

Archeology And Paleontology Dig

What Are Archaeologists And Paleontologists?

ARCHAEOLOGIST

Archaeologists study artifacts and remains to learn about how people lived in the past. They use these finds to help determine information about how people interacted, what they did on a daily basis, and what they believed in earlier cultures and societies. Sometimes however, these artifacts only give small clues about the past.



A paleontologist is a scientist who studies the history of organic life on earth, like dinosaurs, plants, fish, or even cell life whose remains have turned into fossils. Paleontologists have to understand geology and biology, as well as paleontology. They use historical geologic maps and do research.

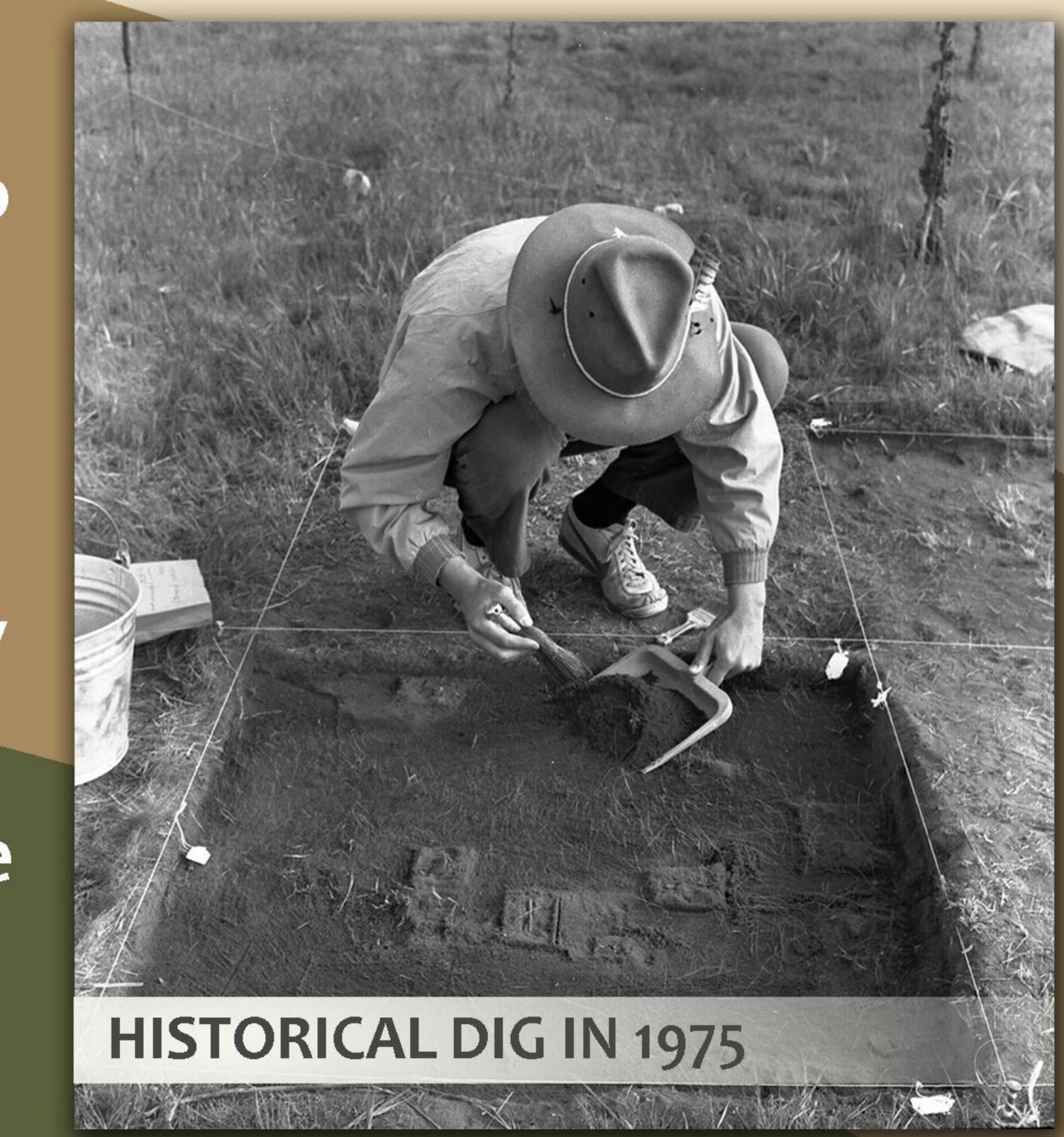


IMAGE SOURCE: John Atherton



IMAGE SOURCE: Stuart Plotkin

70 ho Discovered Dinosaurs?

Sir Richard Owen first defined the term "Dinosauria" to describe very unique and distinctly large teeth that had been discovered in England in 1822. However in North America, the first dinosaur discovery was in 1845 by Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden. While exploring the Missouri River, he found a small collection of teeth.

Two years later, an almost complete dinosaur skeleton was found in New Jersey. With this find, scientists began to understand more about dinosaurs and what they looked like.

How Archaeologists And Paleontologists Work

interpret what they find to answer

questions they have about the past.

OBSERVATION

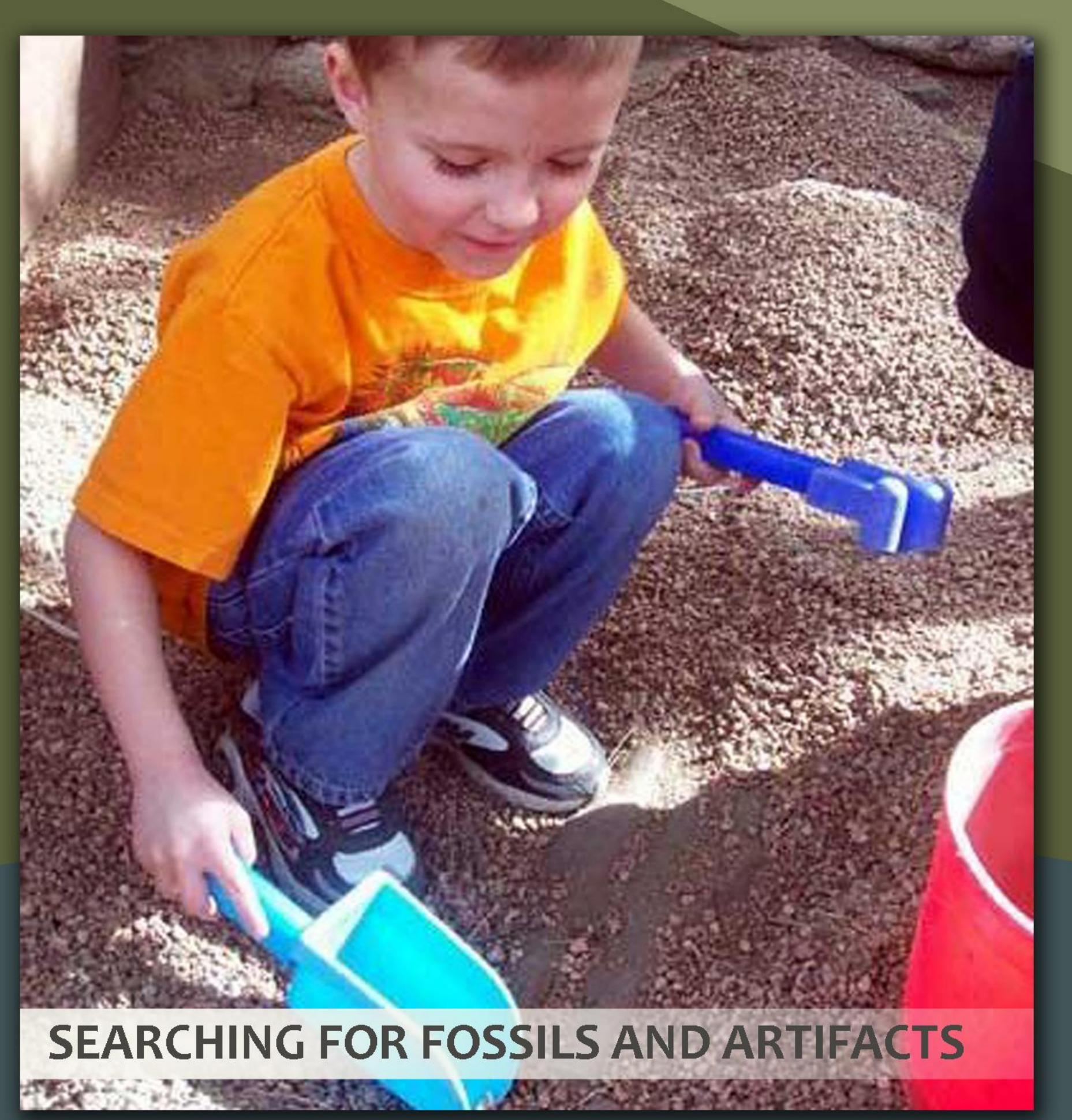


IMAGE SOURCE: Dinoridge.org

CHOOSING PLACES TO DIG

They observe, record, categorize, and Most artifacts are deep underground, so archaeologists don't always know where to look. Sometimes they rely on old myths and stories. Other times they use historical maps to see how areas looked in the past. They also use technologies, like radar and sonar, to help determine what is underground.

DIGGING

Before digging begins, archaeologists take many photos and make maps to record what the work area looks like. Then they divide the area into a grid and track the location of each find. While digging, they must be very careful not to break or ruin artifacts under the soil. They use several different tools including, hand trowels, brushes, hand shovels, and even toothbrushes to move dirt away from objects. When they have cleared enough soil away to remove the artifact, it is cleaned, recorded, and classified. Finally, they analyze all of the information so it can be shared it with everyone.

Many fossils and artifacts can been found in our dig site. It is not unusual for our young archeologists and paleontologists to discover fossilized shells or bones of ancient creatures or artifacts left by Paleo Indians. Please contact the Nature Center office for the dig schedule.