**What is Archaeology?**

**POWERPOINT NOTES**

1. Archaeology is the study of the human past (not dinosaurs!) from material remains. This can be anything that survives from a particular time. For example pottery fragments, coins, stone tools or the remains of buildings can all be evidence for human activity in the past. Archaeologists often dig up evidence from the ground. This is called excavation.
2. Archaeologists carefully uncover layers of earth searching for evidence of human activity. Normally the deeper down they dig the older the material they find. The different layers archaeologists uncover are called stratigraphy. By carefully observing each layer archaeologists hope to tell the story of human activity in a particular place.
3. This mini excavation tool – the Archaeocube - shows the stratigraphy archaeologists might find on an excavation. Pupils uncover different layers of an ancient Greek site. In one layer they find pottery and coins while in another they discover a mosaic pavement. These clues lead to the conclusion that they are excavating an ancient Greek house.
4. Finds from any excavation are carefully stored in bags. Finds from each layer are placed in trays and labelled. The archaeologists do not want to lose any evidence from the site. Sometimes the clues archaeologists are looking for can be really small. Even seeds, bones and shells are collected to try to understand what plants and animals were around in the past.
5. All the clues an archaeologist collects from a site are used to build up a picture of what life was like in the past. Archaeologists produce books, make reconstructions of ancient buildings and objects and help with museum displays to show the results of their work. This model of an ancient Greek house has been made using information from excavations.