

What is Historical Archaeology?

Historical Archaeology is the archaeology of time periods for which we have written records.

Since historical documents are often biased, archaeological materials can provide voices for those mis-, under-, or un-represented in writing, such as Native Americans, women and children, or lower classes.



The Apex “Jack-O’-Cantern”, a modified metal can potentially used as a Halloween decoration.

Our Supporters:



Department of Anthropology



Northern Arizona University Department of Anthropology and the Kaibab National Forest

This project was made possible with funding by the Arizona Humanities



To learn more, scan this QR code to visit the Apex, Arizona Archaeology Project website

© 2024

Photos by Emily Dale, Garrett Hoskinson, and Travis Cumming.

Historical Archaeology in Arizona

Apex, Arizona
Archaeology Field School



Sean White, Emily Dale, Ashley Mlazar, and Charlie Webber, Tim Maddock

What do Archaeologists Study?

Archaeologists study people, through the material culture they leave behind, including pottery, bottles, cans and even buildings.

Numerous federal, state, and local law protect cultural resources more than 50 years old. Archaeologists study Arizona's more recent history of the 1800s and 1900s.



A toy horse found in one of the family housing areas at Apex.

Arizona's Kaibab National Forest holds the archaeological remains of 100-year old mining camps and 1000-year old pueblos!

How do Archaeologists Gather Data?

Survey

Archaeologists systematically walk the land, or survey, to catalog artifacts on the surface. This is the most common method archaeologists use.

Excavation

Archaeologists systematically remove dirt from a site, or excavate, in order to study subsurface materials.

Historical Research

Historical archaeologists also consult historical documents like censuses, newspapers, diaries, and photographs to get first-hand accounts of life in the past.



How to Help

If you see a possible artifact on the ground, please leave it where you found it, even if you are unsure if it is an artifact.

If you think you have found an archaeological site or important artifact, leave it be, and contact the local archaeologists.

Get Involved!

You can join the Arizona Site Steward program or sign up for a Passport in Time project to help preserve Arizona's heritage and history.