COOKIE EXCAVATION

In order to keep track of where artifacts are found and how they relate to each other, archaeologists create detailed maps as they excavate. These maps are created using a grid, like those below! In this activity you will learn the basics on how we create these maps – using a tasty treat!

1. Place your chocolate chip cookie in the middle of the left grid. Do you not move your cookie from this spot. This is your archaeological unit.
2. Find the following X / Y coordinates on your cookie
   - Top: ____________ Bottom: ____________
   - Left: ____________ Right: ____________
3. Transfer (draw) these coordinate pairs to the right grid map and sketch the perimeter of your cookie.
4. Plot the chips on the surface of your cookie on the map.
5. Slowly begin to excavate your cookie, revealing hidden chips. When you uncover a chip, plot the coordinates on the right grid map!
6. What problems did you encounter as you excavated your cookie?

This activity was created by the Michigan State University Campus Archaeology Program based on the “Activity: Cookie Excavation” in: Lytle, Whitney and Anne Vieyra “Archaeology Tools For teaching: Teacher Packet and Resource Guide”. Legacy: Hands on the Past, UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, University of Texas at San Antonio, http://www.car.utsa.edu/