

LAB EXERCISE 1

You've been selected by the anthropology department to help with the identification of a newly located site. At this point, we know very little about the people who inhabited this area, simply that they have abandoned the area. Our group has been asked to identify the remains found in one room of a large brick building. You have 'specialists' from each of the sub-disciplines of anthropology on your team to help with your interpretation of the setting.

These items in the room include the following:

window shade	portion of a granola bar
overhead lighting fixture	eraser shavings
magic marker	dust bunny
wooden table	mitten
dime	used kleenex
chairs	scraps of paper
electronic components from TV & DVD	chocolate covered coffee beans
coffee cup	plastic wrap
coke can	earring back
pages from a notebook	chewed pen cap
trashcan	pages from a Spanish dictionary
gum wrapper	
napkin	
cap from a water bottle	
penny	
portion of a painted cinder block	
fragments of slate	

1. How would you categorize the items found in this room?
2. Why did you categorize them in the manner you chose?
3. Can you tell anything about the function of the room?
4. Can you identify anything about the people who used the space?
5. Can you make any inferences about daily life such as diet, climate, activities?
6. What do you think the function of this room might have been?
7. What steps could you use to test your hypothesized reconstruction?
8. What methods could you use to test your hypothesis?