

Archaeological Dig of Ancient Wetland

STATION #1

Directions:

People use wetlands in many ways, directly and indirectly. In this activity, pretend to be archaeologists of the future in the year 2306. Carefully, examine the collection and pull "artifacts" from the sand that have been collected from a study of the nearby wetland ***Aransas Estuary***. Explain how the "artifacts" relate to human uses of wetlands by the "ancient" people of the 21st century. Identify how the object got to where the archeologist found it.

Think about...

- Which uses would still continue in the year 2306 if people had used the wetlands wisely?
- Which artifacts would students find in the year 2406 (in another hundred years)?
- Presuming that the students in the year 2306 are very conscientious about taking good care of wetlands, which artifacts would the students in the year 2406 likely not find?

Purpose: Describe ways people benefit from wetlands and discuss actions needed to be taken to protect wetlands for future generations.

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List of Artifacts

- can of crabmeat
- commercial and sport fishing lure
- film canister
- brochure from a hunting or fishing-guide
- kayak trail map
- duck stamp
- binoculars
- field guide to birds or wetland plants
- book of nature poetry
- empty soft drink can
- sport fishing or hunting license
- canned shrimp
- monofilament line