Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Maria was correct because removing artifacts from their original location destroys their archaeological context. The spatial relationship between objects, the sediment layers they rest in, and their position relative to other features all provide critical information about the site's age, use, and history. Without this context, the fragments become isolated curiosities with limited scientific value.

2. After surfacing, Maria should record the exact GPS coordinates and depth of the find, note what she observed including the number and type of fragments, and report the discovery to the local museum or the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. She should avoid publicizing the location on social media to prevent looting, and she may also contact a university archaeology department for guidance.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. A

3. B

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) submersion, 2) cultural heritage, 3) photogrammetry

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The lone adventurer image is misleading because most archaeological discoveries result from years of systematic research using historical documents, satellite imagery, and ground-penetrating radar. Many famous sites were already known to local populations long before Western explorers arrived. Real archaeology is a collaborative, methodical process rather than a dramatic solo adventure.

Q2: Water provides unique preservation advantages by protecting organic materials like wood, leather, and textiles that would normally decay on land. However, water also creates challenges: currents can shift artifacts from their original positions, marine organisms colonize and damage surfaces, and changes in salinity affect the chemical stability of metals and ceramics. Artifacts removed from water require immediate conservation treatment.

Q3: Context is more important than the artifact itself because the position, depth, surrounding soil layers, and spatial relationship to other objects tell archaeologists how a site was used, when it was occupied, and what events occurred there. An artifact removed from its context becomes an isolated object with limited interpretive value. Careful documentation of context is what transforms a simple find into meaningful historical evidence.