

Unit Overview: Parent Guide

If Stones Could Speak, Grade 6

What is the goal of this unit?

- Your child will read fiction and nonfiction texts to understand that archaeologists, like detectives, work to piece together the past through investigation.

What topics and skills is your sixth grader learning in this unit?

- Analyzing evidence
- Drawing conclusions
- Archaeology
- Investigation
- Tone
- Informational writing
- Narrative writing
- Research

What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay in response to the question: *What does the author Marc Aronson mean and how does he explain and support this idea throughout the text?*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will examine an area of the school that has been “uncovered” after a cataclysmic event buried the school in debris many years in the future. Then your child will create an archaeological report of her findings and a narrative description of daily life based on artifacts and evidence located at the site.

Your child will read these texts and watch these videos:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
<i>If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge</i>	Marc Aronson	Main text of the unit
“Episode 1: My First Adventure” (first 42 minutes)	The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones, Volume One - The Early Years	Read aloud

<i>Intrigue of the Past</i> - "Profiles of Archaeologists"	Research Laboratories of Archaeology	Student text
<i>Intrigue of the Past, Part 1: Fundamental Concepts Introduction</i> - "Archaeology: Then and Now"	Research Laboratories of Archaeology	Student text
"Archaeology 101"	Education Department of the Archaeological Institute of America	Student text
"Travel"	Robert Louis Stevenson	Student text
<i>"The Excavation Process: How We Excavate"</i> - video	Oregon State University	Student text
"What is Archaeology?" - video	Oregon State University	Student text

Ideas for discussing archaeology, history, and investigation

- What is an artifact? How do you know?
- What can artifacts tell us about history?
- Are there any cultural or historical artifacts in your home or community? What does it tell you?
- What kinds of artifacts have you seen in museums? What do those artifacts tell you about older cultures or other people?
- Why do people study archaeology?
- If you were an archaeologist, where in the world would you most like to start excavating? Why? What would you hope to learn?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
<i>Solving The Mysteries of the Past</i>	Gerald Aksomitis
<i>The Lost Colony of Roanoke</i>	Caitie McAneney
<i>Human Migration: Investigate The Global Journey of Humankind</i>	Judy Dodge Cummings

<i>Shackles From the Deep: Tracing the Path of a Sunken Slave Ship, A Bitter Past, And a Rich Legacy</i>	Michael Cottman
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What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading (weekends and school breaks too!). Before bedtime is a great time to read.
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss your child's reading. Ask questions like:
 - Tell me about what you read today.
 - What did you like about it?
 - What didn't you like about it?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have about what you read?
 - What didn't you understand about what you read?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading?
 - How does what you've read connect to other things you've read?