

Archaeology Activity Typology Building

**Goal: Students work together to construct three different typologies
– morphological, functional, and chronological.**

Important! - Be sure to listen to the instructor and follow their directions closely.
Some objects may be sharp – take care when handling them.

Definitions

Typology building is the act of grouping objects based on an assumed category.

Morphological types are those focused on basic similarities such as size, shape, and color.

Functional types are those focused on what the object was used for.

Chronological types are those focused on placing objects in order from oldest to youngest.

What you will need

This typology kit.

A pencil and a couple pieces of paper.

A designated recorder.

A ruler – for helping figure out size.



Directions

- 1) Place all the objects on the table, spread them out and examine them as a group for a few minutes.
- 2) Create a morphological type by selecting size, shape, or color as a category. Depending on what you chose, group objects together into several categories. Record the number of objects in each category.
- 3) Select another morphological type category different from your first selection (for example size instead of color). Depending on what you chose, group objects together into several categories. Record the number of objects in each category. Note the differences in numbers and groups because of your selection of a different category. The overall number of objects stay the same, but the groups change.
- 4) Attempt to group the objects by function. It is important, as a group, to be consistent and agree as closely as possible with one another. Record the number of objects in each category. Is this easier or harder than doing morphological types?
- 5) Attempt to group the objects by time period. Are there any clues you can find on the objects that could allude to their age? Determining the age of an object is one of the primary goals of archaeologist – the more you practice the better you will get at this activity!

Thank you for doing the activity – hope you had fun!