

ROMANS ON THE DON WORKSHEET 2 – WHAT SURVIVES FROM THE PAST QUESTION AND ANSWERS

An archaeologist is digging on a site, falls into a hole, is buried and found 2000 years later by future archaeologists.

In preparation for Worksheet 2 download the worksheet ([WORKSHEET 2.doc](#)) and print one copy for each pupil. Either write summaries of each question on a white board or download to interactive white board. As suggestions are made by pupils they can be written on the board and, if preferred, the best answer or key word can be entered by the pupils on their sheet.

Look at the list of things on Worksheet 2. These are what the archaeologist had when he/she fell into the hole. Cross off all the things that you think would have disappeared by the time the future archaeologists find him/her. Think carefully about how some things are made of different parts because sometimes only some bits may survive (like a coat with buttons). Write down **Yes (or Y)** for surviving, **No (or N)** for disappearing or **Both (or B)** where you think only part of a thing may be found.

Q1. Ask what survives archaeologically?

Be the archaeologist or ask a pupil to stand at the front and be the archaeologist, holding the listed items. Most of the items should be readily available in the class.

In general things that would survive include bones/teeth, metal, plastic, glass, pottery, stone. Things such as wood, food, leather, paper, wool, string would not survive. There are exceptional circumstances where some of these can survive but it would complicate things too much to explain at this level.

A successful approach is to first define “organic” (something that was alive or grew, or came from something that was alive or grew) and explain that in general organic things will quickly rot away (exceptions are bones and teeth). Take care to think about parts of some things surviving (e.g. metal trowel with wooden handle; plastic buttons on a wool coat, metal watch with leather strap, bones and teeth from a body).