



Pottery Shard Puzzle

(Suggested Ages: 4+)

Gather

- Thin cardboard (cereal boxes work well)
- Scissors
- Crayons, markers, decorations
- Glue
- Optional: glue and construction paper

Let's Create!

1. Cut out the back of a cereal box, leave whole for now.
2. Make a picture for your puzzle by drawing directly on the cardboard, or glue a piece of construction paper on top of the cardboard and draw on top of that. Your picture can be anything you like, even patterns.
3. If glue has been used, make sure it is **COMPLETELY** dry before going further!
4. Cut your puzzle into small pieces. Try putting it back together, or give to someone else to try!



How Does it Work?

Archaeology is the study of groups of people through their material culture, or the physical objects that they use. An **archaeologist** is a scientist who studies these artifacts that are left behind. Many times, the objects that they study are so old, they must uncover pieces of the objects and put them back together - just like a puzzle! When an archaeologist puts pieces of broken objects back together, it is called **cross mending**.

Take it Further!

What could an archeologist learn about your family? A lot of what archeologists find is actually trash from the people who lived long ago. Try this experiment: **without** looking in your trash can (bathroom, kitchen, or outside), hypothesize what an archeologist would find if they discovered your trash can 200 years from now. **With a parent's permission**, open your trash can's lid and take a look at the top layer of your trash can. What do you observe? Was your hypothesis correct? Were there any objects that surprised you? For more archeology games and activities, visit:

<http://www.archaeologyincommunity.com/new-design-kids/>