

Into the Past

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Humans are constantly changing. Our past shows just how much we change throughout history. However, how do we know so much about our past? Archaeologists study humans in the past. What if they could go into the past to live it? Wallace did just this, on a field-trip to the San Diego Archaeologist Center.

Wallace looked at a board. The board stated that the Wappo tribe were:

“The Wappo were known as kind people, who were not greedy.

They felt that for a person to own something was rude to others in the group, and so they shared everything.”

-Social Studies Fact Cards states on <http://factcards.califa.org>.

Wallace looked down at his article, “Dream Jobs: Archaeologist”. Written by Padmini Parthasarathy and adapted by the NEWSELA staff. The assignment was to write a essay using this article.

Wallace looked up at an exhibit that showed fake Wappo hunting deer. The Wappo were wearing rough looking clothes.

He leaned on the cold glass protecting the exhibit and said, “With information like this at my fingertips, I’ll have my essay done in no time.”

Out of nowhere, the glass disappeared. *Thud!* Wallace hit the hard ground. The ground was uncomfortable.

He groaned, "What happened?" He saw a deer bounding off. "Huh, wasn't that deer just on display?" Wallace seemed confused. He looked around and found himself staring at tribal people.

The Wappo stared back at Wallace. They backed up a step, one hoisted a spear while the other nocked a bow. Holding his hands up in surrender, Wallace stared wide-eyed at them.

Wallace noticed clamshell beads on their clothing, along with some magnesite beads.

They were as confused as he was. One of them said he looked strange. Wallace was astonished he could understand them.

"I'm sorry, but where am I?" Wallace said, hoping they understood him as well.

The Wappo were also astonished to hear Wallace talk. They told him they were in Napa Valley, their home. Wallace said he was lost and from the future. The Wappo lowered their weapons to talk. They told Wallace he should go home.

"But how?" Wallace asked. The one holding a bow yelled that he had an idea. He said a ceremony dance could help. Wallace was skeptical and didn't hide it. The other one said that they've done it before. Wallace was intrigued by this and asked who did they send back. They told him that her name was Amberly Kugeler. Wallace was surprised that an archaeologist went into the past. The Wappo didn't understand what an archaeologist was. Wallace told them that archaeologists study human history.

One Wappo pulled out a flute and played it while the other danced. The dance was beautiful. At the end, Wallace heard a *beep-beep-beep*. He thought it sounded like a bomb going off. Just then, he felt himself coming back to the future.

Wallace woke up in his bed. He turned off his annoying alarm clock and yawned.

“So, it was all a dream. At least I know what to write for my archaeologist essay,” he said.

In the end, Wallace was only dreaming. However, if an archaeologist were to fall into the past, they would be able to see what it truly was like. Like the NEWSELA article, “Dream Jobs: Archaeologist” states, “I also hope that the government keeps the laws to protect archaeology and also to fund it.” For now, archaeologists must do their best to piece artifacts together to reveal human history.