

# Archaeology Activity Book



Illustrations: Heather Brindza  
Text: Danielle Ellis  
Layout: Rebecca Conway

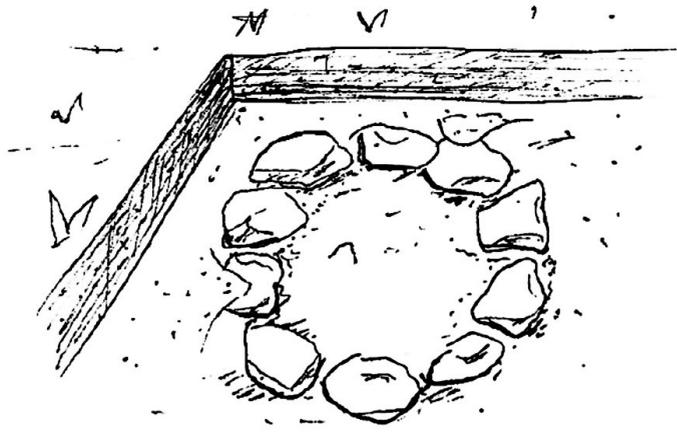


Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) is a non-profit, grassroots organization that promotes economic and community development by linking central Appalachian forest history, culture, natural history, products and forest management into a multi-state heritage tourism initiative. Monongahela National Forest hosts AFHA-sponsored AmeriCorps service at forest sites that enhance natural resources and tourism and connect local communities. The Eastern National Forests Interpretive Association (ENFIA) is a non-profit association that aids and promotes the historical, scientific, and educational activities of the USDA Forest Service. This activity book was made possible through grants and partnership agreements with AFHA AmeriCorps, ENFIA, and USDA Forest Service.

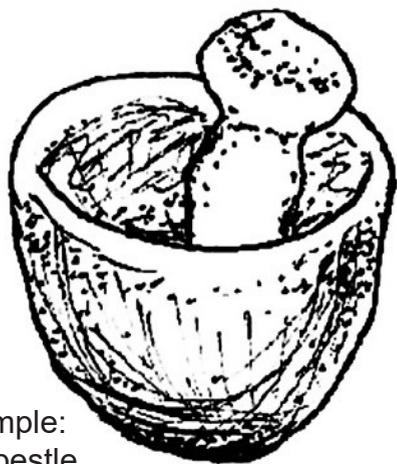
**Archaeology** is the study of material culture left behind by people from the past. **Material culture** are things created or used by people, like stone tools, a glass bottle, or even an entire building.

Archaeologists look for archaeological sites to try to answer questions about the past. A **site** is where artifacts, features, or ecofacts are grouped together in an area. This means people were in that area in the past, and it's up to the archaeologist to figure out what they were doing there.

Sometimes archaeologists find things that can't be easily collected or are part of the environment past peoples used. These things are called **features**. Features are often large, like the foundation of a house, or difficult to collect from the site, like an ashy campfire ring.



Feature example: campfire ring



Artifact example: mortar and pestle

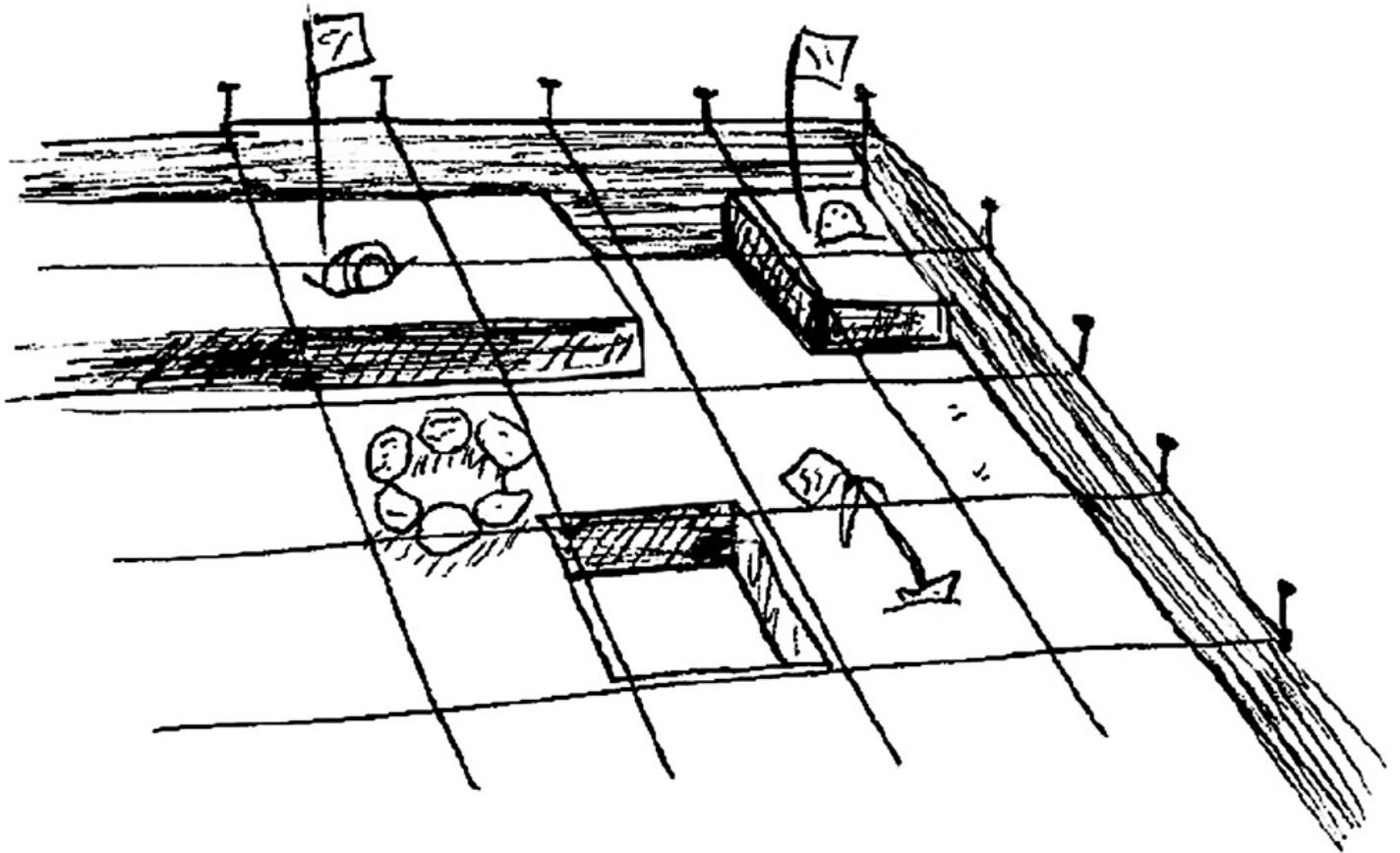
**Artifacts** are things created or used by past peoples. Artifacts can be small or large, but they are always things that can be carried away, like tools, baskets, or pieces of cloth. Archaeologists often collect artifacts to study at a museum or laboratory later.

**Ecofacts** are things like the plants, animals, and types of soil found at an archaeological site. Ecofacts tell archaeologists many things, including what past peoples farmed, hunted, and ate.



Ecofact example: seeds

Archaeologists find sites by doing surveys. During a **survey**, archaeologists walk around and look for artifacts, features, or ecofacts on the ground surface. Sometimes after finding an archaeological site, archaeologists excavate it to see what is under the surface of the ground. When archaeologists carry out an **excavation** at a site, they create a grid and carefully dig down in short levels. Archaeologists keep detailed notes about everything they see while excavating and collect the things they find.



Archaeologists can find many artifacts, features, and ecofacts at a site, and part of their job is to make sense of it all. Archaeologists look at the context of a site to figure out what past peoples were doing there.

In archaeology, **context** refers to where features, artifacts, and ecofacts are found within a site and how they relate to each other and the past environment at that site. Site context is very important because it helps archaeologists to identify patterns or characteristics that can tell us how past peoples lived. Imagine you are an archaeologist. You find artifacts like pieces of pottery mixed in with ecofacts like white acorns. What could that mean?

Archaeologists have a tool kit, also called a **dig kit**. A dig kit usually contains an archaeological trowel, a measuring tape, flagging tape, bags for artifacts, pencils, and black permanent markers. Archaeologists also use large shovels to dig and sift soil with archaeological screens during an excavation. However, a field notebook is the archaeologist's most important tool.

Match each tool to its image and function.  
Write the number of the image and the letter of the definition next to its name.

\_\_\_ PENCIL

\_\_\_ BAGS

\_\_\_ PERMANENT  
MARKER

\_\_\_ SCREEN

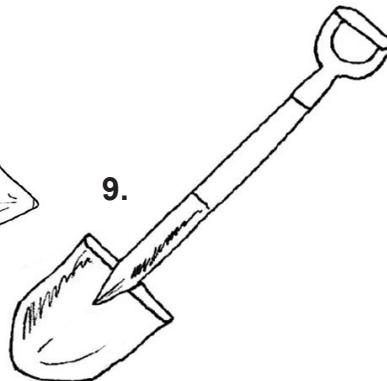
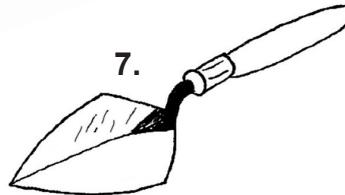
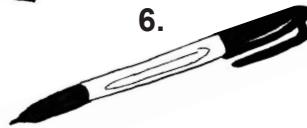
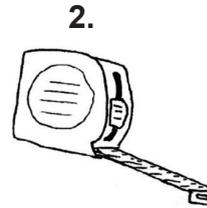
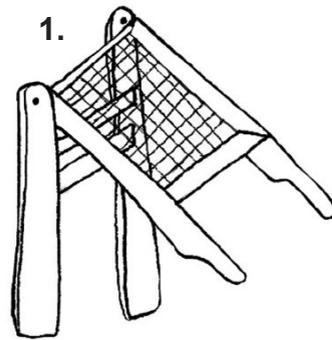
\_\_\_ FIELD  
NOTEBOOK

\_\_\_ SHOVEL

\_\_\_ FLAGGING  
TAPE

\_\_\_ TROWEL

\_\_\_ MEASURING  
TAPE



A. sifts soil to look for artifacts

B. writes on artifact bags and flagging

C. determines the size of something

D. writes in the field notebook

E. stores artifacts

F. marks areas and artifacts at a site

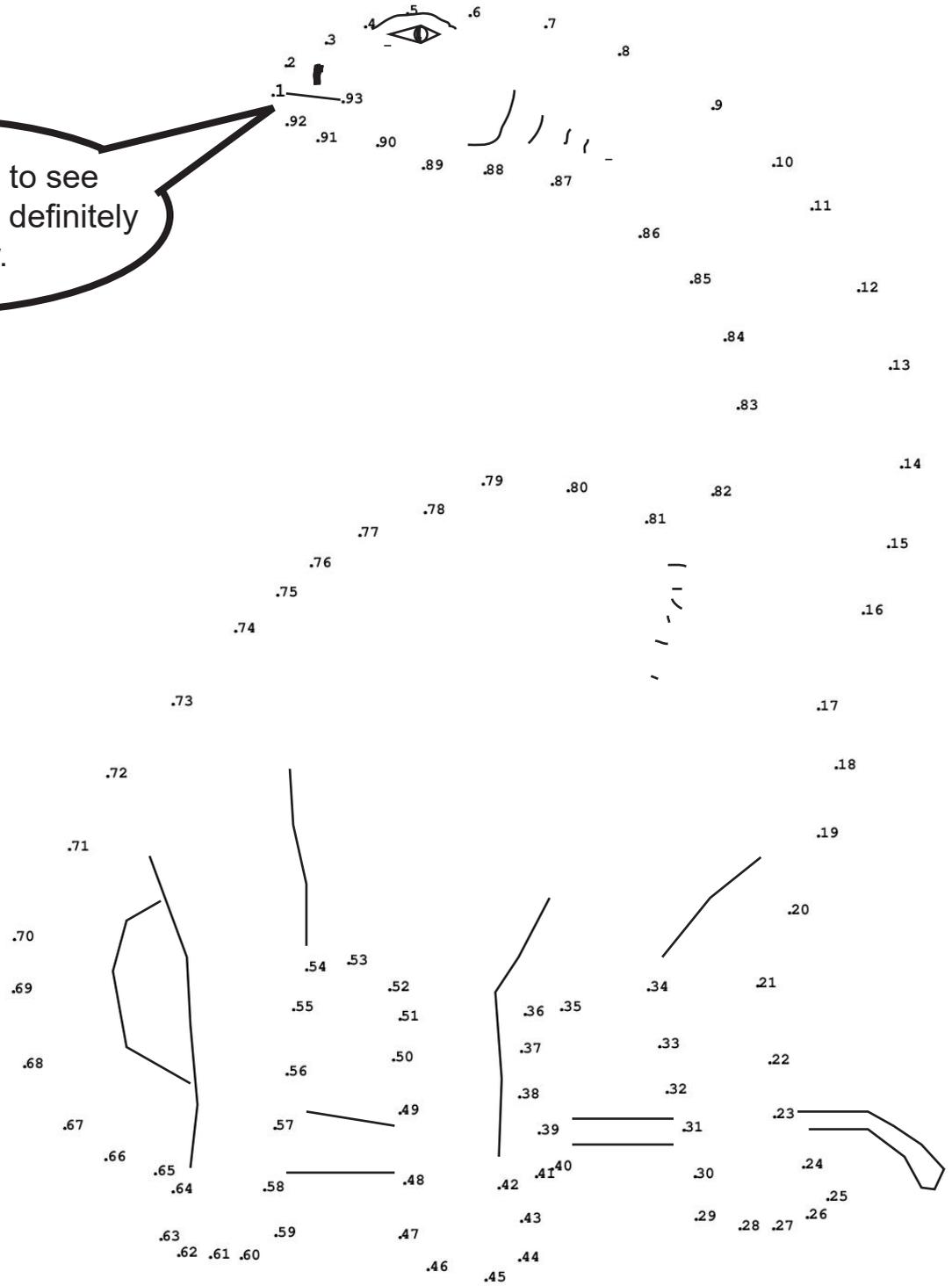
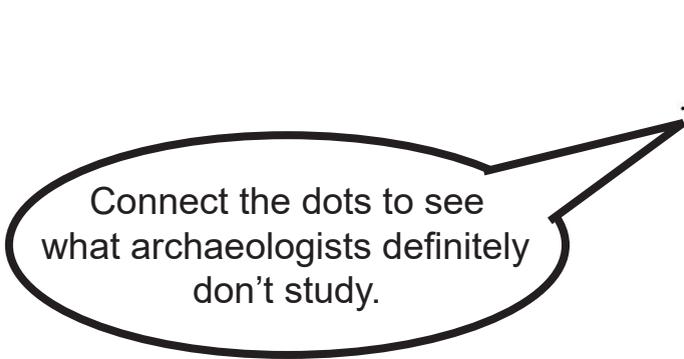
G. removes small amounts of soil

H. records all the information archaeologists find at a site

I. removes large amounts of soil

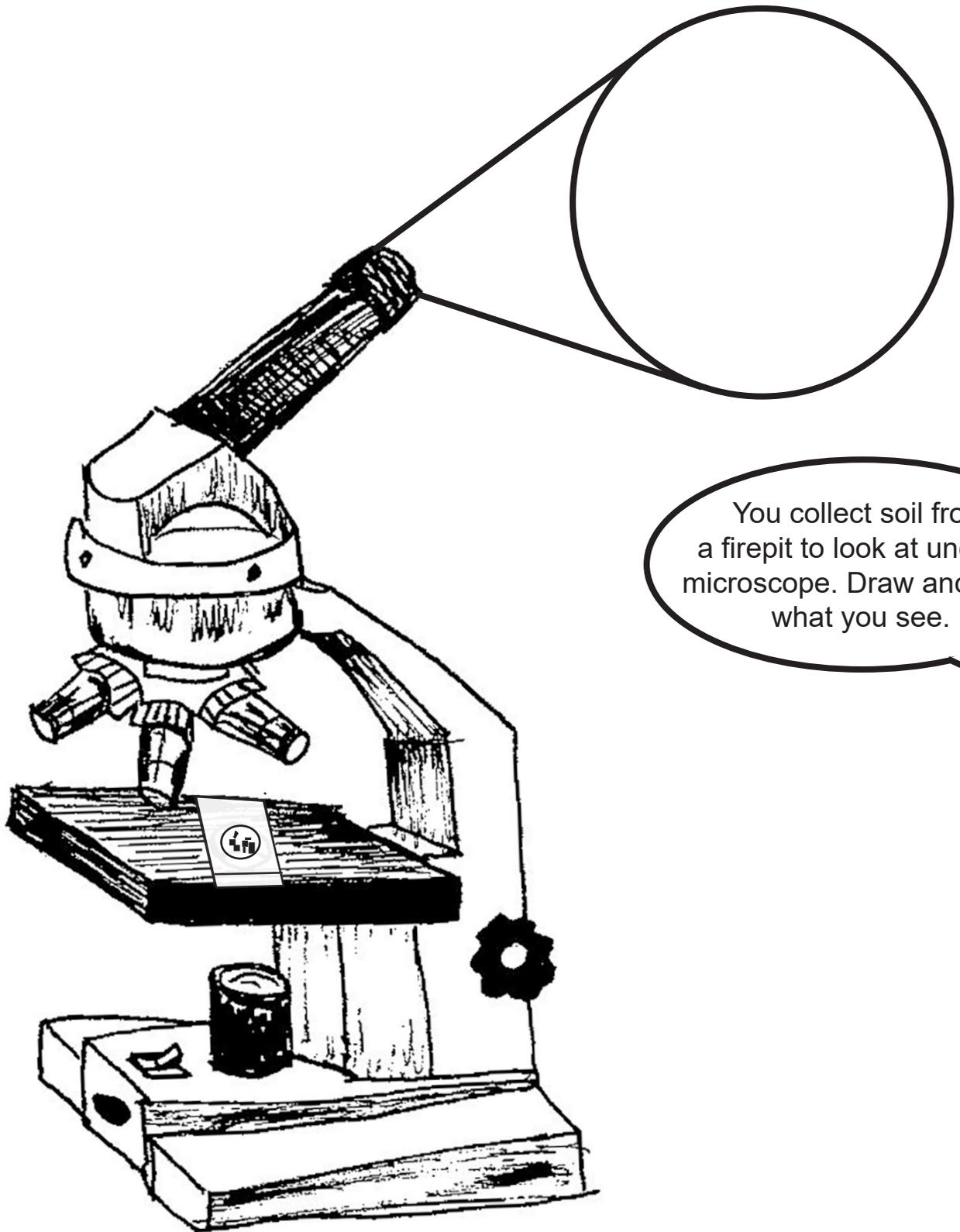
**Answers:** pencil - 5D, bags - 8E, permanent marker - 6B, screen - 1A, field notebook - 4H, shovel - 9I, flagging tape - 3F, trowel - 7G, measuring tape - 2C

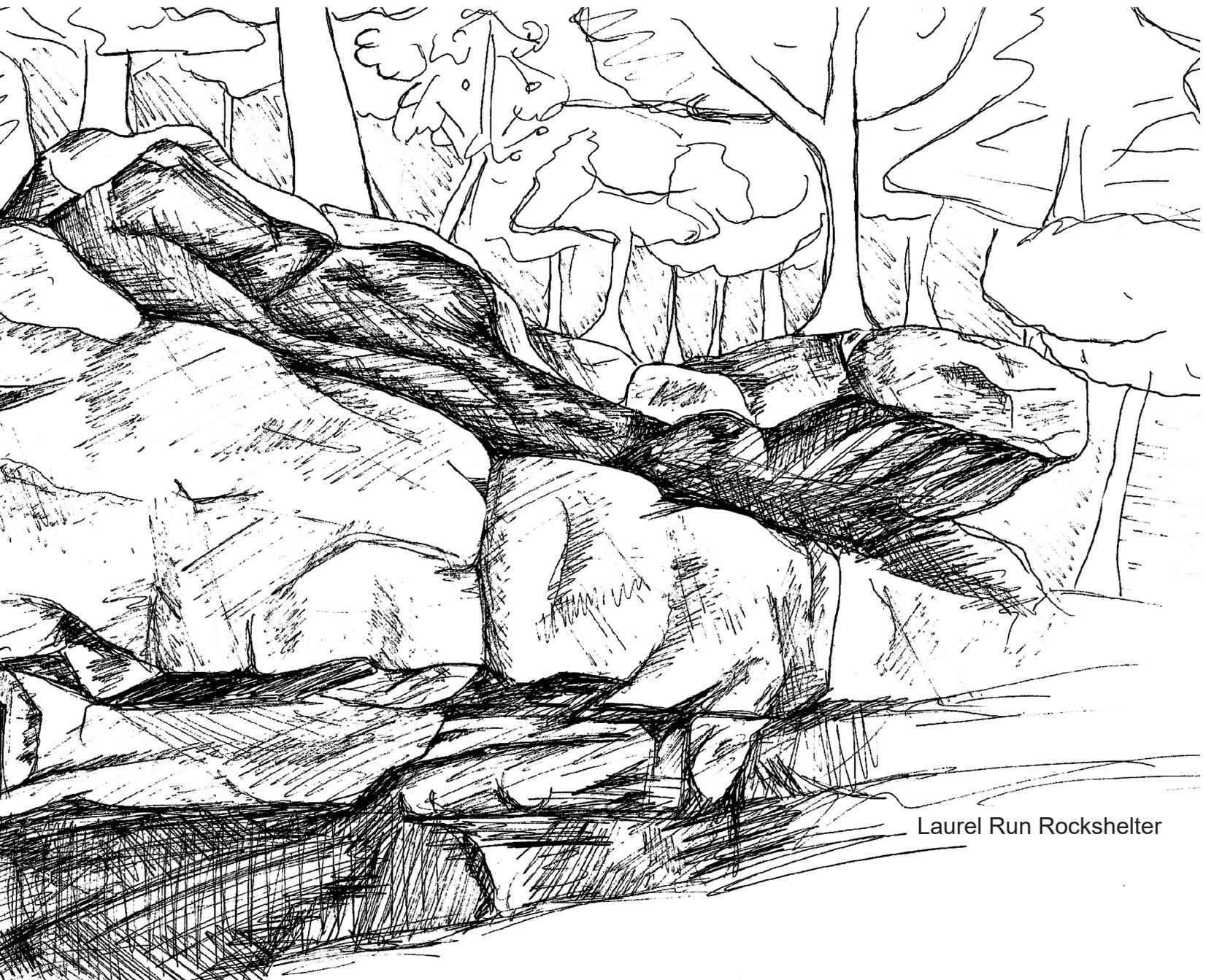
Archaeologists study many different things. Some archaeologists study stone tools, while others study pottery. Some archaeologists even study snails! There is one thing archaeologists don't study. Care to take a guess?



That's right! Archaeologists don't study dinosaurs. Paleontologists have that covered. Archaeologists only study materials from the past that relate to people.

Archaeology is important because it helps us understand how past peoples lived. Sometimes historic records can tell us about the past. When there are no historic records, archaeologists use science and the scientific method to ask questions and hope to find answers that help us better understand the past. We're constantly learning new things and building new interpretations of the past.





Laurel Run Rockshelter

When many people think of archaeological sites, they think of sites that are prehistoric. **Prehistoric** archaeological sites are from a time before written histories. The Monongahela National Forest has many important prehistoric archaeological sites.

**Rockshelter** sites were great places for prehistoric peoples to camp and stay out of bad weather. The Monongahela National Forest has many important rockshelter sites, like the **Craig Run East Fork Rockshelter** and the **Laurel Run Rockshelter**. Archaeologists found many artifacts at the Laurel Run Rockshelter, including stone tools and pieces of pottery! Archaeologists learn a lot about how prehistoric peoples lived by studying these two rockshelters.

Prehistoric peoples camped between 5,000 BC and 1,000 BC at a site now called the **GW Jeep Site**. Archaeologists found many chert flakes and tools now called **projectile points** there. **Chert** is a type of stone that prehistoric peoples often used to make tools. You have probably heard projectile points called “arrowheads” or “spear points.”



Name three other materials prehistoric peoples used to make things.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

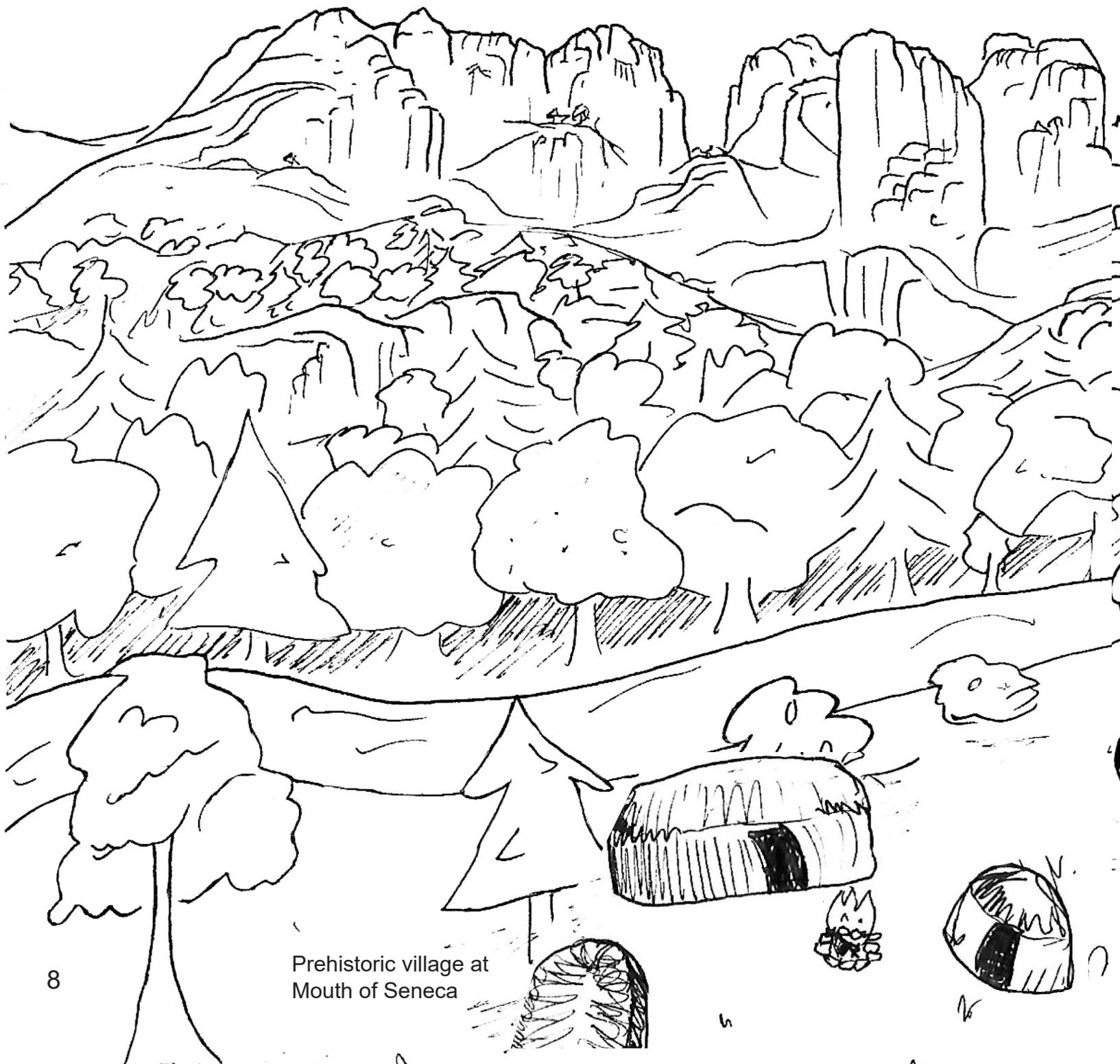
2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Raddatz Projectile Point and examples of chert flakes

The **Mouth of Seneca** site was a prehistoric village and mound near Seneca Rocks. A **mound** is a type of burial site. Prehistoric peoples lived in the Seneca Rocks area for over a thousand years. Mouth of Seneca is a **multi-component** site, which means there are two or more sites there, one on top of the other. The deepest site is from a time called the Early Woodland period, between 2,000 and 3,000 years ago. The site closest to the ground surface is from the Late Woodland period, over 1,000 years ago.

Archaeological sites don't have to be prehistoric to be archaeological. The Monongahela National Forest also has many historic sites. **Historic** sites are archaeological sites from times with written histories.



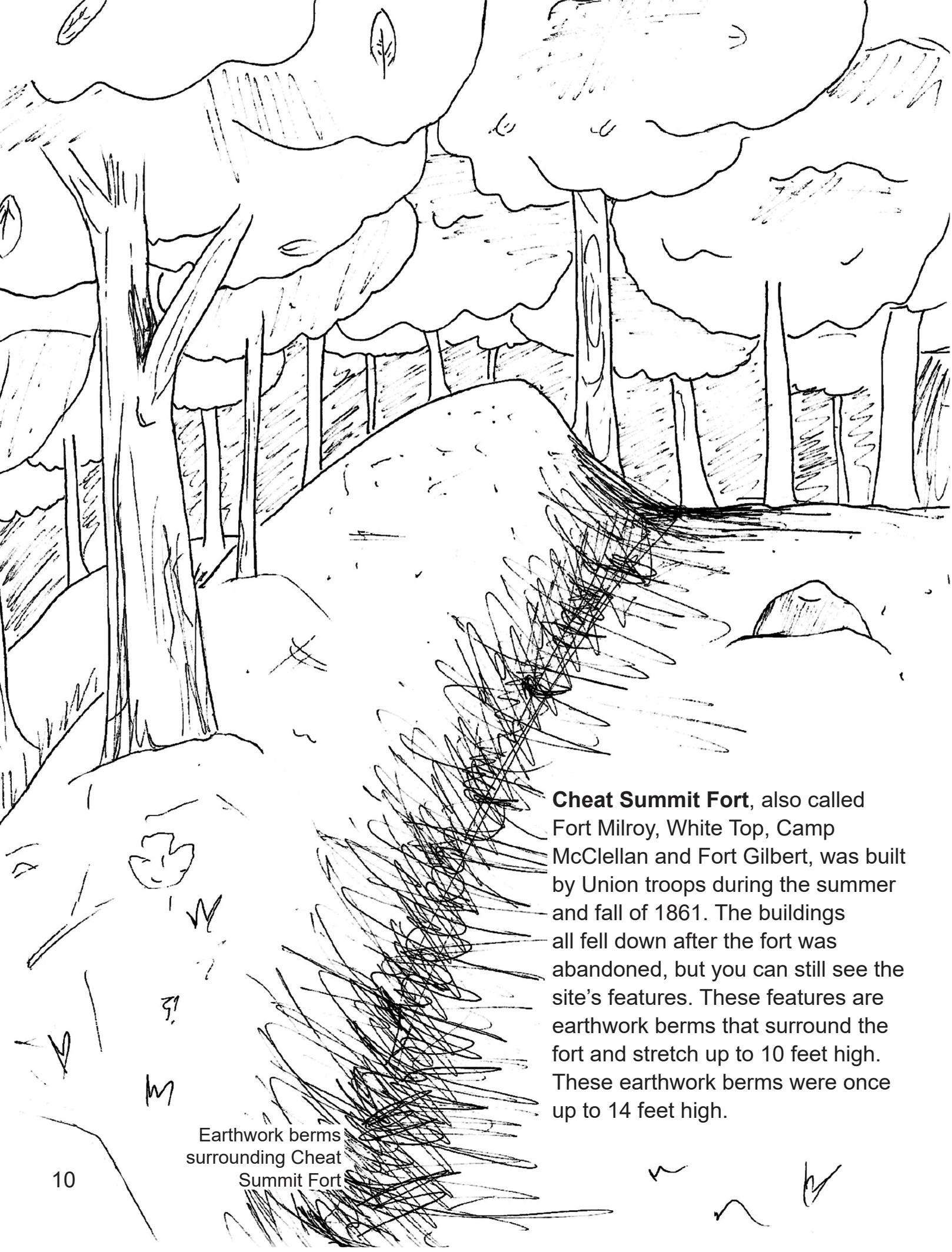
Prehistoric village at Mouth of Seneca

Archaeologists learn a lot about past peoples by studying the buildings and structures they used. The way people construct buildings, like homes and churches, and structures, like barns and spring houses, changes over time. The materials people build with can also change with time. Archaeologists find out how people lived and what activities they did on a daily basis by studying their buildings and structures.

Jacob Sites built a one-room cabin at Seneca Rocks in the 1830s. William Sites, Jacob's son, added more rooms and a second floor. You can still visit the **Sites Homestead** to see what a 19th century homestead looks like.



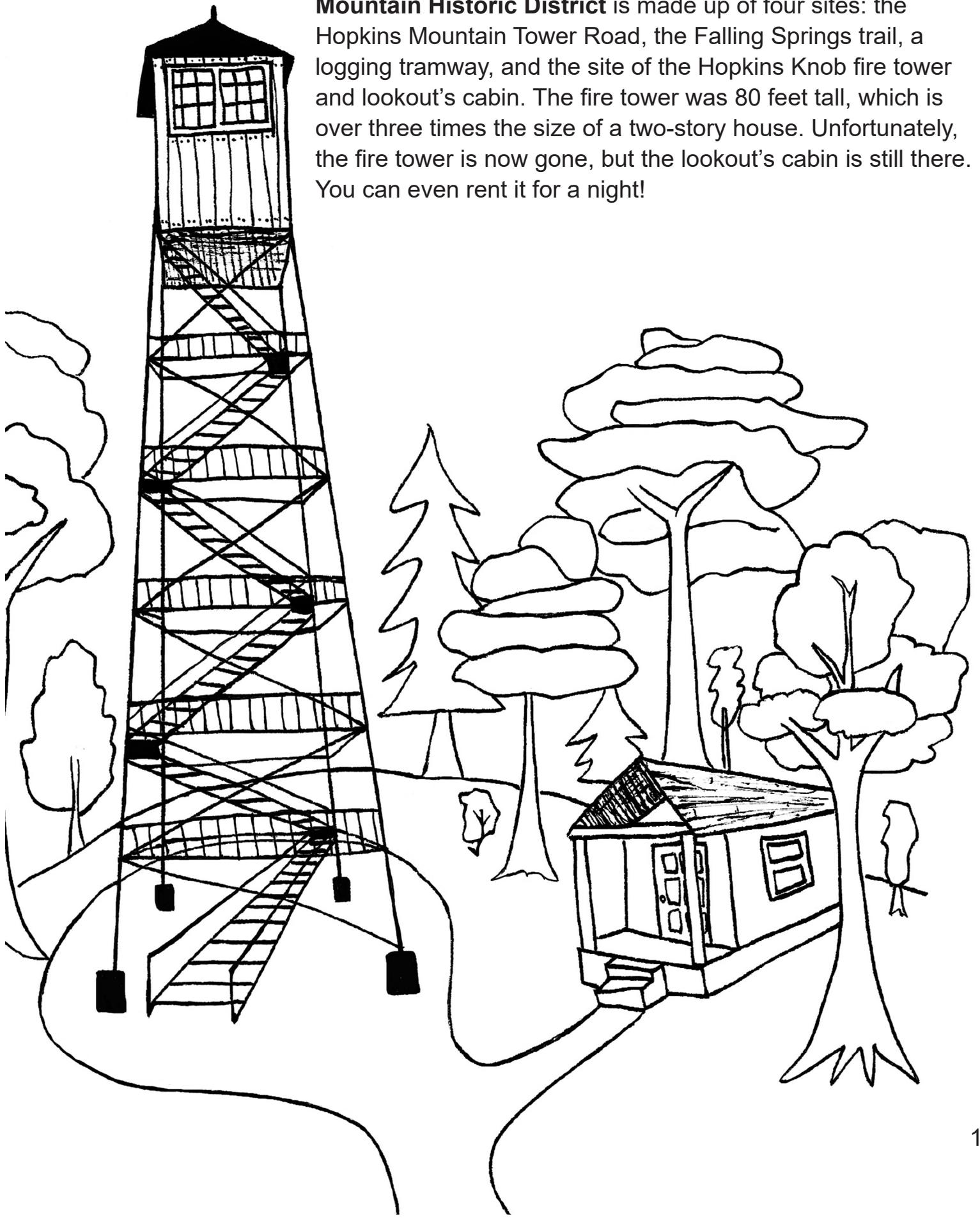
Historic Sites Homestead



**Cheat Summit Fort**, also called Fort Milroy, White Top, Camp McClellan and Fort Gilbert, was built by Union troops during the summer and fall of 1861. The buildings all fell down after the fort was abandoned, but you can still see the site's features. These features are earthwork berms that surround the fort and stretch up to 10 feet high. These earthwork berms were once up to 14 feet high.

Earthwork berms  
surrounding Cheat  
Summit Fort

If many important sites are close together, that area can be selected to become an archaeological **district**. The **Hopkins Mountain Historic District** is made up of four sites: the Hopkins Mountain Tower Road, the Falling Springs trail, a logging tramway, and the site of the Hopkins Knob fire tower and lookout's cabin. The fire tower was 80 feet tall, which is over three times the size of a two-story house. Unfortunately, the fire tower is now gone, but the lookout's cabin is still there. You can even rent it for a night!



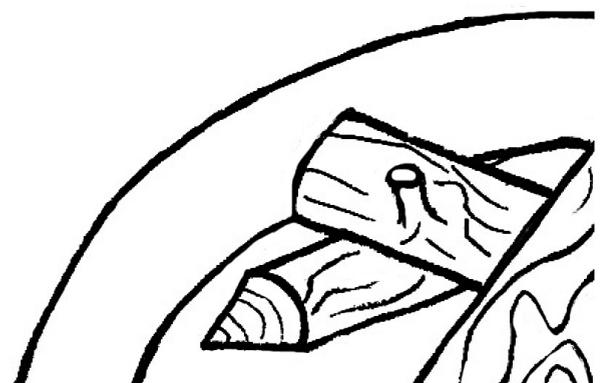


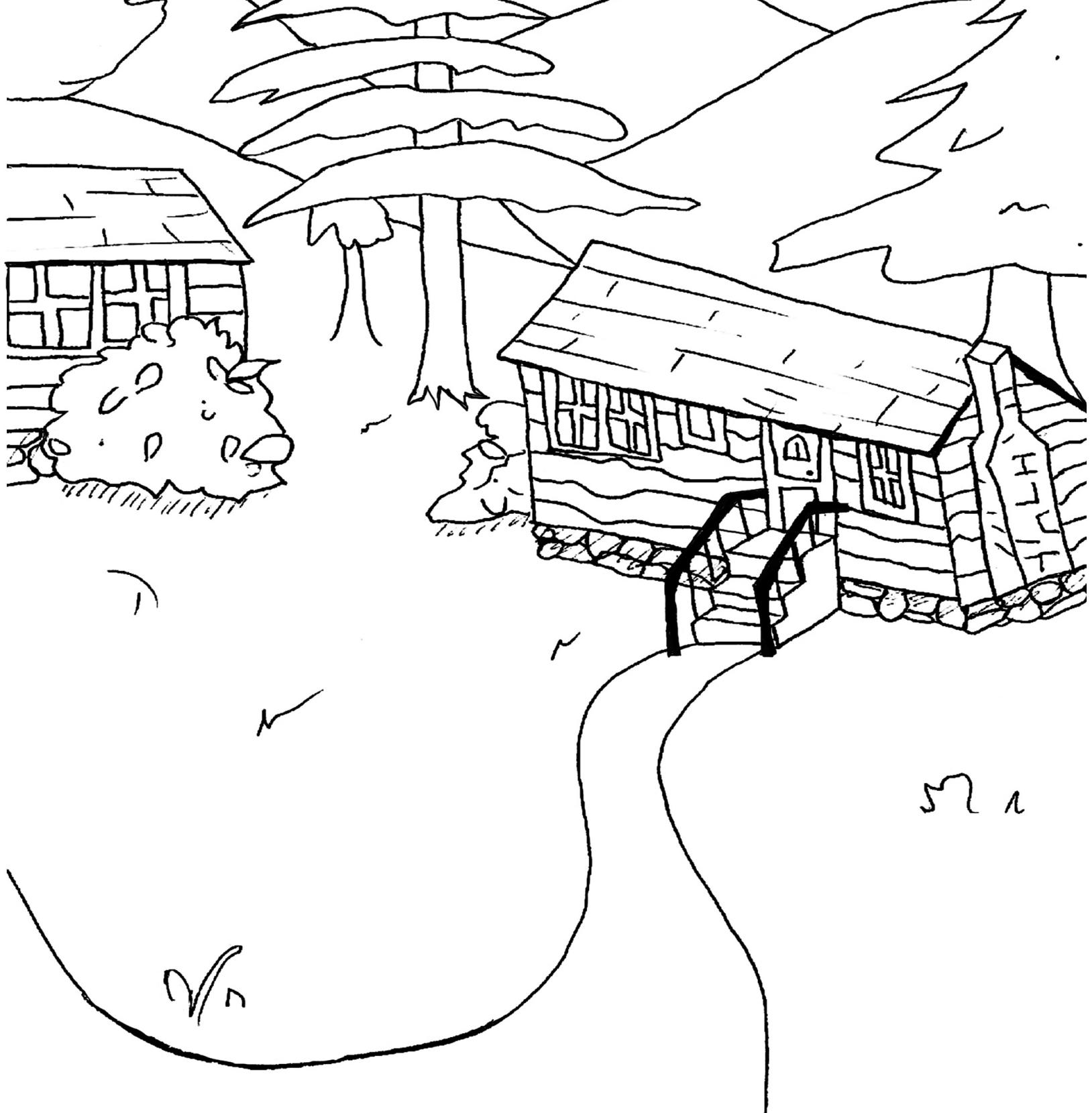


The **Blue Bend Forest Camp**, now called Blue Bend Recreation Area and Campground, was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, or the CCC, from 1936 to 1938. The CCC was a program created in 1933 to employ young men. CCC members constructed fire towers, planted trees, built camps like Blue Bend, and did many other projects for the public. Many people still enjoy swimming at Blue Bend's beaches on hot summer days.



The **Middle Mountain Cabins** were built by Ranger Don Gaudineer in 1931. Fire lookouts on the Monongahela National Forest once lived in them. Now, anyone can stay overnight in the Middle Mountain Cabins.





These cabins are important because they have special construction. The forest has no other cabins built like the ones at Middle Mountain.





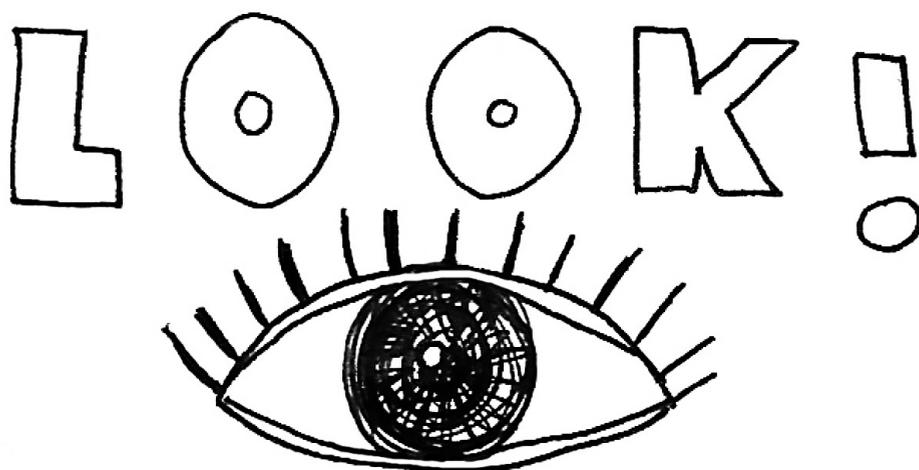
END

Find your way out of the coke oven!

START

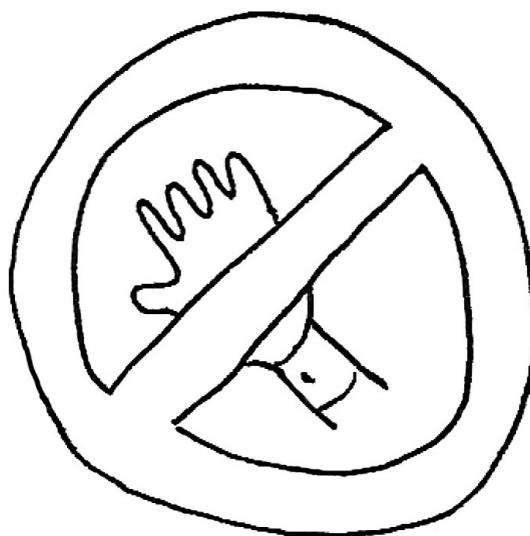
**Coketon** is a historic industrial site. It was once the third largest coking facility in West Virginia. Davis Coal & Coke Co. owned the facility, which had 600 beehive-shaped ovens used for making coke. **Coke** comes from baking coal in the airless beehive-shaped ovens. It was an important fuel source for making steel.

Visiting archaeological sites can be fun and interesting. Sometimes, during a walk or while playing in the forest, you might find an archaeological site by accident. Remember, it is important to leave the site just the way you found it.



Taking things from archaeological sites on the Monongahela National Forest is against the law and also destroys the site. If an artifact is taken from a site, archaeologists can't study it, and we may never know how it was used! Taking artifacts destroys the site's archaeological context, which makes it difficult or impossible to know how past peoples lived there.

The word "DON'T" is written in large, bold, hand-drawn block letters.

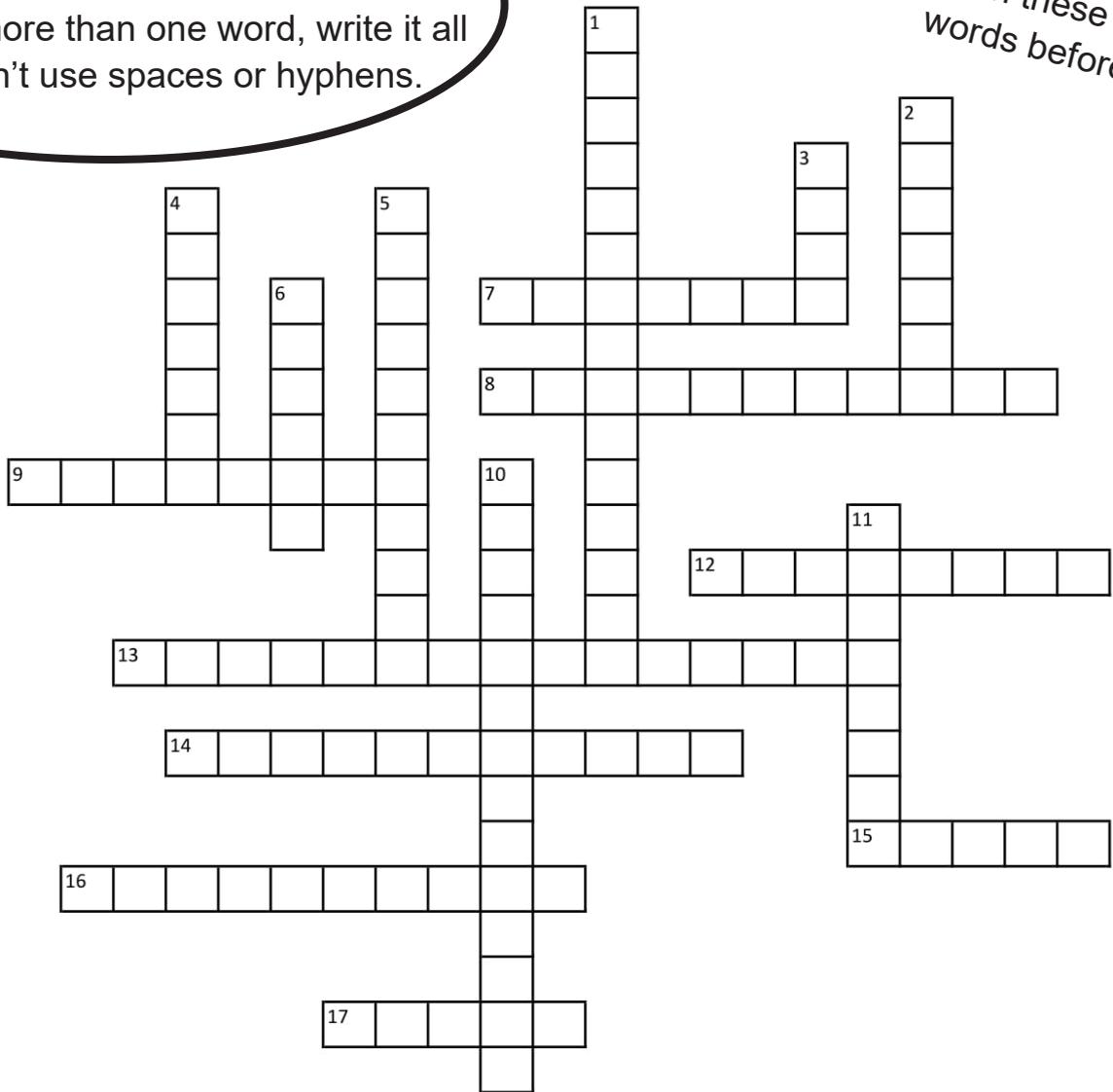


It's important to keep archaeological sites the same so that people can continue to visit and enjoy them. Photos are a better way to remember your visit to an archaeological site.

The word "TOUCH" is written in large, bold, hand-drawn block letters.

Complete the crossword puzzle by filling in the word that fits with each clue. If the answer is more than one word, write it all together. Don't use spaces or hyphens.

**Hint:** You've seen these words before!



**Across**

**Down**

- 1. things created or used by people
- 2. how ecofacts, features, and artifacts at a site relate to one another
- 3. important fuel source for making steel
- 4. one example is the type of soil at a site
- 5. from a time before written histories
- 6. contains the tools an archaeologist needs to excavate
- 10. two or more sites, one on top of the other
- 11. from a time with written histories

- 7. something at a site that can't be carried away
- 8. good place for prehistoric people to camp
- 9. includes many archaeological sites close together
- 12. object at a site that can be carried away
- 13. type of tool prehistoric peoples used
- 14. study of material culture from the past
- 15. type of stone prehistoric peoples used to make tools
- 16. tells archaeologists what is under the surface of the ground
- 17. type of burial site

**Answers:** 1. material culture, 2. context, 3. coke, 4. ecofact, 5. prehistoric, 6. dig kit, 7. feature, 8. rockshelter, 9. district, 10. multi-component, 11. historic, 12. artifact, 13. projectile point, 14. archaeology, 15. chert, 16. excavation, 17. mound







