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## The Excavation Process

Archaeologists take five steps to excavate a site. These five steps are taken to ensure archaeological sites are carefully handled and the artifacts are safely recovered. Use the graphic organizer below to identify and explain each step.

### Step 1: Establish a Site Grid

- using invisible gridlines, archaeologists can record the exact location of where artifacts are recovered.

### Step 2: Remove/Screen soil from each square

- screens are used to sift through dirt and reveal artifacts.
- Troweling subsoil will reveal "features".

### Step 3: Photograph/Map Soil Features

- Features in the soil could indicate things like pits, burials, or postholes from structures.

### Step 4: Recover Artifacts

- Shovels, trowels, and screens are used to recover artifacts.
- The location of every artifact will be documented.

### Step 5: Backfill

- All the dirt taken out of the squares/features is put back in.
- This preserves the site and discourages any vandalism.