

DigQuest — Concept Poster

Print this and pin it up — an at-a-glance map of the DigQuest cast and the ideas each one carries. Come back to it whenever you want to remember who teaches what.

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Meet the cast — and what each one teaches

Character	What they carry
Layer	Stratigraphic context — where in the layered earth? (vertical chronology, context integrity)
Shape	Artifact-typological analysis — what family of object? (comparative typology, craft traditions)
Past	Dating techniques — when by which method? (dates as ranges with confidence intervals)
Keep	Cultural-context inference — keep-what-people-said, not invent-what-they-must-have-meant
Ask	Community-partnership ethics — whose story is this and who gets to tell it? (NAGPRA + UNDRIP-grounded, descendant-community partnership)
Grit	Conservation — keep it, don't fix it; a fragile find is stabilized gently, never scrubbed shiny or restored into something it never was
Join	Reconstruction — fit the pieces you have, never invent the ones you don't; a rebuilt pot shows its gaps honestly
Sherd	The ordinary object — the broken cooking pot tells you more than the gold crown; how people lived is written in humble everyday things
Spare	Leave it — you don't dig everything; some of the site stays untouched for future diggers, and some because the people it belongs to want it left
Void	Absence — what isn't there can mean three things; never read a gap as a fact too quickly

Key ideas at a glance

The big concepts this cast helps you master:

- Introduction to Archaeology & the Historical Record

- Ancient Mesopotamia & Egypt
 - Ancient Greece & Rome
 - Archaeological Methods & Evidence Analysis
 - Ancient Americas: Maya, Aztec, Inca
 - Ancient Asia & Africa: China, India, West Africa
 - Artifact Analysis & Cultural Interpretation
 - Capstone: Civilizations Compared & Legacy
 - Archaeology & Paleontology
 - Public Archaeology
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