

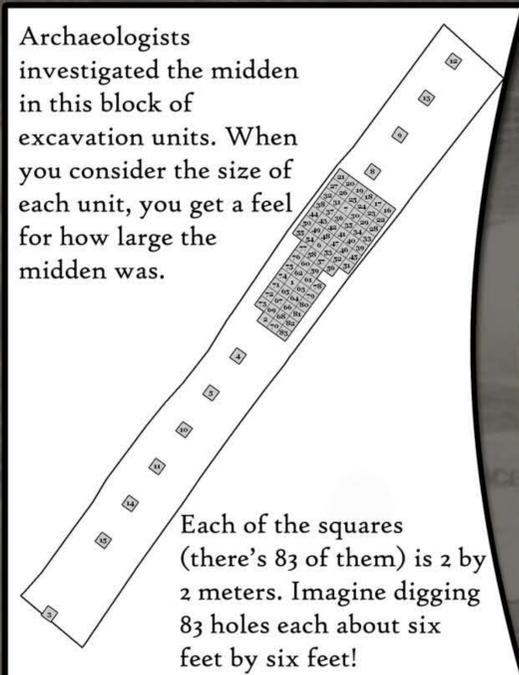
HIDDEN MIDDEN

DID you know that studying peoples' trash can be a great way to learn about them?

Underneath this highway, archaeologists excavated part of a *midden*, or ancient trash heap. American Indians were very active at this spot and left behind thousands of artifacts in a large, concentrated feature.

Archaeologists uncovered features indicating posts, hearths, and feasting areas which tell them that building, cooking, and eating were happening there.

Think about the items that you use everyday and that you might leave behind. If in 100 years archaeologists studied those objects, what would they find out about you?



Thousands of objects were discovered in the midden. Many came from local sources and others were non-local. Archaeologists take that as a clue that American Indians were visiting the Leake Site.



This light brown layer is the plow zone, or top soil. Archaeologists scraped this disturbed layer away to reveal the intact midden layer.

The dark layer is the midden. A lot like compost, it has a rich color because of all the plant and animal remains that have decomposed in it over the years.

