

People from the Past trail

Archaeology at the Queensland Museum South Bank

ARCHAEOLOGISTS... study how people lived in the past by looking at the things they left behind. To find these remnants, archaeologists can survey, excavate, and record artefacts. All the artefacts that you will find tell us things about people from the past. So as you are exploring think about how they were used, what they were used for.

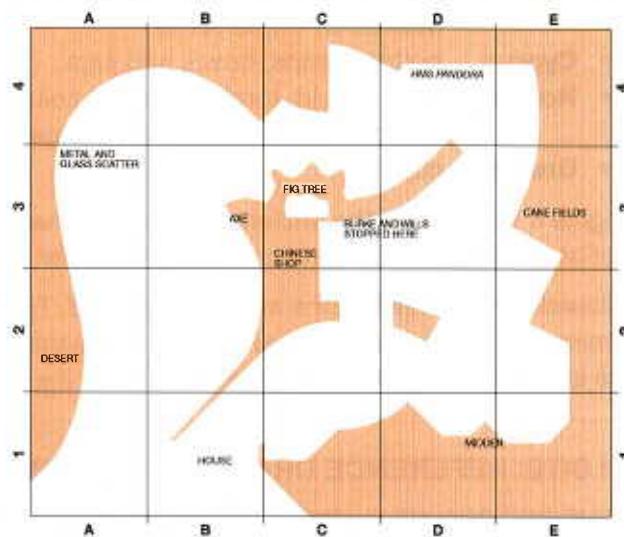
QM SITE: DISCOVER QUEENSLAND EXHIBITION – LEVEL 2

Archaeologists can study the past from a number of perspectives

- Australian Archaeologists look at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander archaeological sites.
- Historical Archaeologists look at the archaeology of the more recent past.
- Maritime Archaeologists look at sites that are on or under the water.

DIG DEEPER... Survey this site for the different artefact locations. What sort of sites do you think these artefacts have come from? Don't forget to record the grid reference

All of these artefacts can give us information. What sort of things do you think we can find out about people of the past from the artefacts you have seen here?



Toulkerrie shell midden	Australian Archaeology	Grid Ref E1
Plates and crockery, HMS Pandora	Maritime Archaeology	Grid Ref
Axe head, Mount Isa	Australian Archaeology	Grid Ref
Metal and Glass scatter	Historical Archaeology	Grid Ref

QM SITE: DANDIIRI MAIWAR – LEVEL 4

Lots of different people do archaeology — people who have trained at university and people who know about an area because they have lived there all their lives. A lot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander archaeologists work on their traditional country. This means that archaeology can be combined with their stories to understand more about how Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders lived in the past.

UNCOVER... The artefacts and objects on display in Dandiiri Maiwar. Find the largest and the smallest stone artefacts on display in the Yarning Table and look at all the different shapes. Record your favourite artefact by drawing it.

Look at the objects in the Open Access Collection — what are they made of? Which ones do you think would survive if they were buried for hundreds of years?

Why might this material be lost for ever? Why do you think it is important to keep cultural material in a museum?

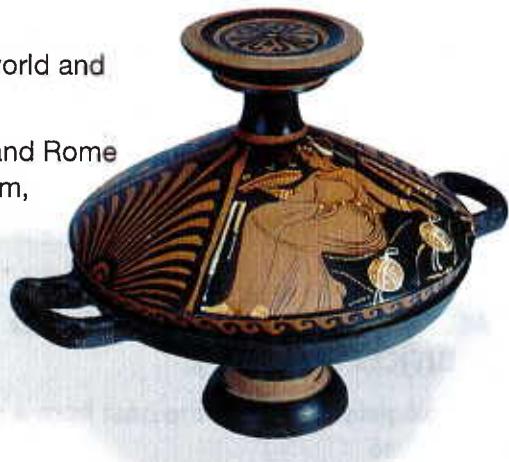


QM SITE: INQUIRY CENTRE – LEVEL 3

SURVEY ... the Inquiry Centre to find artefacts from all over the world and from the far reaches of the human past.

When most people think about archaeology, they think of Egypt and Rome — this is known as Classical Archaeology. At Queensland Museum, we have artefacts from many of these ancient civilizations

- **Egypt** pottery, figurines, mummy cloth, amulets, necklaces, implements
- **Cyprus** pottery lamps, bowls and jugs
- **Roman** lamp mould, tombstone and column fragments, cauldron from Pompeii
- **Greece** cup



Imagine if you lived in the ancient world using these beautiful objects ... What would it be like using tiny Cypriot oil lamps for light, or serving from Roman jugs and cups?

Archaeology is actually done all over the world. There are hundreds of archaeologists working in Australia, learning more about our past every day. Archaeologists from Queensland Museum have even excavated here at South Bank, uncovering material from the earliest days of Brisbane.

QM SITE: REFERENCE DRAWERS, INQUIRY CENTRE – LEVEL 3

IN THE RECORD OF OUR PAST ... one of the most common artefacts found all over the world are made from stone. Help us to update our records to catalogue the stone artefact drawers — fill in the missing catalogue details

Drawer	Culture	Continent	Artefacts
3B		Europe	Tools like blades, axes and scrapers
3C	Palaeolithic		
3D	Paleo-Indian	North America	
4A			Points, Flakes and Tulas
4B	Aboriginal		Cores
4C	Aboriginal	Australia	
4D		Australia	
4E	Neolithic		Axes, points and blades

Have a close look at these stone tools and imagine how you would use them. How hard would they be to make? Why do you think it's important for archaeologists to research stone tools?

QM FIELDWORK DIARY — Archaeologists always keep a diary about what happens when they go on fieldwork. They record who worked, where they went and what the weather was like, as well as any ideas they may have had about the sites they visit. Record your own impressions of your archaeological fieldtrip to Queensland Museum South Bank.

Thanks for following our People from the Past Trail!