

Outdoor Self Guide

The Getty Villa

What you leave behind

Organic Remains

Organic remains come from living things and will decay in a short time unless preserved (kept safe from spoiling).

- People, animals, plants, food, paper, wood, leather.

Inorganic Remains

Inorganic remains were never living and take much longer to break down.

- Stone, metal, clay, plastic, glass.

Archaeologists

Archaeologists are individuals who could discover these types of remains and make assumptions on older civilizations based on their findings.

Get a Partner

Let's look in the Outer Peristyle garden of the Getty Villa and begin the activity!

1. You and your partner will act as archaeologists! Decide who will select 3 organic materials and who will select 3 inorganic materials from the garden. Identify and write down the materials you and your partner found.

Organic



Inorganic



2. Think about what you found.

Work with your partner to fill out the questions on the next page.

SCHOOL



Education at the J. Paul Getty Museum

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Questions

- 1.** In 1,000 years archaeologists may find the same inorganic items you did. Based on the items you found, what kind of place would they think this was? Get creative and explain!
- 2.** What inorganic item or items that you own do you think will tell an archaeologist the most about who you are?
- 3.** Think about organic items you might find in your home (paper, plants, people). Since these things won't survive, what important information about you will be missing for the archaeologists?
- 4.** What organic item do you wish would survive that could provide archaeologists of the future with the most important information about you?

