



Archaeology

Adventures in Reading:

Reading Adventure Packs from Reading Rockets



Funded in part by the
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Contents:

- Two books — one fiction, one nonfiction
- Parent information sheet
- Three activity sheets
- Bookmark
- Parent survey



For teachers and librarians

This Reading Rockets reading adventure pack is designed to support reading activities at home. We've chosen a fiction and nonfiction book about **archaeology**, appropriate for a second and third grade interest level, and included related activities to encourage some hands-on fun and learning. Just assemble the packet and books in a two-gallon zip top bag, and send home with your students.

When packing for this reading adventure about archaeology we suggest you include *Archaeologists Dig for Clues* by Kate Duke and *The Shipwrecked Sailor: An Egyptian Tale with Hieroglyphics* by Tamara Bower. In *Archaeologists Dig for Clues*, young readers learn how archaeologists set up a dig site, what tools they use, and how they record their findings. *The Shipwrecked Sailor* is based on a real papyrus scroll of hieroglyphics that tells a tale of a voyage on the Red Sea to an enchanted land. Parts of the story are translated into hieroglyphics – pictures of people, animals, and everyday objects.

Reading Rockets carefully chose these titles because they are widely available in libraries and appealing to young readers. If they are not available, or you prefer other titles, substitute books related to the theme. You'll find more titles about archaeology included on the bookmark and at www.worldcat.org/profiles/ReadingRockets/lists.

The parent information sheet includes an introductory note that you can personalize with your own instructions, and tips for sharing fiction and nonfiction books with children

The activities are designed to encourage further exploration and learning at home:

- Creativity Activity: a hands-on craft project
- Imagination Activity: encourages imaginative play, writing or drawing
- Get Real Activity: focuses on real-world experiences for parent and child
- The bookmark lists both the featured titles and additional titles

Putting it all together

Print out copies of the Welcome sheet, How To sheet, the three activities, and the bookmark/survey.

Into a two-gallon zip top bag, place:

- Two books — one fiction and one nonfiction
- Parent information sheet
- Three themed activity pages
- Bookmark
- Survey for parents

Send the packet home with your student. Encourage parents to keep the parent information sheet, the activities and bookmark, and return the books and survey to you.

Let reading rockets know what you think of the family activity packets by e-mailing us through our website: www.readingrockets.org/sitecontact. Click on "Reading Adventure Packs."



Reading Adventure Packs: Hands-on fun & learning from Reading Rockets
Find more themes and activities at ReadingRockets.org/readingadventurepacks

START YOUR READING ADVENTURE!

Welcome

Dear _____

Exploring new ideas and enjoying books with you sends a powerful message to your child: Reading and learning are fun, and happen everywhere — not just at school. This Reading Rockets reading adventure pack about the **archaeology** was created to help you and your child enjoy reading and learning together.

Start your learning adventure by reading some books with your child about this popular topic. Then explore the topic with three activities. Enclosed you'll find what you need:

- How to use your reading adventure pack
- Two books to share with your child
- Three related activities
- Bookmark with a list of other books to extend the fun, if you wish
- Short survey to tell me if you enjoyed using the packet

The “how to” sheet, bookmark, this parent information sheet, and the activities are yours to keep.

When you've finished with the materials, please return the books and the completed survey to school in your child's backpack. Please return the Reading Rockets activity packet by _____ .

I hope you'll enjoy reading and learning together!

Teacher signature

To learn more about children's books, reading with your child, and information about helping kids become confident readers, please visit www.ReadingRockets.org



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How to use your Reading Adventure Pack

Getting ready

1. Before you read the books to your child, be sure to read them yourself.

One book is fiction — a “make-believe” story. The other book is nonfiction, or informational and true. Reading the books first will give you the “inside scoop” to the twists and turns of the story, the interesting information inside, and the parts of the books that will appeal most to your child.

2. Next, read the three activities to see which of them you think your child will enjoy most, and which one you have the time and materials on-hand to do right away. Chances are, after you read one (or both) of the books with your child, he or she may want to do an activity right away.

Start the fun

3. When you know you’ll have at least enough time to read and talk about one of the books, grab your child and a book, and dive right in. Start with the fiction selection. Talk about the cover of the book with your child — can he guess what it is about? Have they ever read a book by the same author or illustrator or about the same topic?

Read the book to your child. If you are using the fiction title, you will be sharing a make-believe story. As you read and explore the pictures, you should note to your child that the author might include real facts in fiction writing. Talk with your child about how to confirm factual information found in works of fiction. Then, try the nonfiction book or one of the activities.

4. When you read the nonfiction book, take a moment to explain to your child the difference between the two types of books. The fiction book told a made-up, make-believe story, and a nonfiction book focuses on real people, places, and things. The information in nonfiction books can answer lots of questions and confirm facts. You don’t have to read a nonfiction book straight through.

5. Feel free to pick and choose from the activities, or change them to suit your child’s interests. Read the books again over the next few days and try different activities. Most important: have fun!

When you’re done...

6. Keep the bookmark, the activities and this page. Complete the survey and return it with the books to your child’s school.

Make the most of the excitement the books create, and try some hands-on learning or make-believe fun. Exploring new ideas alongside you lets your child see you learning — and reading — too, and gives your child personal experiences to support her growing knowledge.

Tips for reading nonfiction books with kids:

- Wonder out loud. As you are reading, or after talk about facts you find interesting or questions you have.
- Show your child how to use the table of contents, section headings, index and word list (glossary) to find answers to specific questions.
- Don’t be afraid to jump around, reading pages that especially interest your child. You don’t have to read a nonfiction book straight through.

Tips for reading fiction books with kids:

- Take your time and talk about the story with your child. Ask your child questions.
- Explore the pictures with your child.
- Read with expression. Change your voice or how fast you read to create excitement. Ham it up!
- You don’t need to read every word. Keeping your child interested is the goal.



Reading Adventure Packs: Hands-on fun & learning from Reading Rockets
Find more themes and activities at ReadingRockets.org/readingadventurepacks



Stories in stone

People have always been storytellers, from the Stone Age until today. In ancient times, humans painted or carved their stories on cave walls or rocks using pictures. They drew things that were important to them like celebrations, hunting, and animals. Prehistoric cave paintings more than 40,000 years old have been discovered in France (Lascaux) and Spain (Altamira). Rock carvings (petroglyphs) can be found throughout the world; here in the U.S., you can explore the Native American petroglyphs of the Southwest – some thousands of years old.



What would your child paint on a rock or cave wall? The night sky? Animals? Family? Celebrations? What story would he tell? For each of the following activities, talk with your child about what he chose to draw and what it means to him.

Sandpaper petroglyphs

Use rough sandpaper as your “rock” surface and watch your child’s imagination fly. Drawing with crayons on the rough surface creates an interesting texture!

What you’ll need:

- Squares of rough grit sandpaper
- Crayons

Sidewalk petroglyphs

What you’ll need:

- Spray bottle with misting nozzle
 - Cornstarch
 - Food coloring
1. Gather up items that have interesting shapes: leaves, small kitchen utensils, plastic animals – and your hands! You could also cut shapes out of heavy construction paper. These objects will be used as your sidewalk stencils.
 2. Mix 6 tablespoons of cornstarch with 1 cup of water until dissolved. Stir in a few drops of food coloring.

(Continued on next page)



Stories in stone

Sidewalk petroglyphs *(continued from previous page)*

3. Pour the mixture into your spray bottle and shake (you'll need to re-shake often to keep everything well mixed).
4. Set your found objects on the sidewalk and spray around each. Lift up the objects to reveal the "petroglyph" underneath.

More learning online

- 5 Great Places to See Native American Rock Art
<http://www.gadling.com/2010/12/24/five-great-places-to-see-native-american-rock-art/>
- Petroglyph National Park Virtual Visit
<http://www.nps.gov/petr/photosmultimedia/virtual-visit.htm>
- Petroglyph Photo Gallery
<http://geology.com/articles/petroglyphs/more-petroglyphs.shtml>

More to think about

How do we use pictures or symbols in our world today? Can you think of examples of "modern petroglyphs"? What about the symbols that you see in our parks? What stories do they tell?





The big dig!

Do you like to dig in the dirt? Find things that have been lost? Put puzzle pieces together? Figure out stories from clues? Learn about the past? These are all things archeologists do!

Archaeologists learn about different cultures from the past by digging up and studying artifacts – the remains of things people have left behind or thrown away. In *Archaeologists Dig for Clues*, the author Kate Duke shows how archaeologists set up a dig site, what tools they use, and how they record their findings.

Little Dig

With this simple “one-layer” dig, your child will love uncovering these homemade “rocks” – each containing a surprise “artifact.”

What you’ll need:

- A cardboard or plastic box
- Sand, potting soil or backyard dirt, or cat litter
- Artifacts: beads, buttons, coins, marbles, pretend “gems” and jewels, bottle caps, small plastic dinosaurs or other animals, plastic doll dinnerware, etc.
- Small broad paint brush and spoon for uncovering the rocks
- Rock dough (recipe below)

Rock dough

- 2 cups sand
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup coffee grounds (leftover from brewing coffee in a coffee maker)
- 3/4 to 1 cup of water

Parent prep

1. Combine the sand, flour, coffee grounds and 3/4 cup water in a large bowl. Knead, like bread dough, until the mixture comes together. Add the remaining 1/4 cup water, a little at a time, if needed.
2. Take a small amount of dough (depending on the size of the artifact), flatten it, put the artifact on top, and then fold the dough to completely cover the object. Each artifact will be a different size and shape.
3. Bake at 250 degrees for about 30 minutes, turning over after 10 minutes.

Fill the cardboard or plastic box with about 6 inches of sand (or whatever digging material you use). Hide the rocks at different levels; some can be poking through the dirt a bit.

Time to dig!

Remember that archaeologists dig very slowly and carefully, using a brush around fragile objects. Have your child break open the rocks and talk about the objects she’s found. ([See Big Dig on next page](#))



The big dig!

Big Dig

The earth around us is made up of horizontal layers. Over time, layers of dirt, plants, and manmade objects build on top of each other, one layer at a time. This is called “stratigraphy.” The oldest layers are at the bottom and the youngest are at the top. Archaeologists dig one layer at a time so that they can try to date the time period of an object. Archaeologists also keep detailed records of everything they find – and where they found it. With this “two-layer” dig, you can try this, too!

What you’ll need:

- A rectangular plastic storage box
- Sand, potting soil (or backyard dirt), and birdseed
- Artifacts: beads, buttons, coins, marbles, pretend “gems” and jewels, bottle caps, sugar cubes, small plastic dinosaurs or other animals, plastic doll dinnerware, etc.
- Small paint brush and spoon for excavating
- Ziploc bags and a black marker for collecting and labeling the artifacts
- Paper, pencil, and ruler

Parent prep

Create a bottom layer of sand and arrange artifacts in the sand (Layer B). Press firmly. These are your “oldest” artifacts. Then add a layer of potting soil mixed with birdseed and arrange more artifacts (Layer A). Press firmly. These are your “youngest” artifacts. Add a bit more potting soil and birdseed to cover the artifacts.

Getting ready to dig

Using paper, pencil, and a ruler, have your child create a “top plan” grid that represents the rectangular “dig site” or use the grid we provide on the next page.

Talk with your child about what the two different layers mean and how archaeologists dig horizontally – one layer at a time. Have your child start digging in the top layer. Each time she finds an artifact (*Eureka!*) pop it into a Ziploc bag and mark it:

- Layer A or B
- Section of grid (see example shown on sample grid)

Keep digging until all of the artifacts have been found and labeled. If your child is interested, you can keep a log (record) of all of the artifacts. Ask your child to imagine what each artifact might say about the people who left it there many years ago.

A

1

B

C

D

E

F

2

3

4

5

6

This artifact was
found in section 4D





The big dig!

More learning online

Try these fun online "digging" activities:

- Dirt Detective (Colonial Williamsburg)
<http://www.history.org/kids/games/dirtDetective.cfm>
- Dig It Up: The Romans (BBC)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/romans/>
- Mystery Message Excavation (Boston Museum of Science)
<http://legacy.mos.org/quest/message.php>

Find lots of great information and hands-on activities from the National Park Service

- Archaeology for Kids: <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/kids/kidsTwo.htm#>

Discover archaeological digs and exhibits near you

- State-by-State Guide to Digs: <http://digonsite.com/guide/index.html>

More to think about

What kinds of artifacts might your family leave behind for future generations to discover? Take a peek inside your own trash can: what items would survive years in the dirt and what might those items say about your family life? For example, a used pencil means that you could write. A tin can and a plastic fork says that you ate a certain kind of food. Old toys reveal what games you played.



Picture writing

Hieroglyphics is the early writing system invented by the Ancient Egyptians more than 5,000 years ago. The *Shipwrecked Sailor* by Tamara Bower is based on a real papyrus scroll of hieroglyphics that tells a tale of a voyage on the Red Sea to an enchanted land. Parts of the story are translated into hieroglyphics – pictures of people, animals, and everyday objects.

Have your child create an Egyptian scroll and write something in hieroglyphics (we provide the alphabet). It can be a proclamation, directions to find a hidden treasure, a sleepover invitation, or anything you like.



What you'll need:

- Paper, adhesive tape for the scroll
- Pencil or colored pencils for writing the hieroglyphs

First, your child will create his scroll. Measure the scroll using the Ancient Egyptian unit called a cubit. That's the length of your child's forearm. So, a 3-cubit scroll might be three sheets of 8-1/2 x 11 paper taped together (overlap the paper a bit before taping).

Use the hieroglyphic alphabet provided on the next page. The Ancient Egyptians didn't use vowels (A, E, I, O, U) as we do today, so the symbols here represent the closest sounds.

Left to right ... or? Hieroglyphics can be written from top to bottom, or right to left, or left to right. Confusing? Here's the secret: If the animal or person is facing left, you read from left to right (as we do in English). But if the animal or person is facing right, you read from right to left.

Once your scroll is done, roll it up and tie it with a piece of twine (would the Egyptians have had fancy ribbon?) and present it!

More learning online



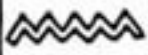
















- Ancient Egypt Hieroglyphs
<http://www.childrensuniversitymanchester.ac.uk/interactives/history/egypt/hieroglyphs/>
- Hieroglyphics e-card (National Geographic):
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/egypt/translator.html>

More to think about

What if you invented your own pictorial alphabet? What would it look like? Create your own set of symbols to represent the letters A to Z and practice writing using your invented alphabet. How would someone be able to read your writing?

We learned how to read hieroglyphics from the Rosetta Stone – a stone that had the same words inscribed in three languages: hieroglyphics, Greek, and another Egyptian language called Demotic. *Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphics* by James Rumford tells the story of Jean-Francois Champollion, who – from the time he was a young boy – dreamed of becoming the first person to read hieroglyphics.

Egyptian Hieroglyphics

	A	vulture		M	owl
	B	leg		N	water
	D	hand		P	stool
	F	viper		Q	hill
	G	stand		R	mouth
	H	rope		S	cloth
	I	reed		T	loaf
	J	serpent		W	chick
	K	basket		Y	reeds
	L	lion		Z	bolt

ARCHAEOLOGY



Featured Fiction

The Shipwrecked Sailor by Tamara Bower
Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile
by Tomie dePaola

Discovery at Flint Springs by John Erickson

Escape from Pompeii: An Isabel Soto
Archaeology Adventure by Terry Collins

I Am the Mummy Heb-Nefert
by Eve Bunting

Secrets of the Stone by Harriet Peck Taylor

Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura

Temple Cat by Andrew Clements

Tut, Tut (Time Warp Trio) by Jon Scieszka

Featured Nonfiction

Archaeologists Dig for Clues by Kate Duke

Archaeology by Jane McIntosh

Archaeology for Kids by Richard Panchyk

The 5,000 Year Old Puzzle by Claudia Logan

Hieroglyphs by Joyce Milton

The Lost World of the Anasazi by Peter Louříe

Miss Frizzle's Adventures in Ancient Egypt
by Joanna Cole

Painters of the Caves by Patricia Lauber

Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who
Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphics
by James Rumford

Stones, Bones, and Petroglyphs
by Susan Goodman

Reading Adventure Packs

from Reading Rockets



READING ADVENTURE PACKS Parent Survey

Parents: Cut out the bookmark for your child to keep. Return the survey to your child's teacher, along with the book(s).

Tell us about your experience with the activities:

- Easy and fun to do
- The directions were difficult to understand
- My child enjoyed the activities

Did talking about what you were reading, and the activities help your child to learn? (on a scale of 1 to 5)

1 2 3 4 5

(did not learn much) (learned a lot)

Would you like to try another "read and learn together" activity with your child?

- yes
- no

What kinds of things is your child interested in?

Your name (and your child's name)
