

## PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR SCIENTISTS IN ACTION: ANCIENT MUMMIES, NEW DISCOVERIES

1. Watch these videos about Dr. Michele Koons, Curator of Archaeology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, tools she uses in her research, and some of the science we will explore during this program.
  - Scientists in Action: Rediscovering Magic Mountain (14 minutes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBNUxxXjyww>
  - Denver Museum of Nature & Science Mummies Visit Children's Hospital Colorado (2 minutes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN8IXNNIROM>
2. Have your students work in small groups to develop questions for Michele. Use these tips to encourage critical thinking:
  - Explore your reaction to the videos. What surprised you? What new questions arose?
  - Archaeologists use many different methods to study ancient cultures and places. Think of questions about these strategies and tools.
  - Avoid questions that were answered in the videos.
  - Avoid questions that can be answered with *yes* or *no*.

### IF YOU WANT TO DIG DEEPER...

1. Try some free archaeology activities from the Society for American Archaeology: <https://www.saa.org/education-outreach/teaching-archaeology/k-12-activities-resources>
2. With your class, read this article from Denver's local 5280 Magazine, and discuss these suggested questions: <https://www.5280.com/2018/01/revealing-mummies-mysteries/>
  - Before reading: Why do you think archaeologists initially thought that one of the mummies at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science was poor, and one was rich? What kinds of evidence from a mummy's body or surrounding objects could make scientists think this?
  - After reading:
    - What did tests with new technologies, like CT scanners, reveal about the mummies and the times they lived?
    - What do you still wonder about mummies? Do you think advanced technologies could help answer these questions?
    - Why do you think both mummies were found in coffins that were not made for them?