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Impacts and Influences: Spanish Contact with Native Americans - 1994

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SOUTH CAROLINA
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WEEK
"IMPACTS AND INFLUENCES"
SPANISH CONTACT WITH NATIVE AMERICANS
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WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?
Archaeology — what excitedly trigger wants? How does one make knowledge? Discover something? Discover a story?
Archaeologists look back in time. They excavate ancient sites, places where people lived and built their homes, and investigated the remains of their lives. Archaeologists use what they find to learn about the past and how it shaped our present. Today, archaeologists use a variety of methods to study the past, including excavation, analysis of artifacts, and the study of ancient environments.

1. Background
   - The term "archaeology" comes from the Greek words "archaios," meaning "ancient," and "logia," meaning "study." It refers to the scientific study of human history and prehistory through the analysis of material remains.
   - Archaeologists use a variety of methods to study the past, including excavation, analysis of artifacts, and the study of ancient environments.
   - Archaeologists study the past to understand human behavior, societies, and cultures. They use their findings to reconstruct the past and to gain insight into the present.

2. Excavation
   - Excavation is the process of uncovering and recording archaeological sites. It involves the careful and systematic removal of soil, rock, and other materials to reveal artifacts and other evidence of past human activity.
   - Archaeologists use a variety of tools and techniques to excavate sites, including shovels, picks, and power tools.
   - Excavation is often conducted in layers, with each layer representing a different time period. This allows archaeologists to determine the chronological order of the remains.

3. Analysis
   - Once the remains have been excavated, archaeologists analyze them to understand their significance. This involves identifying and classifying artifacts, determining their age, and interpreting their cultural context.
   - Analysis may involve the use of physical anthropological techniques, such as the study of human remains, or the use of chemical and biological methods, such as the analysis of plant and animal remains.

4. Interpretation
   - The final step in the archaeological process is interpretation. This involves using the information gathered from excavation and analysis to reconstruct the past.
   - Interpretation may involve the use of computer models, maps, and other visual aids to help visualize the past.

5. Conclusion
   - Archaeology is a complex and multifaceted field that involves a wide range of methods and approaches. It is an important tool for understanding the past and for gaining insight into the present.
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