

Unearthed

A KS 1 to 5 History Workshop

Overview

How do we uncover the past? Our Unearthed workshop explores this through hands-on archaeological finds. Delivered either as an outreach session in your school or at the Museum of Oxford, the workshop uses 90 original objects from different historical periods. Pupils work in small groups, each exploring a unique set of objects, offering an engaging, interactive experience that brings history to life.

Session learning aims

- To introduce learners to people's lives from Oxford's past.
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to handle original archaeological finds.
- To find out how we answer questions about the past using archaeology.



Proposed workshop plan

Timings are for guidance. If you wish to add a short break into the session or an amendment, please discuss this with the Museum team when booking the session.

Welcome & Timeline (15 min)

We discuss the aims of the session. As a starter, we get the group to order broad eras into a timeline.



Challenge One: Observational Drawing (15 min)

Archaeologists have to record objects that they find quickly and accurately – they have to carefully observe details. The pupils select one object to draw. We

ask them to draw quickly, without rubbers and record what they see. Their best example can be shared with the whole group.

Challenge Two: Mystery object (15 min)

Their task is to observe the objects with the aid of questions on a task card and magnifying glasses to focus their thoughts. They need to find out all they can about it and discuss it with your group. What clues can you find and what do they tell us about life in Oxford in the past?

Challenge Three: Chronological task (15 min)

Using all the information they have gathered so far, groups need to arrange the objects in chronological order. To help them, the class have their timeline from the introduction.



Plenary and Goodbye (15 min)

Groups feedback on what they have discovered about the objects in the box and share what they think they fit on the timeline. The session leader discusses some of the key things to be found and what they tell us about people's lives in the past.

Curriculum Links

History

This workshop provides pupils with the opportunity to work in small groups, handling original archaeological objects up close. It encourages critical thinking and curiosity, helping students connect historical concepts while exploring the past through tangible, real-world evidence.

KS1 History

KS1 pupils will experience history firsthand by handling original artefacts in small groups. The session encourages curiosity and helps students develop enquiry skills, understand chronology, and observe historical changes through a close examination of objects from the past.

KS2 History

For KS2 pupils, this workshop offers a practical, immersive approach to history. Small group work with original objects allows students to explore key events and figures, develop enquiry skills, and analyse evidence to understand how history unfolded in Britain and beyond.

KS4 History

KS4 students will sharpen their critical thinking and source analysis skills through hands-on work with original objects. By exploring historical evidence in small groups, pupils will deepen their understanding of change, continuity, and key historical events while learning to construct evidence-based arguments.

KS5 History

KS5 students will refine their enquiry skills and historical analysis through independent work with original objects. This hands-on session fosters critical thinking, enhances evidence-based research, and develops the ability to create substantiated historical arguments based on a detailed exploration of artefacts.

History by Bike

We can visit your school with all our unearthed museum boxes using our Museum of Oxford bike. This offer is only available to schools within a 4-mile radius of Oxford Town Hall, this includes all schools in Oxford City Boundary.*



Workshop Costs

The workshop lasts 60-75 minutes and costs £120. This includes travel and delivery costs for one session (up to 40 pupils). Additional sessions cost just £50 each. For example, one class costs £120, two classes £170, three classes £220, etc. A £5 administration fee applies for invoices. Museum-based sessions are £4 per pupil. On-site visits can be extended with a free gallery visit for a 2-hour experience.

How to book

Email the Museum: museum@oxford.gov.uk

Call the Museum: 01865 252334

Finally, you can visit our website for more information: <https://museumofoxford.org/>

* Other travel methods such as taxi or bus may be needed depending on weather and road conditions. If you are outside the 4-mile radius, we may still be able to visit, please enquire for details.