Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The students expected gold, curses, and chases because that is what movies and video games teach them archaeology involves. Their disappointment with real pottery analysis shows how pop culture creates unrealistic expectations that devalue the actual scientific work archaeologists do.

2. Public outreach is important because it replaces Hollywood myths with a more accurate and compelling picture of archaeology. When Dr. Rivera connected pottery fragments to the real life of a 900-year-old girl, she showed students that real archaeology can be fascinating — it just requires understanding what the objects actually reveal about people.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. C

3. B

Matching

1-E, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C, 5-B

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) public archaeology, 2) stereotype, 3) looting

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Indiana Jones destroys archaeological sites by blasting through walls and triggering collapses, and he never documents where he finds objects or publishes reports. He also removes artifacts from other countries and brings them to American museums. These misrepresentations matter because they teach the public that archaeology is about acquiring objects rather than understanding cultures.

Q2: Students sometimes enroll in archaeology programs expecting adventure and drop out when they discover the reality involves meticulous documentation and lab work. The public also underestimates the scientific rigor of archaeology, which makes it harder for departments to secure research funding and public support for site protection laws.

Q3: Answers will vary. Examples include: Mary Leakey discovering 3.6-million-year-old footprints proving early bipedalism, the Piltdown Man hoax fooling scientists for

40 years, or the ethical debate over the Elgin Marbles. Any specific example from the unit that demonstrates archaeology's real-world significance is acceptable.