



# Activity 3

## Paper excavation



**BBC**  
**HANDS ON**  
**HISTORY**  
**DIG!**

### Teacher's information

**This activity will give participants the chance to take part in an excavation without getting their hands dirty! They will use all the skills important to a real archaeologist to DISCOVER an item, EXAMINE what they've found and RECORD their findings. The activity is worksheet based and ideal for groups looking for a quick and easy activity to prepare.**

### Teachers instructions

- Hand out photocopies of the worksheets (1, 2 and 3) to all participants.
- Set the scene – *Eric the archaeologist has found fragments of a Roman pot in his excavation pit. Help him discover, examine and record what he's found.*
- Ask each participant to come up and collect the tools they will need for their excavation (see left).
- Give the group around 30 mins to excavate their pot, put it back together and record their findings.
- If you have time at the end of the session, ask each participant to colour in their pot using the colours available in Roman times – ocre (an earthy yellow), blue, red and black. You can then create a display of all of the pots.

### You will need (one per participant)

- Photocopies of Paper Excavation worksheets 1, 2 and 3
- Paper Excavation tools:
  - Scissors
  - Pencil
  - Ruler (or use the ruler included on the Artefact Recording worksheet)
  - Glue stick
  - Pens, coloured pencils or paint (optional)



### TOP TIPS

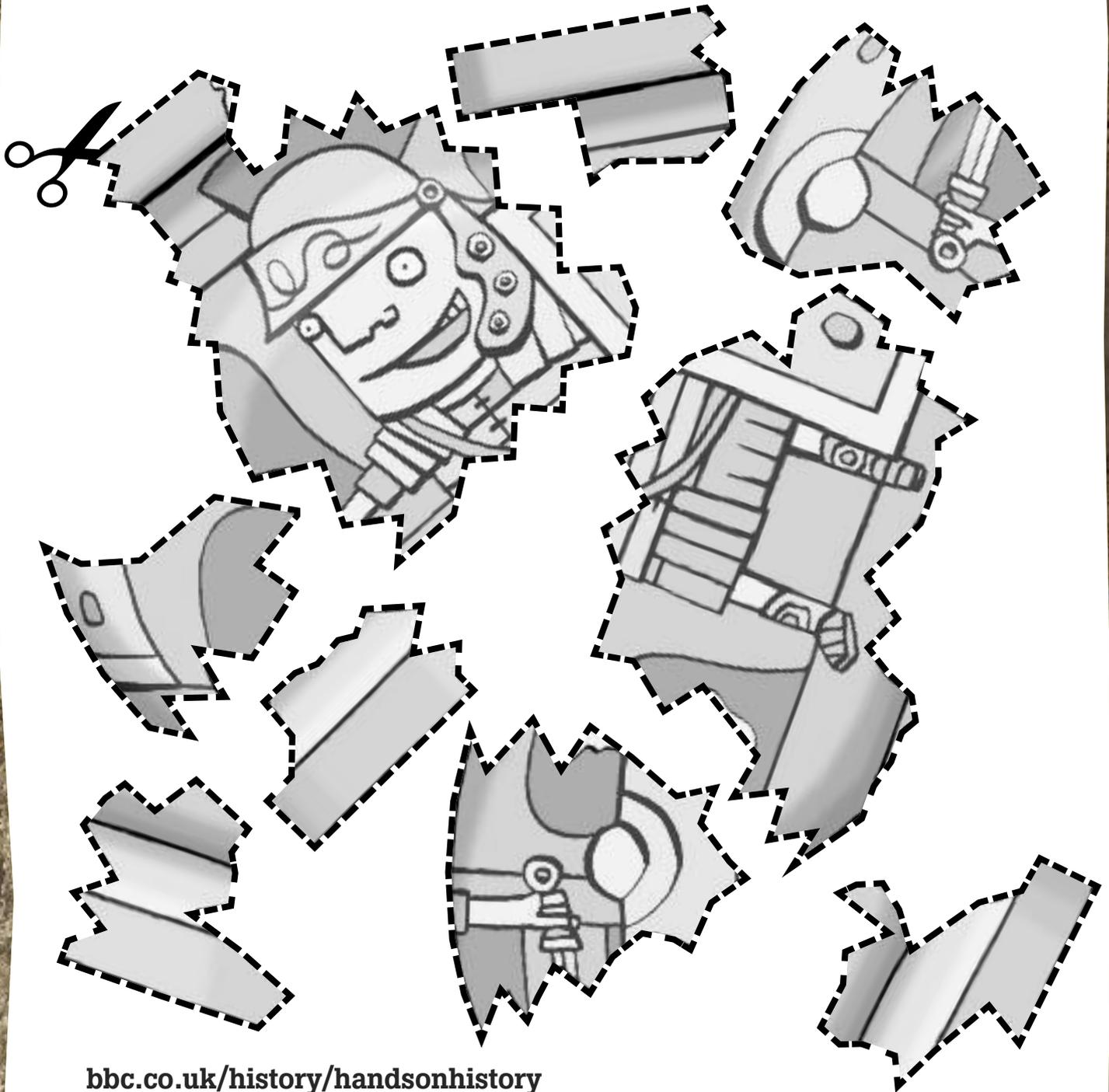
You can create paper excavations of all sorts of artefacts. Localise this activity by finding an image (copyright free) of an artefact important in your area – a locally manufactured object, a local building or a real archaeological find discovered near you.

For an older group you can make this activity trickier by mixing up three objects in the 'pit' to put back together. Simply cut up three items of your choice and put them in a box for participants to find the pieces in. Photocopy extra Artefact Recording sheets for the participants to record all three items found.

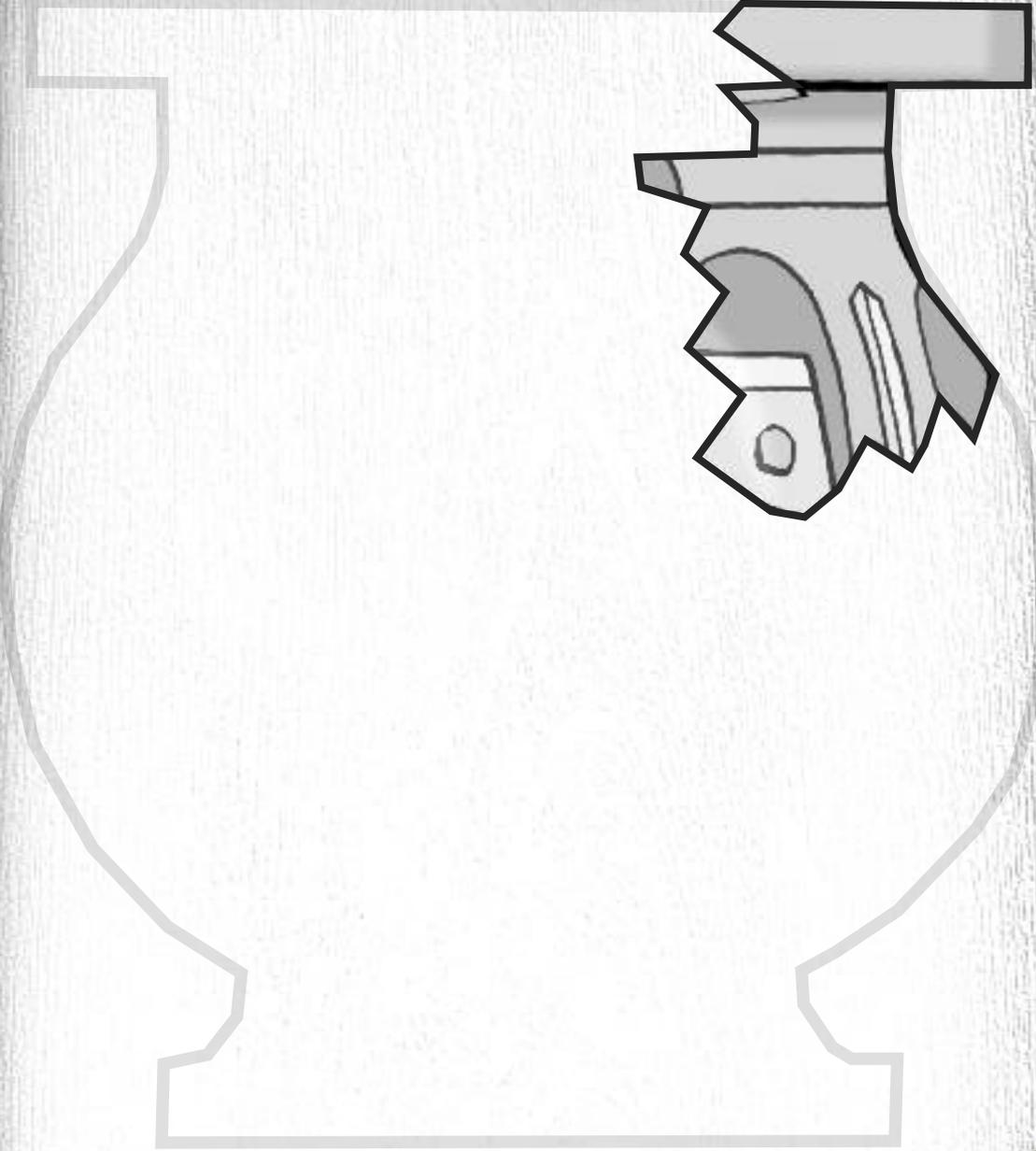
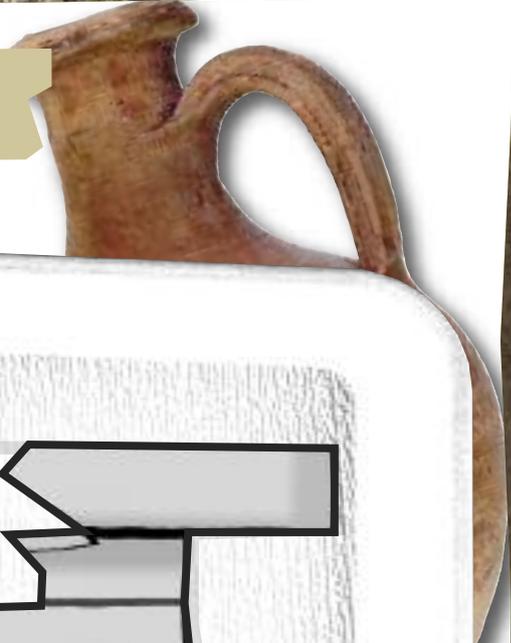
# Worksheet 1 – Roman Pot

**Eric the archaeologist has found fragments of a Roman pot in his excavation pit, help him discover, examine and record what he's found.**

- Look at the dig below and find all the pieces of the pot.
- Remove the pieces by cutting them out carefully with a pair of scissors.
- Put the pieces on the Finds Tray sheet and put the pot back together (a bit like a jigsaw!) – one piece has been laid out to get you started.
- If any fragments are missing, draw what you imagine may have been in the gaps to complete the pot.
- Complete the Artefact Recording Sheet with all the details about your artefact, just like a real archaeologist.



# Worksheet 2 – Roman Pot



Archaeologist's name:

Artefact name:

Artefact size:

Date of discovery:

## Worksheet 3 – Roman Pot

# Artefact Recording Sheet

**Archaeologist's name:**

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**The Artefact:**

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**Date of discovery:**

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**What is your artefact made from?**

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**How old do you think your artefact is? Look at the decoration for clues.**

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**Is your artefact complete?**

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**How tall is your artefact?**

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**How wide is your artefact?**

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**What do you think your artefact is/was used for?**

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**Any other observations?**

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