



Who Owns The Past?

In order to find out more about how people lived in the past, archaeologists always try to think about how we live today. If we look at how cultures do things today, we can sometimes piece together how cultures may have lived in Ancient times too.

Looting

Some artefacts are taken from the ground without the help of an archaeologist. This is known as looting, or stealing the artefact. These artefacts can sometimes end up in people's homes, after they have been taken from the ground. This is terrible because archaeologists have lost a piece of evidence about the past.



The Benin Bronzes, forcibly taken by the British at the end of the 19th Century. Many are still held at the British Museum.

To keep or not to keep?

Some objects, like the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon in Greece, and the Bronzes from Benin, are kept in Museums like the British Museum in England. Often these items were taken during times of war. Many people argue that the objects should be returned to the country where they first came from. **What do you think?**



Romans collected artefacts too!

It's not just modern archaeologists who collect artefacts! Sometimes, when Romans had conquered a foreign land, they would take objects from around the conquered land, to display in their own villas. Villas are types of houses, which are still built as homes today!



The Elgin Marbles, sculptures taken from the Parthenon in Greece which are still displayed in the British Museum.

