**Uncovering Pieces of History**

**Situation:** Every so often you hear of a historical discovery; maybe it’s a bone or a full skeleton, a piece of a clay pot, or an old diary, document or drawing that has somehow been preserved. Sometimes it’s just a clue that leads us to believe that a piece of history is buried in a specific location.When this happens, a small section of Earth becomes sacred; teams of archeologists gather their tools and begin digging in hopes of uncovering the truth about our past. Once artifacts are extracted, analyzed, and studied they often are donated to museums so the whole world can learn about the discovery.

**Problem & Career Focus:**You will work as an archeologist to uncover Civil War artifacts from a simulated dig site. Before you can begin your archeological expedition you must work with your team to build a tool that will allow you to extract artifacts from the ground without using your hands to touch them.

**Things to consider*:***

* What types of tools do archeologists use to extract items from the ground?
* How deep is the dig site?
* What type of Civil War artifacts do you think you will find at the dig site?
* How will I create a tool that will move dirt and pick up different artifacts?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria**  The tool must …   * be the only thing to come in contact with the soil. * have all components attached in at least one location. * be able to dig in different types of soil and pick up objects. * lift the artifacts completely out of the simulated dig site. | **Constraints**   * You must use the materials provided. * You must work with your assigned group. |
| **Materials:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 61 cm Duct tape | 2 Dixie cups | | 15 popsicle sticks | 5 pipe cleaners | | 5 straws | 5 rubber bands | | 30.5 cm of string | 2 plastic forks (heavy duty) | | 2 plastic spoons (heavy duty) | 2 plastic knives (heavy duty) |   **Use any of the following...** | **Tools:**  **Use any of the following...**   * Pencil * Scissors * Ruler * Rubber Gloves (for students to wear when examining the artifacts) |