



IF YOU FIND AN ARTIFACT...

Appreciate your discovery. Admire the maker's skill. Think about the past activities that took place where you are standing.

But please,
leave it in place.

Why?

Out of respect for the person who made it and for the people who own the land. Remember, that artifact has likely been in this place for years, maybe even centuries.



An artifact is significant because of its **context** – where it is found and what it is found with – as well as because of what it is. If you take an artifact out of context, it is very difficult to learn the most complete story about it and about our collective past.

Instead, note where you are. Snap a picture of the artifact in place. Step back and photograph it with a landmark to record the artifact's context and the site's location. If you take the artifact from the site, keep it separate from others you may have collected from other sites, and keep an artifact/site catalogue.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE PAST

Report your find to the **Kentucky Office of State Archaeology (OSA)** in Lexington (ky-osa@uky.edu). Staff there maintains the official Kentucky statewide site inventory. OSA keeps information on site location confidential. The Kentucky Archaeological Survey (KAS) in Bowling Green would be interested in learning about your find, too.

Report site looting to the Kentucky State Police, OSA, or KAS.

Speak out against artifact buying and selling. The antiquities market encourages looting and leads to the destruction of archaeological sites. Request lawmakers to pass stiffer penalties.

Please do your part. Help preserve and protect archaeological resources for everyone.

Thank you!



www.kentuckyarchaeologicalsurvey.org