

Becoming an

ARCHAEOLOGIST

What is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of human history and prehistory through excavation and through the analysis of material remains: artifacts and archaeological sites. Archaeology is related to history in that they both attempt to understand the past, but they vary in the types of evidence that are used. Historians rely mainly on written documents, while archaeologists use sites and artifacts.

Employment opportunities in archaeology exist primarily within colleges and universities, state and federal agencies, private consulting firms, museums, and historic sites. Most of today's archaeologists are employed in the cultural resource management (crm) industry. Cultural resource management is a branch of archaeology that grew out of legislation requiring state and federal agencies to consider the impact a proposed development project (e.g., road widening, bridge replacement) could have on prehistoric and historic sites.



Types of Careers in Archaeology

- Academic Archaeologist (Professor/Researcher)
- Archaeologist (Crew Chief/Field Director/Supervisor/etc)
- Archaeological Illustrator
- Archivist
- Conservator
- Cultural Heritage Manager
- Cultural Resource Lawyer
- Field Technician
- Geoarchaeologist
- GIS Specialist
- Historic Site Interpreter
- Lab Manager/Director
- Museum Educator
- Museum Curator
- Museum Research Assistant
- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

Laboratory Specialties

- Archaeobotanist
- Bioarchaeologist/Osteologist
- Ceramic Analyst
- DNA Analyst
- Experimental Archaeologist
- Geomorphologist
- Lithic Analyst
- Materials Conservator
- Stable Isotope Analyst
- Zooarchaeology/Faunal Analyst

Cultural Resource Management Career Paths

Federal Agency

- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS)
- United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)
- United States Corps of Engineers (USCOE)
- United States Army

State Agency

- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Recreation and Conservation Office

Local Agency

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office

Tribal Agency

- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Utilities and Private Companies

- Douglas County PUD
- Grant County Public Utility District
- Idaho Power
- Seattle City Light

Consultants

Aiding Government Agencies, Non-Profit Groups and Private Landowners with state, federal, and local compliance regulations. Number of consultants in Washington: **SEE AWA WEBSITE**



Education and Training Needed

- BA in Anthropology for field technician positions
- MA in Anthropology with a focus on Archaeology for supervisory positions
- Archaeology Field School
- **Special Skills:** Specialization in geomorphology, lithic (stone tool) analysis, botanical analysis, palynology, faunal analysis, human osteology, GIS proficiency, etc.



Explore More Resources

General Information

- Archaeology Podcast Network
<https://www.archaeologypodcastnetwork.com/>
- Society for American Archaeology (SAA)
<http://www.saa.org/>
- The National Park Service's Archaeology Program
<https://www.nps.gov/archeology/>
- US Department of the Interior's listings of federal CRM legislation
<https://www.usbr.gov/cultural/legismandates.html>

State Archaeology

- Association for Washington Archaeology (AWA)
<https://washingtonarchaeology.org/>
- Washington Archaeological and/or Cultural Resource Management/Services Consultant List
<https://washingtonarchaeology.org/consultants-list/consultant-list/>

Exploring Careers and Current Job Openings

- ArchaeologyFieldwork.com
<http://www.archaeologyfieldwork.com/AFW>
- USA JOBS
<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

Archaeological &
Historical Services
AHS
Eastern Washington University


Anna Coon and Jennifer Wilson
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