

# Richard III

## Discovery

### Archaeology

As long ago as 1975, there were rumours and opinions that Richard III's body lay under, what was now, a carpark in Leicester. It took many years and much persuasion to start the **archaeological** dig that found Richard's remains in 2012.

**Archaeology** is an amazing science that allows us to learn about the past through what is found buried in the ground and archaeologists are like history detectives, sifting carefully through what they find to build a picture of people and places from long ago.

During an excavation, archaeologists build up a collection of finds (artefacts found in the ground). The finds will be treated in different ways, depending on what they are – they may be sorted, washed or mended. The archaeologists then look at the collection and build up a picture of life in the past.



Archaeologists would look at each object in turn and ask themselves lots of questions:

Does the object look like new or are parts mended, broken or worn away? What is your object made of? Who do you think used your object? Was your object used on its own or with something else? Do you think the object was useful to its owner? Do you think the owner loved the object?

### Your Task

**Now:** You need to ask yourself some questions to find out what you can about the family who owned these objects. Can you work out **who** is in this family, roughly **how old** they are and how you used **evidence** to come to these conclusions?

**1000 years from now:** Consider the materials that the objects are made from. In 1000 years time, what would be left for the archaeologists to find? What would we be able to establish about the family from what was left behind?