WHAT'S UP

Methods Of Discovery

An activity of "How many people lived in Angkor?"

At archaeological sites, putting together details about past cultures is complex and fascinating. "How many people lived in Angkor" (page 16-17, *What's Up* July 2021) tells this riveting story.

A. Read the *What's Up* article. Note the various methods used to make the discoveries. Then, read "How do archaeologists know where to dig?[i]" at https://tinyurl.com/nfkids02

B. Divide the class into five groups. In your groups, examine whether the methods listed in the Column 1 below have been "Traditionally used through the ages" (T) or are "Modern" (M). Write "T" or "M" accordingly in Column 2. Then, answer the question in Column 3.

Method used at heritage sites	T/M	How does this method help archaeologists?
Surveying landscapes for clues left behind by ancient human activity, using dirt bikes or on foot.	1a.	1b.
Years of careful excavation of traditional heritage sites.	2a.	2b.
Scanning satellite imagery, including Google Earth, taken repeatedly over months.	3a.	3b.
Scanning of heritage sites using airborne lasers called Lidar.	4a.	4b.
Processing the data captured by Lidar.	5a.	5b.
Studying inscriptions and the styles of artefacts.	6a.	6b.
Using of machine learning algorithm.	7a.	7b.
Combining Lidar data with a database that dates features of the landscape over time.	8a.	8b.

C. Reflection: In your view, which of these methods is the most remarkable? Why do you think so? Share your thoughts with your group.

[i] Source: Wrobel, G.D. & Camp, S. (2020). How do archaeologists know where to dig? *The Conversation*.