



Dig School

digschool.org.uk

Enquiry-based
learning in
archaeology

Dig School

By Professor Carenza Lewis and the Council for British Archaeology

***** ATTENTION: SCHOOL STAFF ***** If you're looking for something a bit different to engage secondary school students during the coronavirus disruptions to learning, see what our free 'Dig School' can offer...

What IS Dig School?

Dig School is a new online programme of lively cross-curricular learning-enrichment workshops themed around archaeology. Week by week, students can enjoy developing new knowledge, ideas and transferrable skills for life and learning, leading up to real excavations. Dig School is offered in summer term 2020 to support engaged learning during the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Who is Dig School for?

Dig School's adaptable workshops are targeted at ages 10-15 but are accessible and engaging for students of all ages, interests and aptitudes, deliverable by educators with no specialist knowledge.

Who's behind it?

Dig School is devised by archaeologist **Carenza Lewis** (University of Lincoln and Time Team) in collaboration with the **Council for British Archaeology**, advised by educators, together drawing on decades of experience including 'Discovery Days', 'Higher Education Field Academy' and 'Young Archaeologist's Club'.



What do students do?

Workshops include challenges, enquiries, puzzles, games and investigations supported by podcasts and digital presentations. In later workshops, students may carry out their own excavations.

What will students learn?

Topics range from stone age life to the Black Death and beyond, including artefacts, bones and local enquiries. Students learn new ways to think, see, connect, analyse, cooperate and communicate.

How are the workshops delivered?

Workshop materials are accessed online and presented in school by staff (no specialist subject knowledge needed), with live online support/discussion available from the Dig School team on release days and via email from April to July 2020.

Do students have to do all the workshops?

Each workshop can be enjoyed independently. However, the programme has been designed to work particularly effectively as a series which cumulatively builds up knowledge, skills and confidence.

What does it cost?

Dig School is funded through Historic England's *Heritage Schools* initiative, and is provided **free of charge** in summer term 2020 to help schools cope with the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

How do I find out more?

Visit our 'Dig School' website <http://www.digschool.org.uk> or email digschool@archaeologyuk.org



Dig School
digschool@archaeologyuk.org

Council
for British
Archaeology



Historic England



What do people think about Dig School?

"The Schools History Project heartily supports Dig School. Many of our Fellows and associated teachers have worked with Carenza Lewis before and have nothing but the utmost respect for her work in bringing archaeology into schools and into young people's lives. My personal experience has allowed me to see, first-hand, how deftly her team's amazing expertise was used to help students develop new knowledge, skills and, perhaps most importantly, passion for the past and its influence on places they know. I have every confidence that the materials for Dig School will be of the same quality and will provide young people with a special opportunity in an unsettling time. Furthermore, I believe that this will be a boon for teachers who can make use of resources that will enhance their schools' curricula at a time when disruption might otherwise cause it to suffer."

- **Matthew Stanford, Director Schools History Project**

"Dig School is a golden opportunity for both teachers and home-schooling parents at this challenging time. As Carenza Lewis has shown time and again, with a little guidance and 'know how', anyone can enjoy exploring the traces of the past that lie just beneath our feet. The smallest discovery can add to broader data to create fascinating and important conclusions. Few things are more enthralling for young people than being this close to the relics of the past, and learning to think like archaeologists who know how to interpret them."

- **Christine Counsell, Editor Teaching History**

"While Carenza Lewis captivated television audiences with her work on Time Team, she has also inspired numerous teachers through her passionate advocacy and carefully structured support for young people's engagement with local history and specifically in archaeology. It is great news for all those currently looking for ways to develop young people's engagement with the past that the Dig School resources are now being made available online. The flexibility of the programme is obviously invaluable at this moment, but it is also hugely reassuring for educators (at home and in school) to know that careful thought has also been invested in finding effective ways to build young people's knowledge, understanding and skills cumulatively through the structured enquiry process that underpins the whole collection."

- **Katharine Burn, Vice-President Historical Association**

"It's a great pleasure to see this new initiative by Carenza, the CBA and her team at Lincoln University. I'm sure it will encourage a love and enthusiasm for the ideas which for over 25 years were expressed by the younger fans of Time Team. It's great when an initiative that is well structured and logically presented fulfils those pleasures that we all feel can be found in the world of archaeology. Particularly at this time it will give a range of practical, theoretical and transferrable skills which can be used in the immediate environment and will develop a basis for future enjoyment and discovery. I look forward to seeing Dig School successfully progress and hopefully we'll be able to provide some of the archive of Time Team material to support, entertain and encourage its participants."

- **Tim Taylor, Creator and Series Producer of Time Team**





Draft programme (may be subject to change)

1. **'History CSI'** – Investigating a mysterious death through clues from an ancient skeleton.
2. **'Changing Rooms'** – Experiencing how easily familiar places become unrecognisable over time.
3. **'Where's Waldemar'** – Experimental colonisation a new world.
4. **'Dumpster Dig'** – Analysing how the stuff people throw away preserves clues to their lives.
5. **'Magic Carpet'** – Exploring what the things that people value most reveal about them – or the people around them...
6. **'Call my Bluff'** – Can you spot the true uses of past objects from false explanations?
7. **'A Thorney Problem'** – Work out why some unusual human bones were buried in a quiet rural garden.
8. **'Pet, pest or product?'** – Investigating how people used animals in the past through their bones.
9. **'Top Trumps Time'** – Exploring the significance of people and events in the past.
10. **'Why dig my school'** – Exploring what excavations can reveal about places like your school.
11. **'Overground - my place in time'** – Your own online investigation into what maps and aerial photos reveal about the area around your school.
12. **'Underground – my place in time'** – Your own online investigation into what archaeological discoveries have been made around your school – and what they might mean.
13. **'How to scan my school'** - Create 'geofizz' equipment you can use to scan your school for buried remains then choose a site to dig.
14. **'How and where to dig my school'** – Tutorial on how to do your own min-dig in school grounds, including a 'health and safety' quiz at the end to identify dig team leaders.

DIG WEEK! – If you can, carrying out your own dig in school grounds!

15. **'What did we find?'** – identifying the finds you or others made during the excavation.
16. **'What does it tell us?'** – developing explanations for what the finds mean.
17. **'What's the story?'** – Writing a narrative story of your site through time, using all your finds
18. **'Finishing the job'** – writing a 'proper' report on your excavation.
19. **'Show...'** – making an exhibition/presentation/podcast to showcase the excavation and its outcomes.
20. **'...and tell'** – Presenting your showcase – and receiving your certificates!

