

Special activities for children 6-12

To celebrate Alaska Archaeology Week and learn what archaeologists do, children ages 6 to 12 are invited to participate in "Adventures in Archaeology" at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

"The Archaeologist as Detective" will feature a stratified garbage can which illustrates the passage of time, the changes that take place over time and the events that cause change.

"What is it?" is an activity designed to answer the question, "What is an artifact?" and what was the purpose and function of an object.

"How were artifacts made?" will feature an Alaskan Native elder demonstrating the manufacture of an object.

"What is an archaeological site?" will help children learn how careful scientific methods are used by archaeologists to excavate sites as opposed to the random damage caused by pot hunters.

"Clues from prehistoric garbage" will teach children what an archaeologist does in a laboratory.

"Piece together an archaeological site" features a giant floor puzzle, which, when put together, pictures an ancient house floor. A missing puzzle piece illustrates the damage caused by pot hunters.

Finally, participants will reconstruct a prehistoric mask by replicating their own ideas of design elements that could have been on the intact portion of an old mask, a take-home reminder of the life of an artifact.