

# HISTOROS CAVE

## Preparation

- Download the BHP Disciplines Chart

## Purpose

Earlier in this lesson, you learned about the fields of archaeology and anthropology. Now you'll be putting that information to use as you attempt to describe how early humans at a fictional site would have lived. While Historos Cave is fictional, the images in this activity are from a variety of sites in the area around Blombos Cave, South Africa. This activity will allow you to draw on information from earlier in the lesson as well as new research in order to draw conclusions about how early humans lived.

## Practices

### *Interdisciplinarity*

While this activity has you taking on the roles of different scientists, it also lends itself well to highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. Discuss what would have been missed had all of these different disciplines not taken part in trying to better understand Historos Cave.

## Process

Blombos Cave is an archaeological site on the southern coast of South Africa, not far from Cape Town. In 1991, archaeologists began to excavate a wealth of artifacts that gave them new information about the early humans who had lived in the cave off and on starting about 100,000 years ago. Scientists have used the tools, fossils, paintings, and other clues found at Blombos to learn a great deal about the lives of early humans.

Historos Cave is a fictional cave similar in geography and composition to Blombos. You'll examine the photographs of the objects on the Historos Cave Worksheet, all of which were found at this fictional site, to paint a picture of the daily lives of the people who lived there.

Often, as at Blombos Cave, scientists from different disciplines work together to analyze the objects and other clues found at a site. Together, they're able to develop a detailed idea of the lives of the people who lived there. Now you'll have a chance to be part of the interdisciplinary team working at Historos Cave.

Your class will be divided into teams. Each member of a team will assume the role of a scientist. More than one scientist from the same discipline may work together. Choose from the following roles:

- anthropologist
- archaeologist
- geologist
- paleontologist

Describe what each scientist would focus on when investigating the cave, and think about how each discipline would answer the following questions:

- What were some of the physical traits of the early humans living in this cave?
- What were they eating and how did they get their food?
- What was a day in the life of an early human like here?

Use the Disciplines Chart as a reminder of what each scientist does and the types of things they study. Up to this point, you've learned a bit more about archaeology and anthropology than the other disciplines. The Disciplines Chart will help you get a better understanding of geology and paleontology before you tackle the questions.

Be prepared to discuss your findings with the class once your teacher brings you back together as a whole group.

# HISTOROS CAVE

Name: Date: 

**Directions:** Examine these images of materials found at a fictional site to help paint a picture of the individuals that lived there and daily life.



Often scientists from different disciplines will work together to paint a complete picture of life for these early humans living in this cave. Working together in a group, each member of your team will assume the role of a scientist. More than one scientist from the same discipline may work together. Choose from the following disciplines:

- anthropologist
- archaeologist
- geologist
- paleontologist

Describe what each scientist would focus on when investigating the cave, and think about how each discipline would answer the following questions:

- What were some of the physical traits of the early humans living in this cave?
- What were they eating and how did they get at that food?
- What was a day in the life of an early human like here?