LITHIC CODEBREAKER
TEACHER INSTRUCTION
STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

The lithic codebreaker game is a puzzle game that uses the Tse’K’wa Digital Exhibit, a collection of lithic (stone) artifact photos and information based off of the Tse’K’wa collection found in Northeastern British Columbia.

There are two ways to get to the Tse’K’wa Lithic Digital Exhibit: under the Tse’K’wa link on the left hand menu or under Exhibits on the left hand menu and then click Virtual Exhibits. The Tse’K’wa exhibit will be on the right hand side underneath the Archaeology heading.

These links will take you to a series of photographs; each photograph will have information regarding the tool pictured. These photographs and their accompanying information is what is used in this activity. Make sure to point your students to this exhibit before beginning the activity.

NOTE: in order for students to find the right photograph, we are using the accession number located in the caption of each photo. These numbers are used in cataloguing the artifacts in the museum to keep them organized. E.g.: 2012.005.011

Once here, give each student the activity sheet (or they can download it from the Tse’k’wa web page beforehand). Each question will have a one or two-word answer. There are bubbles that encircle certain letters; when the answers are filled out correctly these bubbles will form a “password”, located at the bottom of the activity sheet.

They must enter this word at the end of the URL: http://www.sfu.ca/archaeology/museum/PASSWORD.html This will take them to a secret page not accessible any other way. From here they will get their prize.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Lithics are more than stone tools; they are examples of trade routes, the movement of people throughout the region as well as the country. Similar tools can indicate passing of information or items (trade).
- How we can find information from websites and why it is important that cultural/historical/archaeological information be accessible on the internet (access to information in remote areas or nationally; all information must be agreed upon by Indigenous groups first).
- The existence of artifacts as evidence of First Nations presence in the past.
- Brief discussion about what archaeology is (the study of humankind’s history through material culture).

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- Why are some tools small and some large? (based on the scale in photographs)
- What should we do if we find a tool like this? Who do we contact? Why should we do this?
- Why do they use different materials for different types of tools?
- Compare archaeology of this region to your region.
1. **Uniface Gallery, 2013.021.061**: what type of tool is this?
   - __ __ __ __ __

2. **Tse’K’wa Home Page**: What tool do we use to read chemical components of lithic tools?
   - __ __ __

3. **Debitage Gallery, 2013.021.070**: what type of object is this?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

4. **Biface Gallery, 2013.021.156**: where is this material from?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

5. **Glossary of Terms**: what is the process of a tool being modified by its use?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __

6. **Biface Gallery, 2013.021.107**: what type of base does this have?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __

7. **Other Tools Gallery, 2013.021.165**: what material is this made of?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

8. **Other Tools Gallery, 2013.021.802**: what basic material is this made from?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

9. **Other Tools Gallery, 2013.021.766**: what type of tool is this?
   - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

10. **Glossary of Terms**: what is the term for the outside of a stone tool?
    - __ __ __ __

11. **Core Gallery, 2013.021.409**: what type of artifact is this?
    - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

12. **Tse’K’wa Home Page**: What nearby archaeological site has similar tools?
    - __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

13. What is the name of this collection?
    - __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

14. **Biface Gallery, 2013.021.161**: what material is this point made from?
    - __ __ __ __ __ __ __

**PASSWORD**: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __