

Archaeological Excavation at the Warren Wilson Site* — Calculating Volume of Soil Removed Worksheet —

The Warren Wilson site is an ancestral Cherokee village located along the Swannanoa River in Buncombe County, North Carolina near the present-day town of Swannanoa. In the 1960s, archaeologists from the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina excavated a series of 10 ft x 10 ft units to form a long trench.¹ They initially removed about 12" of what is known as plowzone (i.e., the upper layer of soil that has been disturbed by agricultural plowing) to reveal the ancient settlement. The following photograph shows the trench excavation:



Using the information and image above, answer the following questions:

- What is the volume of soil that was removed from each 10 ft x 10 ft excavation unit?
- How much soil was removed from all units within the trench?

¹ Count the rectangular soil pedestals at the corner of each unit in the image above to determine the total number of units excavated within the trench.

*A supplement to the lesson plan "Modeling the Garden Creek Mounds" by Stephanie Morgan (Pisgah High School) for the 2021-2022 World View Global Fellows Program.

Image from *Cherokee Prehistory: The Pisgah Phase in the Appalachian Summit Region* (1976) by Roy S. Dickens, Plate 4, page 26. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, TN.