



How is it done?

For archaeology in Belize, project directors need the right qualifications and first need to get the proper approval from the government, and land owner. This comes in the form of a permit.

Once on site, archaeologists set up excavation units in the area(s) of interest. These have square corners and are kept neat at all times.

After units are set up, excavation begins! Archaeologists use trowels, picks and shovels to slowly remove the dirt layer by layer. They keep careful records and measurements of everything, in hopes to preserve the knowledge. Each artifact that is found is cleaned, analyzed and shared with the community.

Extensive studies are done about the site and any special artifacts, depending on the research question(s). Research papers and news are then written about any findings.

Learn more at:

www.scraparchaeology.com

Or like our Facebook page:

*Stann Creek Regional
Archaeology Project*

Follow our adventures on
Instagram:

@scraparky

Pamphlet designed by:

J. Delos Reyes, K. Hubenig, G.Taylor



ARCHAEOLOGY



What is archaeology?

Archaeology is a combination of arts and science, used to help us better understand our past. Archaeologists study past cultures through the placement of artifacts (human-made or not) in a certain area at a given time.

How is archaeology different than looting?

Looters take artifacts from sites and destroy the archaeological record for their own profit. Archaeologists, however, aim to learn about the past while working with descendants of that culture, to preserve the knowledge for future generations. The artifacts found in a site will be studied and tested, and then often stay in the country of origin or in museums for everyone to enjoy.



Mano & metate found at Lubaantun



Why is archaeology important?

Archaeology is important because it helps people learn more about their past.

We can learn the differences and similarities between us and our ancestors, as well as traditions and practices that they used. It can give us insight into the rise and fall of civilizations.

We can find smaller artifacts (such as manos and metates) that people still use today, or uncover large monuments that were used for hundreds of years.

Uncovering these ancient cities allows the public to visit these sites and learn from them.

Examples of Archaeological Sites in Belize:

Alabama (not yet open to public)

Mayflower

Caracol

Cahal Pech

Xunantunich

Nim Li Punit

Lubaantun

Altun Ha

Lamanai

Cerros

Uxbenka



Ballcourt at Nim Li Punit