

Careers in History

Archaeologist

An archaeologist studies artifacts or things that people used long ago. An archaeologist is like a great detective who looks at artifacts, then tries to imagine what life would have been like for people living long ago. Often archaeologists dig beneath the earth's surface to find artifacts.



Spotlight on a famous archaeologist: Howard Carter was an English archaeologist. He was famous for digging in and around the Egyptian pyramids. He was made famous by his discovery of the tomb of the Egyptian king Tutankhamun.

Anthropologist

An anthropologist studies humans and their ancestors across time, with the focus on physical character, environmental and social relations, and culture. Culture includes people's beliefs, religions, daily habits, and work and recreational activities.



Spotlight on a famous anthropologist: Franklin Hamilton Cushing was one of the first American anthropologists. He observed and wrote about Native American culture. His work helped new settlers understand the customs and culture of the Zunis in New Mexico.

Historian

A historian is a person who studies history. A historian uses books, diaries, art, and letters to study a time that occurred in the past. He or she does not dig for artifacts. A historian can study living people like the anthropologist or dig like an archaeologist but mostly reads for historical clues. A historian often reports what happened in the past. Sometimes historians write books.



Spotlight on a famous historian: Herodotus was a Greek historian. He was considered to be the first historian in history. He liked to study Greek life. He wrote his books on his observations of the Greek and Persian Wars.

Check for Understanding

Read each question below and answer in complete sentences.

1. Would you like to be a historian, anthropologist, or archaeologist? Explain.

2. What would you like to study in history? Explain.
