

Understanding Archaeology

Archaeology is another way that helps people understand the past.

Archaeologists study all kinds of material evidence left from people of the past. We know that American Indians were the first people who lived in Virginia and the areas of Virginia they lived in because of artifacts. **Artifacts** are the pieces of evidence that have been dug up and found to tell us about the history of Virginia. Some of the artifacts found in Virginia include arrowheads pottery, and other tools.

Through archaeology, we have learned about Werowocomoco (weh-ro-wo-COM-a-co). Werowocomoco was a large Indian town used by Indian leaders for several hundred years before the English settlers came. It was the headquarters of the leader, Powhatan, in 1607.

Due to archaeology, we also know that **Jamestown** became the first permanent English settlement in North America. Archaeologists have discovered the site of the original fort. The recovered artifacts give archaeologists clues about the interactions of English, Africans, and Indians in early Virginia.