

CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

WANT TO BRING
ARCHAEOLOGY INTO YOUR
CLASSROOM?

ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE:

PROJECT
ARCHAEOLOGY
IN
OKLAHOMA



Based on an interview with,
Meghan Dudley, OKPAN
Director of Education
&
Sarah Luthman, OKPAN
Public Archaeology Education
Coordinator

Oklahoma Project Archaeology state coordinator, Meghan Dudley, in the classroom.

At twenty-eight years old, Project Archaeology is one of the oldest continuous K-12 archaeology outreach education programs in the nation. Initially developed by the Bureau of Land Management in Utah in an effort to combat looting and vandalism of Utah's past through classroom education, PA is now taught in classrooms across the country.

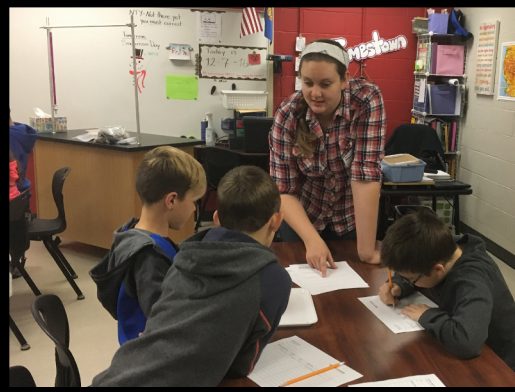
Project Archaeology's goal is simple: to teach the next generation of citizens about scientific and historical inquiry and the importance of

protecting our nation's rich cultural resources. To accomplish this, a network of national staff and state volunteers create curricular materials and educational programs for K-12 educators and their students.

Using high-quality materials to bring archaeology into the classroom allows us to accomplish several goals. First, for our Oklahoma program, it allows us to teach about our state's heritage and why it is important to preserve archaeological sites. For example, we are currently adapting Project Archaeology's *Investigating Shelter* module specifically for Oklahoma classrooms. This will provide teachers and students with a Native American narrator who shares why their community values each site and how they work to carry on certain traditions, such as how they used to build their houses. In doing so, students are introduced to an archaeology consisting of multiple voices and perspectives, each articulating why it is important to learn about and protect our state's past.

Second, archaeological investiga-

"Project Archaeology uses archaeological inquiry to foster understanding of past and present cultures; improve social studies and science education, and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy."



Project Archaeology in the classroom.

tions teach critical thinking skills and the scientific method, helping students become better at interpreting evidence. For example, many of Project Archaeology's lessons teach about the ethics of site preservation, with students asked to weigh the claims of various stakeholders. Because such issues are central to cultural heritage preservation, it is important that students learn to critically assess the available evidence and develop informed opinions on this topic. Finally, the written components give students the opportunity to practice reading and writing. The skills and understandings in these curricula help teachers cover the state standards they already teach, making PA materials a supplement for teachers to use, rather than a hindrance in the classroom.

There are many ways to get involved with Project Archaeology and to bring archaeology into the classroom. Through OKPAN's website teachers can place a request for an archaeologist to visit their classroom. Project Archaeology also offers professional development workshops for teachers. At

these workshops teachers will get hands-on experience with Project Archaeology's most popular curriculum guide for 3rd - 5th graders, *Investigating Shelter*.

Project Archaeology, both nationally and in Oklahoma, is only possible because of the network of teachers and archaeologists who work together to bring the past into the classroom. If you are passionate about bringing archaeology into your classroom, don't hesitate to reach out and get involved today! ■

Follow us on Facebook at @ProjectArchOK and be sure to join our email list!

For more information please contact Oklahoma Project Archaeology state coordinator, Meghan Dudley at meghan.dudley@ou.edu

OR

Sarah Luthman, OKPAN Public Archaeology Education Coordinator at Sarah.E.Luthman-1@ou.edu