

# Archaeology in the Community

## Ceramic Reassembly

Grade Level: 1-7



**MATERIALS** The materials needed for this activity are:

- Masking Tape
- Broken ceramics

### NOTE:

An adult should take several ceramic vessels and break them, so that the students may reassemble them for this activity.

## How do archaeologists know what ceramics looked like in the past?

A large amount of fragments of different ceramic objects are usually found during an archaeological excavation. Finding the relation between these fragments is time-consuming and demands expert knowledge. However, once the ceramics are mended together archaeologists can tell a lot about the objects people used in the past and what they looked like.

## What?

Youth will learn how to archaeologist reassemble artifacts in order to understand what objects look like in the past.

## How?

### Before:

- Students should take their ceramics and place them on the table in front of them. Students should be able to identify from which ceramic pieces.

### During:

- Once the students have identified which ceramic pieces can be reassembled, students can start reassembling the artifacts. This is accomplished by taping the two pieces together that were once connected.
- Repeat this process for the ceramic pieces until you have reassembled the ceramic vessels.

### After:

- After the students have reassembled the ceramics, have a group discussion to talk about what type of ceramic vessel they assembled.

## What did you discover?

Have the students write a paragraph about their observations and speculate what might an archaeologist 100 years from now think those objects were used for?