

# Cookie Excavation

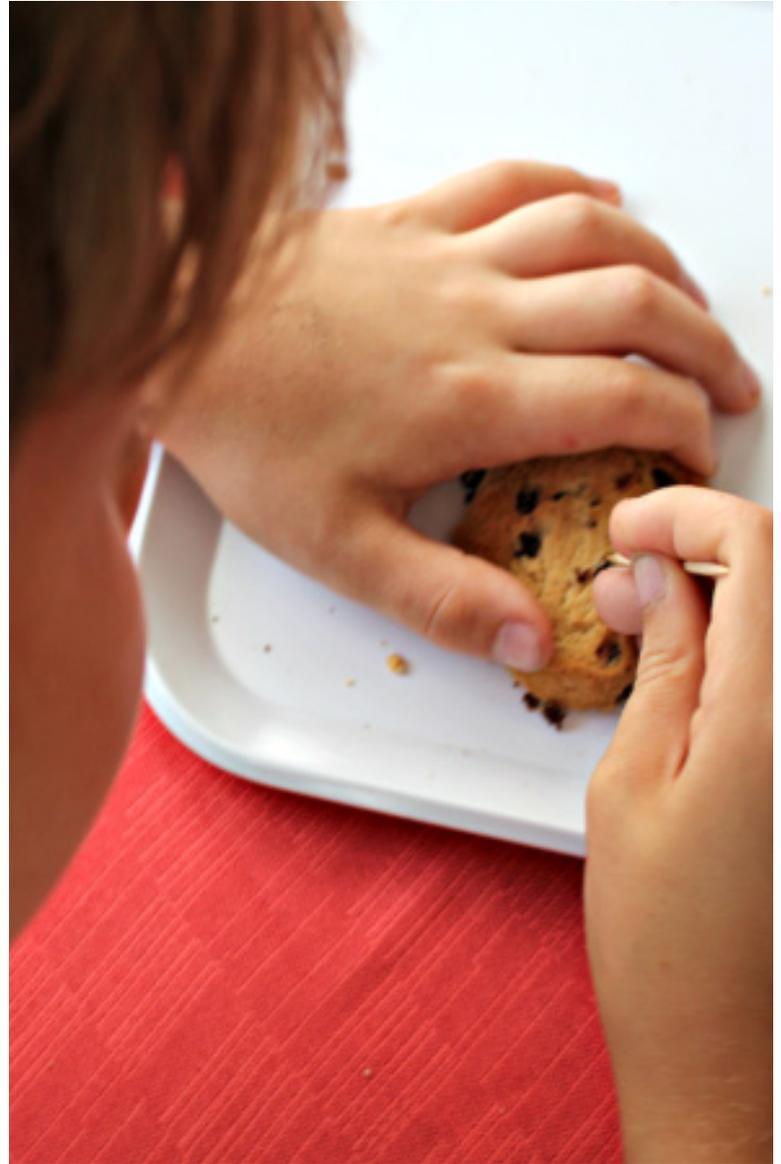
Participants will simulate the process of archaeological excavation as they “excavate” chocolate chips or raisins in cookies. They will discover how excavation is both destructive and scientific. Older participants can practice coordinate graphing skills by mapping the results of their excavations.

## Supplies

- Chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin cookies
- Paper towels
- Toothpicks
- Optional: Display text and instructions
- Optional: Cookie excavation grid worksheet and pencil

## Instructions

1. Grab a cookie, paper towel and toothpick. If desired, use a cookie excavation grid worksheet.
2. Carefully “excavate” chips or raisins from each cookie, being careful not to damage any “artifacts” as you remove them. For an added challenge, do not use hands to pick up cookies since archaeologists cannot pick up artifacts!
3. For older participants, map out results on the grid worksheets. Archaeologists create similar maps to discover patterns that tell about the people who created the site. Do the maps reveal any patterning in the distribution of chocolate chips? If so, propose a hypothesis that might explain it.



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