



# Heritage of the Americas Museum



## Vocabulary Activity

Activity: In pairs, create a picture of the past. The picture could be a Native American village, archeologists/anthropologists on a dig, or any other setting. Use the following vocabulary words to label the items in your picture. Write a short sentence using the rest of the words that are not covered in your picture.

Anthropology	The study of mankind in all its aspects, especially human culture and development
Archaeology	The scientific study of ancient cultures through the examination of their material remains; i.e., buildings, tools and other artifacts usually dug up from the ground
Artifact	An object made by a human being, such as a tool or ornament
Circa	Latin word indicating a date that is approximate or estimated
Effigy	A carved representation of an animal or human made into a pipe, vessel or other object and implies a spiritual or religious belief
Fetish	An object that some people believe has magical powers or is animated by a spirit
Fossil	The remains of an animal or plant preserved from an earlier era inside a rock or other geological deposit, often as an impression or in a petrified state
Metate/Mano	A large stone utensil used for grinding; the mano is a small hand-held stone used in the grinding process
Natural History	The study and description of living things, their behavior and relationship to one another; the natural phenomena of growth and development of plants, animals, or organisms at a particular time or place over a period of time; a written account of a particular aspect of the natural world.
Obsidian	A jet black volcanic glass chemically similar to granite and formed by the rapid cooling of molten lava; used by early civilizations for manufacturing tools and ceremonial objects
Olla	A large, usually unglazed pot with a spherical body and a wide mouth used in Latin America and the Southwestern United States for storing water and foods, and also for cooking
Pottery	Objects such as vases, pots (ollas), plates or sculptured articles that are made by molding or shaping moist clay and hardening it by heating
Prehistoric	Relating to the period before history was recorded in writing
Textile	Cloth or fabric that is woven, knitted, or otherwise manufactured