

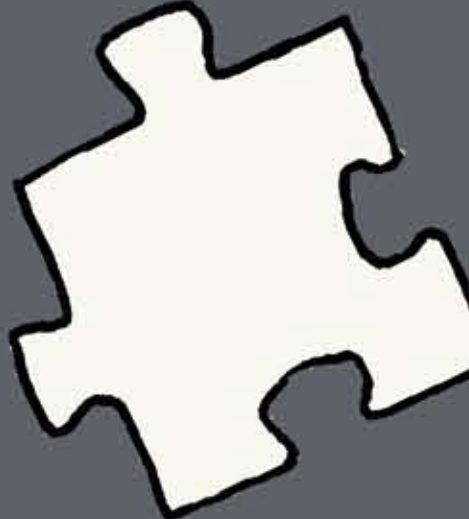
THE PAST: ENJOY, DON'T DESTROY

PROTECT the past by letting archaeologists do the excavating.

Most people enjoy connecting with the past; some read books, others visit museums, and some find and keep pieces of the past that don't belong just to them.

Have you ever worked hard to complete a puzzle, only to find that you're missing one piece? Well the past is a lot like a puzzle and material remains are some of the pieces. When the pieces disappear, the puzzle can never be totally put together.

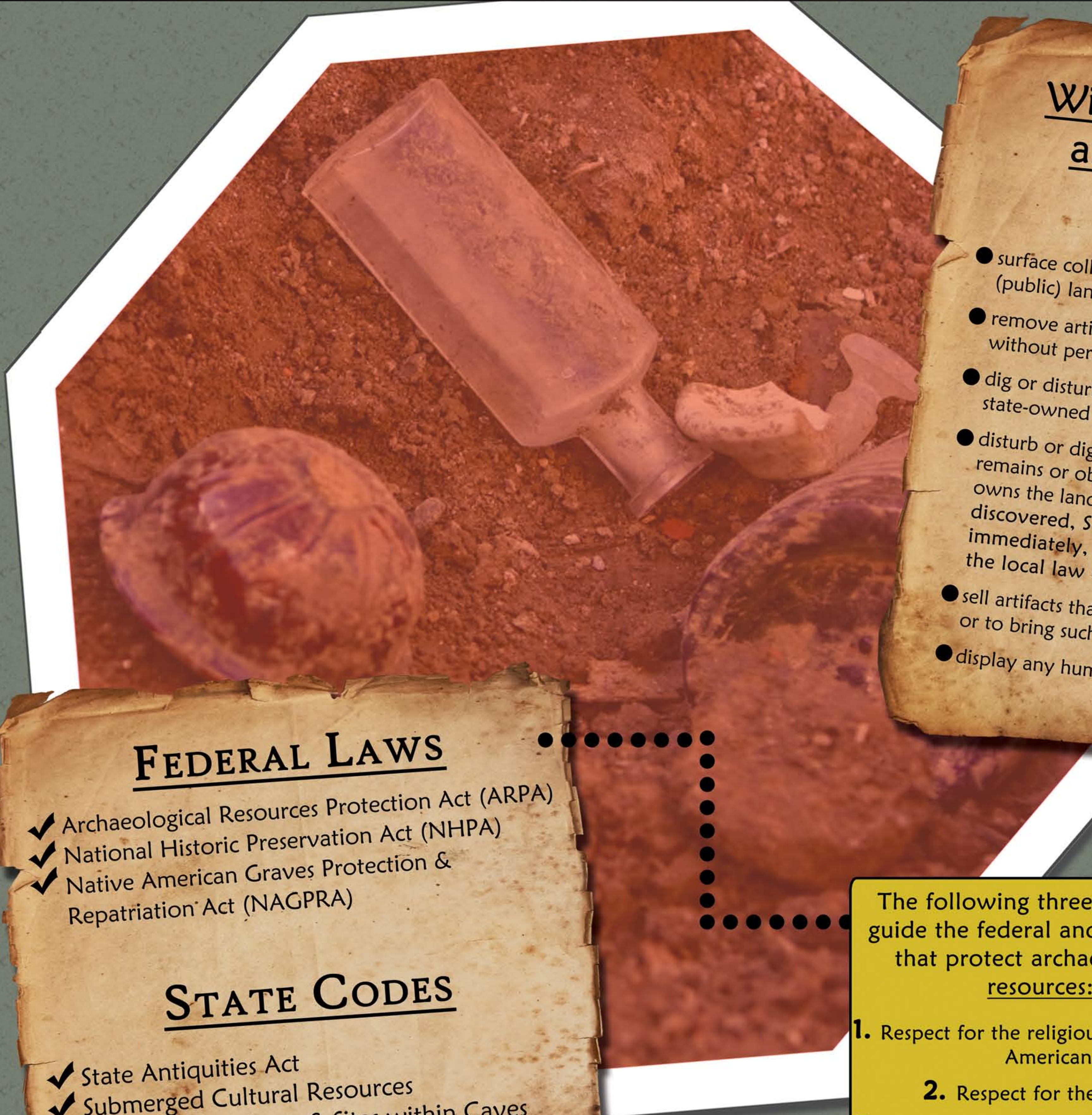
It's important for us to keep in mind that archaeologists aren't just interested in finding objects. Archaeologists value the information that is contained within the objects they discover. Most of the information an object can provide is connected to that object's context, or exactly where it was found. Once an object is moved, most of the information it held has been lost forever.



It's a good idea to not just be familiar with laws that protect archaeological resources, but also to know why they are in place.



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Without proper permits and permissions, it is illegal to:

- surface collect, dig, or metal detect on state or federal (public) land. This includes Civil War sites.
- remove artifacts or disturb a site on private property without permission of the land owner.
- dig or disturb an archaeological site in Georgia's state-owned waterways.
- disturb or dig human burials or collect human skeletal remains or objects associated with burials, regardless of who owns the land. If human remains are inadvertently discovered, STOP all land-disturbing activity immediately, protect the burial from harm, and notify the local law enforcement authority.
- sell artifacts that were ever associated with a human burial, or to bring such artifacts from another state in the U.S.
- display any human remains in public.

FEDERAL LAWS

- ✓ Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)
- ✓ National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- ✓ Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

STATE CODES

- ✓ State Antiquities Act
- ✓ Submerged Cultural Resources
- ✓ Protection of Caves & Sites within Caves
- ✓ Graves Protection & Repatriation
- ✓ Abandoned Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

The following three principles guide the federal and state laws that protect archaeological resources:

1. Respect for the religious beliefs of all Americans
2. Respect for the dead
3. The benefit of all Americans, whose common heritage is represented in archaeological resources