

Children's Literature with Archaeological Themes

Addy, Sharon Hart

1997 *Right Here on This Spot*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

- Reading level 2nd through 6th.
- Nice watercolor pictures but they don't show very much.
- A relatively simple rather poetic description of events taking place in a single spot at various points in time. People begin finding the evidence and an archaeologist is called in to explain things.
- No information about what the archaeologist does – he just “studies carefully” – but it does convey the idea that many things have happened in what looks like any empty field.
- Might make a good book to read aloud to a group of kids and start an interesting discussion.
- Moderate recommendation.

Agenbroad, Larry D. and Lisa Nelson

2002 *Mammoths: Ice Age Giants*. Lerner Publishers, Minneapolis.

- Grades 5-9
- Detailed, readable survey of mammoth natural history. Topics include physiology, distribution, fossil finds, and extinction theories.
- Side boxes on ice age hunters, geologic time and other topics.
- Well illustrated and includes a glossary.
- Recommended by library reviewers

Aliki

1979 *Mummies Made in Egypt*. Harper Collins, New York.

- Easy reader or read aloud for young children
- Very detailed information about how and why mummies were made, humorously related. Always a fascinating subject for kids.
- Detailed illustrations.
- Highly recommended

Aliki

1976 *Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians.* Harper Collins, New York.

- Easy reader. Good for reading aloud to pre-readers, easy for early readers.
- Very factual. Well told story about the history of corn and how it was domesticated.
- Talks about Indian uses through modern agriculture and diverse non-food uses.
- Directions for a corn husk doll and corn husk wreath at the end.
- Highly recommended.

Aliki

1990 *Fossils Tell of Long Ago.* Harper Collins, NY.

- Early readers or read aloud.
- A multicultural group of children visit a museum and learn about all kinds of fossils and how they are formed.
- Ends with a handprint activity that children can replicate
- Highly recommended.

Aliki

1996 *Wild and Woolly Mammoths.* HarperCollins, NY.

- Easy reader (1st through 3rd grade) or read aloud for pre-readers.
- Tells of a find of mammoth fossils and discusses the ice age and ice age hunters.
- Good, colorful illustrations.
- Highly recommended.

Arnold, Caroline, Photographs by Richard Hewett.

1996 *Stories in Stone: Rock Art Pictures by Early Americans.*

Clarion Books, New York.

- Older reading level. 5th or 6th grade and older. Text straight forward and clear, pretty academic in tone.
- Very lovely rock art pictures.
- Good summary of North American prehistory and discussion changing technology, climate, and lifestyles of the southwest.

- Good discussion of rock art: its uses, who made it and why, and attempts to date it.
- Highly recommended.

Arnold, Caroline

2002 *When Mammoths Walked the Earth*. Clarion Books, NY.

- Age range 5-8 years (K-3)
- General discussion about the Ice Age in general and mammoths specifically. Includes discussion of significant fossil finds.
- Introduces a lot of scientific vocabulary but the explanations are clear and concise.
- Lovely color illustrations.
- Highly recommended for reading or for a reference.

Avi-Yonah, Michael

1993 *Dig This! How Archaeologists Uncover Our Past*.

Runestone.

- Written for young readers – grades 4-8
- A summary of archaeology: what it is, how it is conducted, important historical figures in the field, and what has been learned from the study of remains of past human life. There are brief descriptions of the cultures in the Middle East, Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Americas. The writing has a text-bookish flavor.
- Recommended by the National Park Service Archaeology Project.

Barnes, Trevor

2004 *Archaeology*. Kingfisher Knowledge Books.

- Reviewers place it a 4th through 8th grade reading level.
- Includes websites, book lists, glossary, and other resources about archaeology and prehistory.
- Good discussion of what archaeology is all about, including history and emphasis on the responsibility to share their discoveries with the world.
- Talks about finding out about everyday life but illustrations and detailed discussions focus on “big finds”, cities, temples etc. – Cahokia and the Little Bighorn are the only sites from North America.

- Basic discussion useful, lovely pictures.
- Recommended.

Brett, Jan

1988 *The First Dog*. Voyager Books, New York.

- Grades pre-school to grade 1
- Fiction. A simple story about how the first dog may have been domesticated. A boy shares his food with a wild Paleowolf and is, in turn, saved from a saber-toothed cat by Paleowolf's warning.
- Highly recommended.

Chorlton, Windsor

2001 *Woolly Mammoth: Life, Death and Rediscovery*. Scholastic Reference, Inc., NY.

- Ages 9 and older
- A retelling of the discovery of a single mammoth encased in ice (the Jarkov mammoth) in Russia. Provides basic information about mammoths and other ice age animals.
- Written partially in diary form. Emphasizes the excitement of scientific discovery and even encourages students to consider the ethics of DNA cloning.
- Recommended by library reviewers.

Clark, Patricia Nikolina

2003 *In the Shadow of the Mammoth*. Blue Marling Publishers.

- Ages 9-12
- Fiction. Coming of age story based on an 11 year old boy who lost his father on a mammoth hunt, creating a crisis of confidence. He must face a number of challenges including rivers and saber-tooth cats but the greatest is hunting the mammoth that killed his father.
- The setting in Paleoindian times is well done.
- Some reviewers comment that the plotting and pace is slow. Others praise the story. Nominated for two book awards.
- Recommended.

Cole, Joanna and Bruce Degen

1997 *The Magic School Bus Shows and Tells*. Scholastic.

- Easy reading 1st through 4th grade or read aloud.
- Fun with Ms Frizzle and the kids. Bright, colorful and funny.
- Shows how archaeologists go about determining what something was used for by employing the scientific method of question – hypothesis - testing. Lets the reader try their hand at guessing as well.
- Highly recommended.

Cork, Barbara and Struan Reid

1984 *The Young Scientist Book of Archaeology: Discovering the Past with Science and Technology*. edc Publishing, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

- This wouldn't make a good read but is a good reference and browsing book for interested kids probably 5th – 8th grades. It would answer a lot of their questions. Also useful adult reference.
- Not written in narrative format, rather, there are short blurbs in boxes with interesting little illustrations.
- There is lots of good information. Each page has a specific topic: how things are destroyed, how things are preserved, piecing the evidence together, burials and bodies, radioactive dating etc. Good, accurate information.
- The examples and illustrations are all from Old World sites and artifacts.
- Recommended as a reference.

Donoghue, Carol

1997 *The Mystery of the Hieroglyphs*. Oxford University Press, NY.

- Probably best for middle school students or really curious 4th and 5th graders. Text is involved and dense. It gives the history of the discovery of hieroglyphs, their translation, and lots of information about reading them. Many illustrations and side bars of information. You can learn a lot without reading the actual text.
- Teachers might also find it useful - It immediately gives me ideas for activities related to early writing and hieroglyphics.

- Aside from the story of the Rosetta Stone there is not a lot about archaeology and especially not about modern archaeology.
- Recommended as a reference.

Duke, Kate

1998 *Archaeologists Dig for Clues*. HarperCollins.

- “Level 2” easy reading. “Magic School Bus”-style text and illustrations. Grade 1-4.
- Lots of good, detailed information about what archaeologists do and why. Extra good point – “archaeologists hardly ever find treasure...they want to learn about how people lived”.
- Many side bars of factual information such as a time line, how things get buried etc. and some suggested additional activities.
- Very humorous.
- Highly recommended

Erickson, John R.

2004 *Discovery at Flint Springs*. Viking, New York.

- Chapter book – reading level ca. 4th grade and up.
- Fiction. Mystery/Adventure. Set in 1920s. Two boys learn about prehistory of Texas and archaeology when a site is found on their property.
- Very factual account of Texas panhandle prehistory and archaeological methodology.
- Strong anti-pothunting message. Kids must save the site from looters and convince local grownups why it is important.
- Highly Recommended.

Fagan, Brian

1994 *Time Detectives: How Scientists Use Modern Technology to Unravel the Secrets of the Past*. Touchstone, NY.

- Advanced reading level – High school and up.
- Narrative discussion of many well known sites from around the world. Sets up the cool site or a question about a region and then explains how the archaeologists know what they say they know.

- Emphasizes the diversity of sources of information and the care required to piece together a story.
- Not for kids but well written and readable. Adults would find it interesting and it would be a useful reference for someone preparing lessons on the subject. You do not need specialized knowledge to understand the explanations.
- Recommended as a reference.

2003 *Archaeologists: Explorers of the Human Past.* Oxford University Press.

- No age recommendation – 272 pages, so I would suggest middle school and older. NPS says “young readers”.
- Fagan collects together biographies of more than 30 archaeologists of the past two centuries including eccentric professors and adventuring fortune hunters of old and highly trained scientists of today, In the process, he presents a portrait of how digging for treasure evolved into the respected and vital science we know today. Topics discussed include: golden pharaohs, lost civilizations, computers, tree ring dating, and numerous other scientific methods.
- Recommended by National Park Service Archaeology Program.

Fradin, Dennis

1983 *New True Book – Archaeology.*

- Early grades reading level.
- Good, simple introduction to archaeology BUT it does show archaeologists digging up graves.
- Recommended with the caution that North American archaeologists no longer dig up Native American graves.

Gerrard, Roy

1992 *Mik's Mammoth.* Sunburst Publishers, New York.

- Grades pre-school to 3
- Fiction. Mik, a timid but intelligent “cave man”, is not valued by his tribe until he befriends a mammoth and the two friends save the tribe from “hordes of hairy men”. A tale of brains and wit winning out, told with droll humor.
- Beautiful watercolor illustrations.

- Highly recommended by librarian reviewers.

Goodman, Susan E.

1998 *Stones, Bones, and Petroglyphs: Digging into Southwest Archaeology, an Ultimate Fieldtrip.* Atheneum Books for Young Readers, New York.

- 3rd grade and up
- Scrapbook style chronicle of a fieldtrip to an excavation in the American southwest with a group of school students. Focuses on archaeology and culture of the Anasazi. Includes working on an excavation and trying out skills and games from the past.
- Lively, colorful photographs for illustrations.
- Librarian reviewers give it five stars.
- Highly recommended.

Giblin, James Cross

1999 *The Mystery of the Mammoth Bones and How It Was Solved.* Harper Collins, NY.

- Ages 8-12
- The story of the discovery of the 1801 mammoth bones in New York and how it was determined what it was and what it meant about past life and climate etc.
- Detective story pacing
- Emphasizes how astonishing it was to suggest that there was a time when such different animals lived and that they had become extinct.
- Recommended by library reviewers.

Griffin, Peni R.

2004 *11,000 Years Lost.* Amulet Books, New York.

- Readers 4th or 5th grade and up
- Fiction. After discovering an 11,000-year-old spearhead, 11-year-old Esther Aragonés becomes fascinated with learning about the Ice Age Clovis people. Esther steps between two trees and finds herself transported to the Ice Age and unable to get back to her own time. She is taken in by some nomadic mammoth hunters. Esther learns their language and their ways and joins the women and girls as they forage for plants to be used for food and medicine.

Very adventurous and based on sound archaeological research about Ice Age life.

- Highly recommended.

Hackwell, W. John

1986 *Digging Into the Past: Excavations in Ancient Lands.* Charles Scribner's and Sons, NY.

- Middle School and older
- Very detailed and accurate text about the many and varied aspects of an excavation in the Middle East. Describes goals, and the many specialized tasks required to do the job.
- Text is dense and a little dry. Not very exciting illustrations.
- Low recommendation.

1987 *Diving into the Past: Recovering Ancient Wrecks.* Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

- Written for upper elementary age students.
- Offers a short introduction to marine or underwater archaeology.
- Recommended by National Park Service Archaeology Program.

Hehner, Barbara

2001 *Ice Age Mammoth: Will this Ancient Giant Come Back to Life.* Crown Books for Young Readers.

- Reading level 9-12
- Recounts the story of the mammoth found encased in ice in Siberia. Provides much factual information on mammoth natural history and the relationship between mammoths and prehistoric hunters.
- Discusses the possibility of cloning and the creation of a modern day Pleistocene Park
- Brief readable text, many information boxes, highly praised illustrations
- Recommended by librarian reviewers.

Higginson, Mel

1994 *Scientists Who Study Ancient Temples and Tombs. The Rourke Corporation, Vero Beach Florida*

- Easy reading ca. 3rd grade.
- Defines culture and artifacts and explains in very general terms what archaeologists do and illustrates with varied locations.
- If I were recommending books to use or purchase this would not be one – it is OK but the picture of an archaeologist excavating burials in Florida, the tendency to look at the spectacular (Tut's Tomb, Temples etc.) and lack of detail about how archaeologists work make it a poor choice when there are so many better books for the same reading level.

Lauber, Patricia

1998 *Painters of the Caves. National Geographic Society.*

- 5th grade and up – even adults would find it interesting and enjoy the cave art and National Geographic pictures.
- Starts with discovery of Pleistocene rock art in southern France (Chauvet Cave) by a child in 1994 and continues to talk about the time period and the people using material from all over Europe.
- Presents hypotheses about why the rock art was made and what we can learn from it.
- Very lovely color photographs – including rock art, artifacts, maps, reconstructions etc.
- Highly Recommended.

Levy, Elizabeth

2001 *Awesome Ancient Ancestors! Mound Builders, Maya, and More. Scholastic Books.*

- Reading level 3rd to 4th grade
- Written to be funny with cartoon-like illustrations. Side bars about specific sites, time lines, or other facts. There is a great deal of misleading information (like the picture of the saber tooth cat and the T. Rex looking in the window at the prehistoric people).
- After the Paleo-Indian period most of the discussion focuses on the American Southwest and Central America with some talk of the Hopewells, mound building, and Cahokia.

- Not recommended. There are too many incomplete facts and complete misstatements to make this reliable.

Levy, Elizabeth

2002 *Who Are You Calling a Woolly Mammoth?* Scholastic Inc.

- Uses slapstick and wisecracks to tell the story of prehistoric life.
- Not very detailed, too many generalizations
- Humor and brief text may appeal to reluctant readers.
- Moderate recommendation.

Logan, Claudia

2002 *The 5,000 Year-Old Puzzle*. Melanie Kroupa Books. New York.

- Grades 3 – 6
- Set in 1924. Based on a real Egyptian dig – a new tomb is found but things aren't right and the mummy turns out to be missing. Clues are given and possible solutions offered. Reader is invited to suggest their own solution.
- Lots of side illustrations and fact boxes.
- Talks about archaeologists working carefully and keeping thorough records etc.
- 1920s attitudes reflected in some portions.
- Recommended.

Malone, Caroline and Nancy Stone Bernard

2002 *Stonehenge*. Oxford University Press.

- Recommended for ages 10 and up.
- Explores the myths legends and lies that have revolved around Stonehenge over the centuries and discusses how archaeologists have formed and tested opinions about the site. Includes an interview with the archaeologist.
- Easy to read and archaeologically accurate.
- Excellent illustrations.
- Good recommendation.

Martin, Rafe

1989 *Will's Mammoth*. George Putnam's Sons, New York.

- Ages 4-8
- Fiction. Tells the story of a boys imaginary epic in the world of mammoths and saber-toothed “tigers”, wolves, and bears.
- No reviews available.

Miller, Debbie S.

2001 *A Woolly Mammoth Journey*. Little,Brown. New York

- Grades 1-4
- Fiction. An anthropomorphized matrilineal family of wooly mammoths living 12,000 years ago is chronicled through a year's activities.
- Provides a good sense of the animals and the ice age setting. Even includes ice age hunters.
- The concluding page presents factual information about the animals and the time period.
- Lovely illustrations.
- Recommended by librarian reviewers.

Moloney, Norah

1998 *The Young Oxford Book of Archaeology*. Oxford niversity Press.

- Written for middle school age: grades 5-8
- A reference type book. Contains many photographs and illustrations. It introduces human evolutionary concepts as a basis for a timeline. Chapters cover introductory subjects such as "What Is Archaeology," "When Did It Happen" (dating methods), "Saving Our Heritage," "Underwater Archaeology," and "Ethnoarchaeology." Special treatments for the advent of agriculture and the ancient civilizations of India, Egypt, Greece, and Mexico.
- Good for reference and browsing. Text is sophisticated and may be difficult to read “cover to cover”.
- Recommended by National Park Service Archaeology Project and library reviewers.

Matthews, Rupert

1989 *Ancient Mysteries*. The Bookwright Press, New York.

- Reading level middle school
- Fits the 2007 Mysteries theme but does not really tell us a lot about archaeology.
- Not recommended – highlights the mysterious aspects of sites or events (spends way too much time on the curse of the pharaohs without sorting out how much is legend, rumor, coincidence etc). Raises all kinds of possibilities for solutions to archaeological “mysteries” including curses and space aliens without much consideration of the actual facts and reality.

McGowen, Tom

1997 *Adventures in Archaeology*. Scientific American Sourcebooks. Twenty-First Century books, New York.

- Reading level middle school or upper elementary.
- Emphasizes that exciting finds have been made all over the world.
- Good straight forward summary of what archaeology is all about – features, artifacts, ecofacts, context. As well as a clear summary of the history of the field.
- Nice summary of dating techniques.
- If a teacher is looking for quick answers all basic questions about the why and how of archaeology Chapter 1 is a good source. It is not long and the explanations are clear and jargon free.
- Focuses on big “discoveries” of Pompeii, Copan, Assyrian sites, Troy, Minos, Inca, and the Shona in Africa & Pakistan, mummies and graves. So there is something of an emphasis on “civilizations” and “big” discoveries but they try to look all around the world – sadly, except for a brief mention of Mound builders, North America is not represented.
- Nice chapter on early writing.
- Not exciting in writing style but very clear and accurate. Highly recommended for discussions of archaeology in general. Too bad they left out Native Americans.

Mellor, Ronald

The World in Ancient Times: Primary Sources and Reference

Volume. Oxford University Press.

- Middle School reading level
- This is more of a reference book rather than a read-straight-through book. This is the final volume of an 8-volume series by the Oxford University Press written for students between 10 and 14.
- An excellent introduction for middle school students to the ancient literature of the world's civilizations.
- Recommended by archaeologist reviewer Kris Hirst.

Millard, Anne

1989 *How People Lived*. Dorling Kindersley, Inc. New York, London.

- Actual text is at a middle school reading and vocabulary level, however, because there are very short bits of text associated with highly detailed illustrations this book may be appealing to younger students as well – ca. 4th grade.
- Detailed pictures of daily life with short bits of text explaining what is going on. Pictures are from all around Europe, Middle East and Asia. Nothing from the New World. Cultures examined are all historic (Egypt, Rome, Greece, Vikings, Ur, Medieval England, China etc.
- No information about archaeology – how the information was obtained.
- Recommended.

Millard, Anne

1996 *Mysteries of Lost Civilizations*. Copper Beech Books, Brookfield, Conn.

- Reading level Middle School and up.
- Describes the cultures, cities, people, and objects of ancient civilizations based on evidence from archaeological findings.
- Focus on the “classical world” – includes a little bit of Central and South America but no North America (1 mound reference) or Africa.
- Very nice illustrations accompanied by somewhat confusing little blurbs of text about many scattered sites and civilizations.
- Does discuss archaeology and how researchers can use legends, documents, etc to find out what actually happened.

Talks primarily about how things get “lost” or destroyed, not much about archaeological recovery techniques.

- Not highly recommended. Fits “Mysteries” theme but tells so little about so many places that it wouldn’t mean a lot unless you have some other background about these civilizations.

Millard, Anne and Steve Noon (illustrator)

1998 *A Street Through Time*. DK Publishing, NY.

- Text brief but has a pretty sophisticated vocabulary ca. 4th grade and up but younger kids will enjoy just looking at the illustrations.
- Great book tracing the history of a single location – a street in England through 12,000 yrs.
- Extremely detailed illustrations showing all types of things going on in a busy port. You can look and them for a long time and see more things each time – some are silly and kids will enjoys finding them. There is one accident prone fellow who appears in all the pictures (like Waldo) to search for.
- No information about how archaeologists work.
- Highly recommended.

Millard, Anne and Steve Noon (illustrator)

2005 *A Port Through Time: A 10,000-year Journey from Trading Post to Modern Seaport*. DK Publishing, NY.

- Text brief but has a pretty sophisticated vocabulary ca. 4th grade up but younger kids will enjoy just looking at the illustrations.
- Great book tracing the history of a single location – a sea port through 10,000 yrs.
- Extremely detailed illustrations showing all types of things going on in a busy port. You can look and them for a long time and see more things each time – some are silly and kids will enjoys finding them. There is one accident prone fellow who appears in all the pictures (like Waldo) to search for.
- Around the margins are simple time-line facts and prompts for things to look for in the pictures.
- More info about trade and boats in the back.
- No information about how archaeologists work.

- Highly recommended.

O'Brien, Patrick

***Mammoth.* Henry Holt and Co., New York.**

- Grades K-3
- This book starts with hunters killing a mammoth 20,000 years ago and fast forwards to construction workers discovering the giant bones today. There are stories about how such bones have been interpreted in the past as well as information that has been learned about the lives of the woolly mammoths.
- No reviews available.

Orabone, Laura

2000 *Elena and the Coin.* Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson Arizona.

- Early elementary school – 3rd grade and up.
- Historical Fiction - tells the story of a little girl who visits an archaeological site and is transported back into the past by what she finds there. The story revolves around excavations at the Presidio, a military fort built in 1775 to protect the people from Apache attacks.
- Informative about archaeology and the American southwest of the 18th century.
- Recommended by archaeologist reviewer Kris Hirst.

Panchyk, Richard

2001 *Archaeology for Kids: Uncovering the Mysteries of Our Past.* Chicago Review Press, Chicago.

- Suitable for 5th grade and up. Text is dense but informative. I'd use it more as a reference than as a curl-up-and-read book. Some activities are suitable for younger kids with teacher or parent help others are more aimed at middle school.
- 25 activities which help illustrate what archaeology is all about and how it is done.
- Discusses: early hominid research, Paleolithic, Greek and Roman, New World, and Historical archaeology.
- Bibliography and web site references.

- Has a timeline from the end of the dinosaurs through early hominids to Egyptian Mummies.
- Highly recommended – best as a reference.

Pauketat, Timothy and Nancy Bernard Stone

2004 *Cahokia Mounds*. Oxford University Press.

- Recommended for ages 10 and up.
- Explains what was found at the Cahokia Mounds site, what has been learned about the people who lived there and what may yet be learned.
- Well written and archaeologically accurate.
- Excellent illustrations.
- Highly Recommended

Pickering, Robert B.

1988 *I Can be an Archaeologist*. Children's Press, Chicago.

- For beginning readers.
- A short introduction to the activities of archaeologists and physical anthropologists.
- Recommended by the National Park Service Archaeology Program.

Press, Judy

2000 *The Kid's Natural History Book: Making Dinos, Fossils, Mammoths, and More*. Williamson Publishers, Virginia.

- Grades 1-4
- Good activity book
- Discusses animals from the past 570 million years with scientific information, fun facts, and related activities.
Entertaining
- Scientific terms are well defined.
- Museum websites also included.
- Highly recommended.

Scarre, Chris and Rebecca Steffoff

2002 *The Palace at Minos*. Oxford University Press.

- Recommended for ages 10 and older.
- Recounts the story of the discovery and excavations at Minos. Sidebars on archaeological techniques. Shows the use of artifacts and other records to give voices to people of

the past. Concludes with an interview of archaeologist Chris Scarre.

- Well written and archaeologically accurate.
- Excellent illustrations.
- Recommended by the National Park Service Archaeology Program

Searcy, Margaret Zehmer

1995 *Eyr the Hunter – A Story of Ice-Age America*. Pelican Publishing Co., Gretna.

- Fiction. This story is told in rhyming couplets just as many ancient storytellers told the epic tales of the past. Eyr's band is hungry and in need of new skins. Eyr dreams of killing the great woolly mammoth with his sharp spear. He imagines how his band would dance and feast, with food to last them through the dark winter. Having reached the age when he can hunt alone, Eyr is sent to scout the large beasts that roam the tundra, especially the woolly mammoths. Armed with only his cape, his knife, his spear, and a smoldering ember, Eyr sets out to become a man and save his band.
- Recommended by one on-line reviewer.

Scheller, William

- ***Amazing Archaeologists and their Finds*. The Oliver Press, Inc. Minneapolis.**
- Reading level 6th grade and up. Probably a useful reference book not the best choice for recreational reading.
- Biographical sketches of eight specific archaeologists and their specific famous “finds”. E.g., Henri Mouhot: the Temple of Angkor or Howard Carter: The Tomb of Tutankhamen. All 19th or very early 20th century and all “classical” tombs, temples etc. Middle East, Central America, and one in SE Asia. Only one woman.
- Moderate recommendation as a reference book.

Smith, Stuart Tyson and Nancy Stone Bernard

2003 *Valley of the Kings*. Oxford University Press.

- Recommended for ages 10 and up.

- Presents a history of excavation in Egypt, an analysis of the findings, and preservation challenges.
- Includes Smith's discussion of how he became interested in archaeology in 5th grade and his work on popular movies.
- Easy to read and archaeologically accurate.
- Excellent illustrations.
- Highly recommended.

Somozo, Jose Carolos

2003 *The Athenian Murders*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

- Recommended for ages 10 or older.
- Historical Fiction. The book is set in ancient Athens and begins with the discovery of the body of young man who was apparently mauled to death by wolves. This is the first mystery the story sets out to solve. The detective in this case is Heracles Pontor, the Decipherer of Enigmas. Another detective is also introduced: footnotes are made at the bottom of the pages by a translator, who tells us that he is translating an ancient Greek text called *The Athenian Murders* from the original papyrus. The translator immediately points out the literary style in the parchment is that of eidesis ("a literary technique invented by the ancient Greeks to transmit *secret* messages or keys in their works") so the mystery is being worked by two detectives one in the story's present and one unnamed translator.
- I am not an authority but the description of Athenian life is said to be accurate and the story compelling.
- Recommended.

Stuart, Gene S.

1978 *Secrets from the Past*. National Geographic Society.

- Older readers – 5th grade and up.
- Talks about how archaeologists work and what they can learn by using examples of important sites from around the world – including N. America. Has a very good piece on Cahokia and another on early migrations into North America.
- Discussion focuses more on what we can learn and only a little bit about how archaeology is done.
- Good National Geographic style illustrations – photos and reconstructions.

- Side bars include first person action stories, how to on flint knapping, ancient number systems, calendars, and writing.
- Not a bad book but maybe a little old. Good for browsing or looking up specific questions.
- Moderate to good recommendation.

Vivian, R. Gwinn and Margaret Anderson

2004 *Chaco Canyon*. Oxford University Press.

- Recommended for ages 10 and up.
- Readers learn about the discovery of Chaco Canyon's cultural sites and follows generations of archaeologists working there. A Native American detective story. Includes sidebars on archaeological techniques, timelines, and related sites. Includes and interview with the archaeologist who grew up in the area.
- Great illustrations.
- Highly recommended.

Wood, Marion

1990 *Ancient America*. Checkmark Books, New York.

- Ages 9-12
- A well-illustrated introduction to sites in North and Latin America where ancient people once lived.
- Recommended by National Park Service Archaeology Program