

Stewardship Tips

Code: EL1 and MID and HIG: CR, SS, VA

THE FIVE STEPS OF STEWARDSHIP

1. Leave a piece of the past where you find them. If the object can clearly be seen, cover it up with some brush making it less visible.
2. Photograph or videotape what you have found. Take a picture of the object. Include a common object such as a coin, a hand, or a person in the photo for size reference. Photograph the surrounding area.
3. Locate what you have found on a map. Make a sketch of the area showing the location. If you have a compass and a measuring tape, measure distance and direction from landmarks. Note these on a map or nautical chart.
4. Talk to local persons, collecting more history. In order to record more information, keep a written or taped record of what people tell you.
5. Call a local, state, federal, tribal, or college archaeologist to officially record your find. Keep a watchful eye for any vandalizing; report it immediately!

Variations:

Research the Nez Perce people's culture and identify artifacts from three different time periods. Randomly paste paper drawings of these artifacts on a sheet of paper. You can also research how the site(s) or trail has been used through time by different cultures (trappers, traders, miners, railroad exploration, Bird-Truax party). Make copies of these sheets for each of your students. They can do the above activity by cutting out the artifacts and placing them in the appropriate layers of earth.

Start an archaeology stewardship poster contest in your school, district or city. The contest could become part of your State's Archaeology Week activities.

Have the students work together making a mural of a site. Discuss threats to sites which include a road and building construction, timber harvesting, grazing, mining, and artifact collecting. All around the sides of the mural, paste pictures (drawn or from magazines) that demonstrate ways in which sites are destroyed. Lead a discussion about what can be done to protect archaeological sites and act upon one which the class agrees upon.

Adapted from:

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