

Digging Up The Past

Name _____

Partner _____

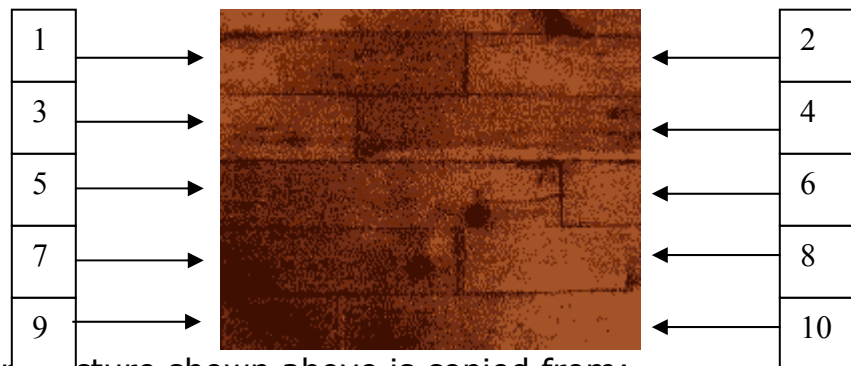
Partner _____

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When historians want to learn about what it was like in past societies, they often turn to the relics and artifacts of the time they are studying. An **artifact** is something that is man-made and has been left behind by the people of a given time or culture. Usually artifacts are “dated” by looking at what else is located where they are found. This means that if the building they are found in was built at a certain time, the artifact had to have come after the date of final work while the building was open. If something is found under a layer of rock, it is generally thought of as older than the rock. The people who dig up and study the artifacts are called **archeologists**. They have a very important role in decoding the life styles and cultures of the past because they give us what is called “**primary source material**” to study. Letters and books written by people who have actually been at or seen an event are also primary source material.

In this activity you are going to become archeologists! The diagram of floorboards on this page is the same as the one found on the tenement museum – excavation site. Notice that numbers have been placed on the floorboards here. You will need to go to the computer site at: <http://www.thirteen.org/tenement/floorboards.html> and click on the floorboards to find the artifacts discovered by the restoration workers at 97 Orchard Street.

Use the pictures of the artifacts found under each board and the information given about them to complete the table and questions found on the next page. Be sure to discuss the finds in your group to come up with the best possible answer.



The floor board picture shown above is copied from:
<http://www.thirteen.org/tenement/objects.html>

Artifact Data Chart**Name**

Floorboard #	Sketch of Artifact	Written description	Analysis
1			Look for information this was a local bar Was this a large am time?
2			What tenant do you these? Did women smoke t
3			What country was t What do you think t
4			How valuable would owner? How do you think it
5			Why is this printed Who do you think t

Artifact Data Chart**Name**

Floorboard #	Sketch of Artifact	Written description	Analysis
6			What was this used t Do you think the own

7			What information tel How did you know y then?
8			What is this made of About how old was t
9			Why were teeth pull Do dentists today ha
10			What was this suppo How widely was this