

Clues in the Ground

Use artifacts and features as evidence of daily life.

6.2b "Early peoples in the Eastern Hemisphere are often studied by analyzing artifacts and archaeological features. Archaeologists engage in digs and study artifacts and features in a particular location to gather evidence about a group of..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every artifact, circle each archaeological feature, and write a 1 beside each claim that the evidence suggests but does not prove, so you can track how archaeologists build careful conclusions.

Digging at Çatalhöyük

- ① At Çatalhöyük, a Neolithic settlement in what is now Turkey, archaeologists excavate one house at a time. They record where each object lies before moving it. A house may contain mud-brick walls, a raised platform, a hearth, and a storage bin. These built parts are archaeological features because they cannot be carried away as whole objects. By studying the layout of a house, researchers look for evidence of how people used shared space about 9,000 years ago.
- ② Consider a hypothetical room, based on the kinds of evidence found at this site. Imagine a cluster of charred wheat seeds beside a grinding stone and a clay storage jar. The stone and jar are artifacts, objects people could move. The seeds are plant remains. Their positions matter. This group of finds suggests residents processed and stored plant food in that room. It does not prove exactly who did each task or what every meal tasted like. Archaeologists compare several houses and carefully recorded layers before making broader claims.
- ③ Now imagine a midden outside the houses: a place where people threw away refuse. In this example, animal bones, broken pottery, and ash lie in this feature. Cut marks on some bones provide evidence that people removed meat with tools. Ash near the refuse may show that fires were used nearby, but it cannot identify a single event by itself. Objects and features together help archaeologists build a picture of daily life at this settlement during one period. The evidence is strongest when its location and layer are known.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two archaeological features at Çatalhöyük. Why are they features rather than artifacts?

2 What does the cluster of wheat seeds, a grinding stone, and a storage jar suggest about the room?

3 Why do archaeologists record an object's position and the layer where it is found before making a claim?

4 What evidence suggests that people removed meat with tools? What can ash near the midden not identify by itself?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 4 or 5 sentences about an imaginary archaeological site. Include at least two artifacts and one feature, explain what the evidence suggests about how people lived, and state one thing the evidence cannot prove.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every artifact, circle each archaeological feature, and write a 1 beside each claim that the evidence suggests but does not prove, so you can track how archaeologists build careful conclusions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two archaeological features at Çatalhöyük. Why are they features rather than artifacts?	Possible features include mud-brick walls, a raised platform, a hearth, a storage bin, and a midden. They are fixed structures or deposits at the site that cannot be carried away as whole objects.
2	What does the cluster of wheat seeds, a grinding stone, and a storage jar suggest about the room?	It suggests that residents processed and stored plant food in the room.
3	Why do archaeologists record an object's position and the layer where it is found before making a claim?	Its position and layer provide context. Evidence is strongest when archaeologists know where it was found and can compare it with other finds.
4	What evidence suggests that people removed meat with tools? What can ash near the midden not identify by itself?	Cut marks on some animal bones suggest that people removed meat with tools. Ash near the midden cannot identify one single fire event by itself.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a riverside campsite, archaeologists found a bone needle and a broken clay pot beside a stone-lined hearth in one soil layer. The needle and pot are artifacts because people could carry them. The hearth is a feature because it was built into the ground. Together, the finds suggest that people cooked and repaired clothing at the site. They do not prove which person used the needle.

Accept other correctly identified features from the passage and equivalent evidence-based wording. For the open response, check that the student distinguishes portable artifacts from a built feature and includes both a supported inference and a reasonable limit on the evidence.