

FAMILY GUIDE • RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 6 AND UP

Unearthing Arabia

The Archaeological Adventures of Wendell Phillips

October 11, 2014–June 7, 2015



Welcome to *Unearthing Arabia*, an exhibition about the archaeologist Wendell Phillips and his team who went to southern Arabia in search of ancient cities buried in the sands.

WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST?

Archaeologists excavate (dig up) towns, buildings, and objects of people who lived in the past. They study their discoveries to understand life and customs a long time ago.

CHECK OUT THE MAP!

Most of the objects in this exhibition are from Yemen, a part of the world that is over 7,000 miles away from the United States.

FREER | SACKLER

THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUMS OF ASIAN ART

AFTER YOUR VISIT: BECOME AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

Archaeologists use sketches, written reports, and photographs to record every stage of their work. At home, write to a friend or family member about your trip to the museum. Describe your favorite object and make a drawing of it.





SEARCH FOR THE STATUE

Look closely at the object from as many angles as possible. What details do you see? Share as many as you can.

Did you notice her eyes are missing? They were originally decorated with glass or lapis, a deep blue stone. How would she look different with colorful eyes?

Other statues of men and women are in these rooms. Go and look for them. How many can you find?

Seated woman
Yemen, Timna cemetery
Early 1st century CE
Alabaster



LOOK FOR A NECKLACE

Think of a necklace you have at home or have seen someone wear. How is this necklace similar to one you know? In what ways is the necklace different?

The inscription on the necklace is in an ancient language read from right to left. It says a woman named Far'iat owned it. What can you guess about Far'iat by looking at this necklace?

Necklace
Timna, 1st century BCE–early
1st century CE
Gold



STRIKE A POSE

Find two lions carrying boys on their backs. Strike a pose like one of the lions. How do you feel? Use three words to describe the lions.

Look at the letters on the base of the sculptures. Can you read them? They explain who made the lions and how the sculptures decorated a house in ancient times. What animal would you use to decorate your house? Share your ideas.

Pair of lions with riders
Timna, 75 BCE–50 CE
Bronze

