What do archaeologists look for?

- Coins
- Pottery, plates
- Bones
- Records
- Fossils
- Tools
- Weapons
- Jewellery

- Transport (boat, chariot)
- Ruins or parts of buildings
- Old toys
- Food remains
- Cutlery
- Housing
- Pollen
- War badges
How do archaeologists decide where to dig?

- Old maps
- Place where artefacts were found before
- Finding something by accident
- Metal detector
- Site where there was a battle
- Books, diaries, documents might lead them there

- Aerial photography (birds eye view from a helicopter or plane)
- Rescue archaeology: if a new road etc. was being built and they found a site
- Near an old building
- In graveyards or burial places
Excavating a site

- Decide where to dig
- Draw plan of site
- Remove grass/topsoil
- Divide site into squares using string and wooden sticks
- Draw grid onto your plan
- Number each square/section

Start digging each square (trowel+brush)
- If you find an artefact draw picture/take photo of it
- Record where you found it
- Bag it, label it
- Send it to museum/university to be examined/ dated
- Write a report
- Store or display artefacts (Museum)
TOOLS USED BY AN ARCHAEOLOGISTS

- TROWEL
- BRUSH
- SIEVE
- CAMERA
- NOTEBOOK
- BAG + LABEL
- PLAN OF SITE WITH GRID SQUARES
POST HOLES: dark patches in ground where wooden poles were placed in the past

MIAMI CIRCLE
Dating methods: working out how old an artefact is.

- CARBON DATING
- DENDROCHRONOLOGY
- STRATIGRAPHY
- POLLEN ANALYSIS
- COMPARING OBJECTS
- STYLE/MATERIALS OF THE ARTEFACT
• CARBON DATING (also called carbon 14 or radiocarbon dating): measuring the amount of carbon in an object to work out how old it is.

• DENDROCHRONOLOGY: tree ring dating

• STRATIGRAPHY: working out how old something is by what layer in the ground it was found

• POLLEN ANALYSIS: can tell us what plants were around or eaten and even the season

• COMPARING OBJECTS: similar objects might be from a similar time

• STYLE/MATERIALS OF THE ARTEFACT: can help us work out when they were made