Australia’s Ancient Past

The how and what of the Sydney area

Investigator: ____________________
“What is archaeological evidence?”
Read this section with your partner.
Q. What does archaeology allow us to understand about ancient Sydney?
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“Aboriginal archaeological sites”
Read this section with your partner.
Q. How is archaeological evidence at Aboriginal sites categorised?
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Q. Why have archaeological sites in Sydney largely survived?
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Q. What is the most commonly found archaeological evidence of ancient Sydney?
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“Archaeological deposits and shell middens”
Read this section with your partner.

Q. What tells an archaeologist/historian that an area was once a campsite?
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Q. Why do archaeologists/historians not use evidence of shelters as an indicator of a campsite?
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Q. Where are shell middens found?
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Q. What does this tell us about how Aboriginal people lived in ancient Australia?
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Q. Why are shell middens not usually found on lower strata levels in the Sydney area?
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Extension
Q. Why would rock shelters be more likely than open locations to have “deep stratified deposits”?
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“Engraved and pigment images”

Read this section with your partner.

Study the images of rocks carvings, and describe one (including description of its apparent location, tools required to produce it, the complexity of its design, its surroundings, etc.,):

Design your own rock carving, based on the list of common subjects depicted in rock carvings.

Q. Explain how your rock carving would have been made, in steps:
Extension activity
Research the pigments used to create drawings etc, and what they were made from:
“Grinding grooves”

Match the tool to the groove by drawing a line from the word to the groove.

Q.

Why have archaeologists concluded that a hatchet sharpening groove found in Sydney sandstone will be less than 4 000 years old?

Q. Why have grinding grooves generally not been able to be dated?
Q. Why are grinding grooves usually found adjacent to a water source? (This will require further research)

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“Burial sites”
Read this section with your partner.
Q. How were bodies disposed of after death in ancient Sydney?

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“Carved and scarred trees”

Read this section with your partner.

Q. What is the difference between a carved and scarred tree?

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Fill in the glossary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glossary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word/phrase</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell middens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pigment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grinding grooves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarred trees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carved trees</td>
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