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Kids Digging at Antelope Island

This summer, 5th and 6th graders from Escalante Elementary, a school in the Rose Park area, are digging at Antelope Island. Following professional archaeological practices, these young archaeologists are carefully digging, screening dirt, measuring, photographing, mapping, and recording. “This is an innovative program that marries education and archaeological investigation,” says State History director Phil Notarianni. “The kids aren’t doing pretend archaeology. They’re doing the real thing—and making real discoveries.”

Assistant State Archaeologist Ron Rood, who is directing the dig, says Mushroom Springs on Antelope Island was probably a hunting camp used by Fremont-culture people about 1,000 years ago. This year, students have excavated beneath the Fremont layers and found possible evidence of the Archaic or Desert culture, which dates to at least 3,000 years ago.

Through this project, youth are learning the value of careful investigation - and how bits of bone, fire-cracked rocks, or flakes from projectile points can provide valuable clues about the past. This project is sponsored by State History in cooperation with State Parks.

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