN FROM A SINGLE ARTIFACT?

YOU JUST MIGHT BE SURPRISED. FINDING AN ARTIFACT OR DISCOVERING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CAN BE A VERY EXCITING EXPERIENCE. SOME PEOPLE ARE TEMPTED TO TAKE THE ARTIFACT HOME WITH THEM, THINKING THAT REMOVING ONLY ONE OR TWO ARTIFACTS CAUSES LITTLE HARM. OTHERS MAY THINK THAT IT IS THEIR RIGHT TO REMOVE ARTIFACTS FROM PUBLIC LANDS, BUT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ILLEGAL. ANCIENT RUINS AND ARTIFACTS ON PUBLIC LANDS ARE HELD IN TRUST FOR ALL AMERICANS--PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, TO LEARN FROM AND ENJOY. AS THIS DISPLAY SHOWS, EVEN SMALL ARTIFACTS LIKE STONE ARROWS OR PIECES OF BONE CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE CLUES TO THE AGE AND FUNCTION OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE.

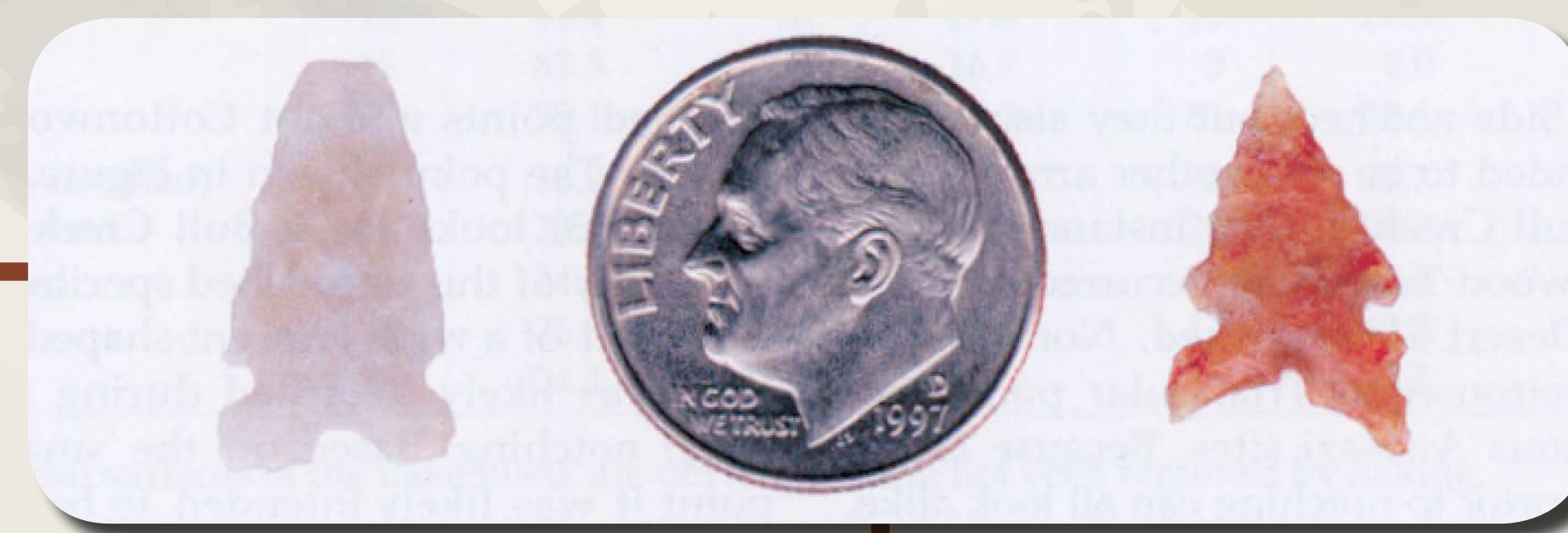
CHECK OUT SOME OF THE METHODS USED BY ARCHEOLOGISTS TO STUDY THE PAST. MANY OF THESE WERE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE LAST CENTURY. NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE CONSTANTLY BEING INTRODUCED AND OLD METHODS REFINED WITH SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS. WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT HOLD FOR THE STUDY OF PAST CULTURES.

YOU CAN HELP!

ENJOY THE INTRIGUE OF DISCOVERING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OR FINDING AN ARTIFACT LEFT BY ANCIENT PEOPLE. BUT PLEASE, DO NOT REMOVE ARTIFACTS OR DISTURB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN ANYWAY. THESE REMAINS ARE FRAGILE AND NON-RENEWABLE. ONCE THEY ARE GONE, THEY CAN NEVER BE REPLACED. HELP YOUR PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS TO CARE FOR OUR SHARED HUMAN HISTORY BY LEAVING ARTIFACTS WHERE THEY ARE FOUND AND NOTIFYING YOUR AGENCY ARCHAEOLOGIST OF YOUR FINDING. FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL THANK YOU WHEN THEY TOO GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE EXCITEMENT OF LEARNING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO CAME BEFORE US.

THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF PROTECTING AND PRESERVING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES BEGINNING WITH THE ANTIQUITIES ACT PASSED IN 1906. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS PROHIBIT THE REMOVAL OF ARTIFACTS, EXCAVATION, DAMAGE, ALTERATION, OR DEFACEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ON PUBLIC LANDS. ENGAGING IN THESE ACTIVITIES CAN RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT AND FINES UP TO 10 YEARS AND \$100,000.

METHODS USED TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST



STUDY OF PLANT AND ANIMAL REMAINS



STUDY OF STONE TOOLS

