

ARCHAEOLOGY @ ALABAMA



What is archaeology?

Archaeology is a *social science*. Archaeologists study *past societies and behaviours* through *human belongings* (artifacts, ecofacts, features).

How is archaeology done?

- Build relationships & background research.
- Seek permissions and permits.
- Survey and map spaces and architecture.
- Set up excavation units for control.
- Use trowels, picks, and shovels to remove dirt layer by layer.
- Keep careful records and measurements.
- Clean and analyze each artifact.
- Prepare research papers, presentations, and news stories.

What is SCRAP?

Stann
Creek
Regional
Archaeology
Project.



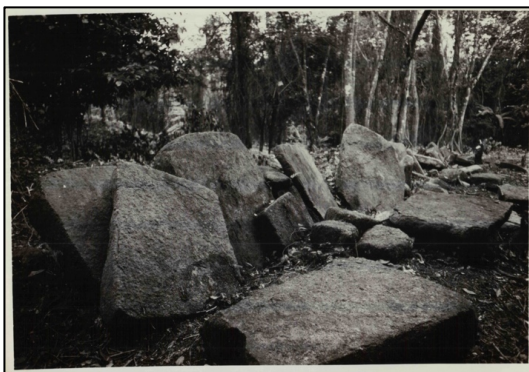
We learn about past cultures & societies of the Stann Creek District. Since 2014, Belizeans, Canadians, and Americans have worked together to investigate the ancient towns of Alabama (near Maya Mopan) and Pearce (in the Cockscomb).

Where is the Alabama site?

The ancient town of Alabama is located in the citrus orchard and foothills behind *Maya Mopan Village*. It is named after an old banana company and barracks; we do not yet know its ancient name.

What was ancient Alabama like?

We have found many ancient buildings, pottery, and stone tools at Alabama. These can tell us a lot about the people who lived there.



Ballcourt in the centre

About *1000 people* lived at Alabama between *700 to 900 AD*. The centre included 20 main platforms built of dirt and granite. Some of the buildings include a ballcourt for playing pok-ta-pok and foundations for temples and elite houses.

Alabama Town also included neighbourhoods surrounding the main centre where ordinary people and wealthy families lived in over 150 houses made of wood, thatch, dirt, and stone.



Fishing net weights & a weapon for hunting

People spent their days farming, making pottery for cooking pots, fishing, hunting, gathering plants, playing games, raising families, building houses and temples, and trading with other people as near as Toledo and as far as southern Guatemala.

How can I become an archaeologist?

Option 1: Volunteer/work with a local project.

Option 2: Go to university for archaeology, anthropology, geology, heritage management, museum studies, geography, chemistry, etc.

