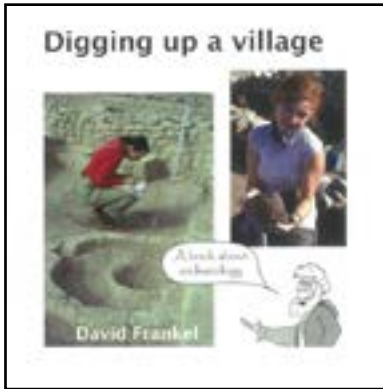


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## Digging Up a Village: A Book about Archaeology

by **David Frankel**

2019

Melbourne

Paperback, 52 pages

Illustrations

RRP \$39.99

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Luther College, Croydon*

*Digging up a Village: A Book about Archaeology* is a recent publication by retired archaeologist David Frankel (professor emeritus at La Trobe University) that outlines the types of work conducted by archaeologists on a typical dig. This particular book focuses on the excavations at Marki, Cyprus carried out by Dr David Frankel and Jenny Webb of La Trobe, during their years excavating in 1990–1994. Although television archaeology is full of modern techniques and ‘geophys,’ much archaeology today still uses the labour-intensive traditional methods featured here.

This simple book, containing just 52 pages, is targeted at primary-age readers and includes a lot of pictures and illustrations. A cartoon version of the author features as a guide/narrator leading the reader through the content. The book seeks to explain what archaeologists are trying to accomplish through digging in the dirt in an effort to piece together and hopefully find answers to the plethora of questions they have about ancient societies and the ways the people lived in other times and other places. This

book highlights the back-breaking effort of moving mountains of earth and carefully sifting through the sediment with the intention of finding a clue in an effort to explain the past. Also, it emphasises the rigorous note-taking and cataloguing of artefacts that helps archaeologists keep track of their finds and communicate them to others.

The book features a range of photos and drawings in an effort to show the reader what the respective sites would have looked like in the past. It also demonstrates the importance of everyday items and how these were used in the past. Evidence collected can even tell us the types of food harvested, processed and eaten by these societies, including food storage options. The time consuming process of cleaning, ‘sorting, counting, measuring, describing, photographing and drawing’ these artefacts is documented and shown.

This book would be of interest to younger readers, especially to those who ‘want to be an archaeologist when they grow up.’