As a result of profound climate change, newly revealed archaeological and paleontological finds are surfacing along the banks of the Rivanna River.
We are creating a scientific field journal cataloging these incidences in a fictional case study.
Inspiration:

- lost treasures unearthed
- lost landscapes exposed
- lost life forms revealed or revived
- lost memories recovered

We are moved by these unexpected finds.
Lost Treasures Unearthed

Ancient Buddhist statues atop a formerly submerged island in the Yangtse River Basin are now exposed by rapidly falling water levels.
Lost Landscapes Exposed

The lost treasures of Glen Canyon, a spectacular geological formation, and thousands of archaeological sites are re-emerging in Lake Powell after years of severe draught. The reservoir was created by damming the San Juan and Colorado Rivers in the 1960s.
Lost Life Forms Revealed or Revived

A massive set of dinosaur tracks dating 113 million years old on the Paluxy River in Texas, uncovered by severe drought conditions.
A 1,000-pound undetonated bomb dropped during WWII is revealed in the now dry Po River in Italy.
"We are creating a *scientific field journal* cataloging these incidences in a fictional case study."

- Participants are encouraged to generate ideas on “artifacts” pertaining to discoveries on the banks of the Rivanna River due to climate change.

- Participants are encouraged to work in groups to create content around these discoveries in the form of one or more signatures to be sewn into the final journal.
Some examples of “artifact” concepts are . . .
A large incised boulder is exposed along the Rivanna River bank during prolonged drought conditions. An inscription reads, “If you see this, weep for me. 1705.” The boulder serves as a drought marker. An assemblage of smaller stones surrounding it have additional carved dates commemorating years in which low water levels revealed the boulder: 1802, 1956, 2011, 2023, etc.
Beaver Chichen Itza

PREVIOUSLY UNDISCOVERED SPECIES OF INTELLIGENT LIFE

There is a discovery of a pyramid or other large structure built by beavers that is among the impressive architectural remains of an intelligent (and industrious!) society of beavers.
Wreckage of an old boat is found in the receding waters of a spring wash out. The bateau is found to be pre-Civil War era and contains a cargo of whiskey bottles. One of the crates is full of empty bottles with notes inside and is discovered to be a letter carrier for the underground railroad.

**Empty Spirits**

**VESTIGES OF A SECRET HISTORY UNCOVERED**
An unexpected sink hole has opened up in one point of the Rivanna River, uncovering layers of silt thousands of feet deeper than previously known. Studies reveal that the river is much older than previously thought due to a unique and unprecedented phenomenon called “false bath.” False Bath occurs when bathymetry instruments (to measure depth of bodies of water) fail to measure correct depths due to reflective sediments laid in striations on the waterway floor.
Thirteen bean shaped seeds, 5mm – 8mm long are discovered along the river bank. There are signs of germination and sprouting to manifest viability, but DNA sampling does not show any biological matches with existing flora. Further propagation and testing have determined that there could be a historical match with Aurora tinctoria, a vine thought to be extinct, which holds medicinal properties especially related to insulin production, and luminous dye production. Could this be the rebirth of a plant thought lost to time?
Remember, “artifacts” could be specific as a specimen or as broad as an event!
Our scientific field journal will be filled with these conceptual “artifacts” for our fictional case study.
“Artifacts” will be featured in one or more signatures of the book form that will be our field journal.
Our dummy book has a variety of signature styles bound into one book.
There are a variety of styles to create signatures to carry the content of each “artifact” concept . . .
There are also a variety of ways to create the layout for the “artifact” concepts . . .
Our book would benefit from a variety of styles to convey supporting data . . .
Media styles include:

Field Sketches
HAND DRAWN
RENDERINGS AND NOTES
Media styles include:

“Specimens”

PRINTED REPLICAS OF SPECIMENS FOUND AT THE SITE
Media styles include:

**Timelines**

**VISUAL CHRONOLOGY**
Media styles include:

Maps

SITE SPECIFICS
Media styles include:

**Infographics**

**DATA VISUALIZATION**
There *are* a few parameters to follow for this project . . .
- The Artists/Group will decide on the signature style and ultimate layout of the signature but each artifact must be accompanied by the Artifact Catalog Tag graphic (provided by the center) and information.

- The Artists/Group must use project ink color predominately (TBD raw umber) for project cohesion.

- The house font of Garamond is the font of choice but not necessary in cases of printing handwritten notes or historical documents. We ask that Garamond is used at least somewhere in the composition.

- As a rule, creativity is encouraged so long as the materials do not degrade the rest of the collection or hinder the final binding and assembly of the completed book form, i.e. not materials that shed, offset, or off-gas, or prevent the binding of the book.
There will be opportunities to also help with . . .

- The Book Binding Team
- The Book Cover Team
Where do you start?
Grab a copy of the project prospectus and sign up for the project mailing list!

Have an “artifact” concept? Pitch it to the list to start building a group!

See an “artifact” concept you find inspiring? Join the group and bring it to life!

Paluxy River Dinosaur tracks: https://www.npr.org/2022/08/25/1119333150/dinosaur-tracks-texas-drought

Glen Canyon caverns: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/16/the-lost-canyon-under-lake-powell

WWII bomb in dry Italian riverbed: https://www.facebook.com/EsercitoItaliano/posts/pfbid02Fru95YfmmzKNNt69mSGZP4EkmmWVLErFctTgeF46f1bUdaddK7rKW9naS9r9sm/

DaVinci studies of embryos: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Da_Vinci_Studies_of_Embryos_Luc_Viatour.jpg

Study of the graduation of shadows on spheres: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Study_of_the_Graduations_of_Shadows_on_Spheres_2.jpg

Image of potato fungus on leaf from a botanical atlas: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_botanical_atlas_(Plate_XII)_(7166135119).jpg

Lake Oroville events timeline: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lake_Oroville_events_timeline.jpg


Image Credits:
Rivanna Reconnaissance

2023 VIRGINIA CENTER FOR THE BOOK ANNUAL GROUP PROJECT