



The Rubbish Detective

Archaeologists often use the things that people threw away or lost in the past to help them find out about the people who lived on a site.

If people dug up your rubbish, or things you had lost, thousands of years after you got rid of them, they would be able to use them to work out something about your life – like a detective looking for clues.

Look at the clues in these rubbish bins. What can you detect from them?

- Potato peelings
- Plastic bag with breadcrumbs in it
- Empty sauce bottle
- Broken mug
- Empty bottle of washing up liquid
- Egg shells

- Crumpled up paper
- Broken pencil
- Empty roll of sticky tape
- Crisp packets
- Torn sticker

- Old pair of trainers
- Worn out t-shirt
- Comics
- Letter from teacher
- Empty packet of sweets
- Homework with cola spilt on it
- Broken toy

- Bill from supermarket
- Wrapper from bar of chocolate
- Used tin of dog food
- Old magazine
- Broken comb

What about some Roman rubbish?

- Shells
- Knucklebones from pigs
- Coin
- Broken jar with traces of oil
- Chicken bones