

# Micro World

## Key stage 2 & 3



Enter the unknown and unseen world of micro archaeology in this fascinating look into a world not usually seen.

During the last two years Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service has been excavating on Ipswich dock front in advance of re-development. Excavating through several metres of sticky and wet deposits the team eventually came to Ipswich's first dock, built in the Saxon period. The Saxons appear to have been reclaiming land along the river frontage to make it firmer and more accessible. To do this they simply allowed the dumping of rubbish from the town as a quick and easy way to build up the land surface.

Normally organic materials such as wood, leather and plant materials rot and decay, leaving little evidence of their presence. On the docks things were different. The waterlogged conditions preserved even the smallest of items such as grain and fruit stones.

In this session students will examine samples from these deposits, retrieve and catalogue what they have found and then record and manipulate these images into stunning pieces of art.

### How the visit is structured

#### Timing

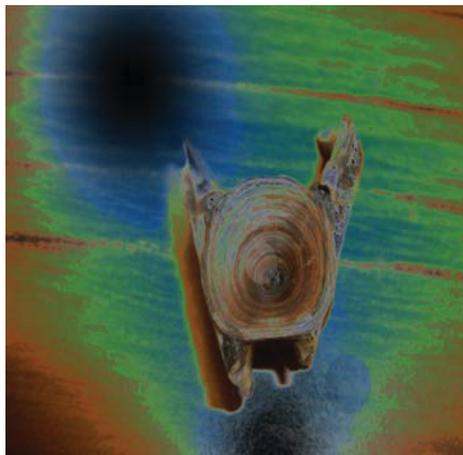
- An all day session for up to 30 pupils.

#### Requirements

- A classroom with interactive whiteboard and tables.
- Access to computer software such as paint or photoshop.

## Programme

- A selection of art materials (pencils of various grades, pastel, ink, watercolour, felt tip etc.
- Introduction to the world of archaeology – Slides and stories. A look at the excavations at Ipswich docks plus; meet Jack the Skelly, Meticulous Tim and learn some of the basic terminology and language.
- Excavate some of the Saxon deposits from the dock front using tweezers, magnifying glasses and rubber gloves.
- Identify and catalogue the finds.
- Select artefacts for further study, photograph and manipulate images using software and art materials.
- Sharing session to discuss and evaluate the day.



## Meeting Curriculum Objectives

- To understand the purpose of archaeology and the archaeological process
- To appreciate the archaeology of Suffolk river valleys
- To be able to recognise what constitutes archaeology evidence
- Develop hypothesis about the make, age and function of given artefacts
- Discuss what each artefact tells them about the past
- Know the basic health and safety, hazards and risks when working in a practical situation
- To sort various artefacts against agreed criteria
- Research, identify and date their findings
- Produce visual evidence via modern technology
- Compare results with classmates
- Group discussion and evaluation
- To participate in small group showing reliability, responsibility and perseverance

## Costs

A full day session with a class of up to 30 students - £180 plus travel

**Contact: Duncan Allan, SCC Archaeology Service**  
**01473 583288 [duncan.allan@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.allan@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk)**