Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Ms. Reyes understood that an artifact's context — its exact location, depth, and association with other objects — provides far more information than the object alone. Without that context, archaeologists cannot determine the arrowhead's age, who made it, or what other activities took place at that location.

2. Answers will vary. Students should reference concepts like context, material culture, or the non-renewable nature of archaeological sites. A strong answer would weigh the financial value against the irreplaceable historical information that could be gained through proper documentation.

Multiple Choice

1. C

2. B

3. D

Matching

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

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) archaeology, 2) artifact, 3) material culture

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Most people throughout history were illiterate and left no written records. Archaeology studies the physical objects and structures they left behind, allowing us to learn about ordinary people — farmers, laborers, and the enslaved — whose stories would otherwise be completely unknown.

Q2: The four stages are survey, excavation, analysis, and publication. Excavation gets the most attention, but analysis often takes far longer because specialists must study every artifact, run laboratory tests, and compile all data into a report that makes the findings available to other researchers.

Q3: Confusing these fields leads to common misconceptions, like thinking archaeologists study dinosaurs. Understanding the distinctions clarifies that archaeology focuses exclusively on the human past using material evidence, while history uses written records and paleontology studies ancient non-human life through fossils