



Dig deeper into the *Archaeology of Resistance: Life in the Great Dismal Swamp* For Students

More FAQs

Q. How long have archaeologists been working in the Great Dismal Swamp?

A. It's been almost 20 years since archaeologists first started looking for evidence of Maroons in the National Wildlife Refuge. Even though there are no active excavations right now, archaeologists, historians, geologists, anthropologists, geographers, and others continue to research the lives of the people – Native Americans and Maroons - who lived in the Swamp. Check out the [Swampscapes](#) blog for behind-the-scenes peaks at the expedition on which this comic is based.

Q. Are there other similar places we know Maroons lived?

A. Almost everywhere people were enslaved in the 16th – 19th centuries, resistance communities formed in the hinterlands. Some of the most famous are in Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, and Suriname but communities smaller than that of the Dismal Swamp existed in the U.S. in many locations for shorter periods of time.

Q. How many people may have lived in the swamp (Native Americans or Maroons)?

A. We're still learning how many people lived there in any given year but over the centuries, thousands of people found refuge in the Dismal.

Q. When did people leave the swamp?

A. Most enslaved and Maroon people left the Great Dismal Swamp around the time of the US Civil War. Later, laborers returned to the Swamp, working for the lumber companies. The land was protected as a National Wildlife Refuge in 1974 and nobody has lived there long-term since.

Q. I want to be an archaeologist. How do I start?

A. Not all archaeologists dig in the dirt – some work underwater or in museums, and many make amazing discoveries by analysing artifacts in the lab. Check out the National Park Service's [Archaeology for Kids](#) website or the Society for American Archaeology's [Archaeology as a Career](#) page. And, many State Archaeology Societies, local history museums and natural history museums offer public dig opportunities so you can try it out for yourself. Always remember to respect any artifacts and archaeology sites you find. It is illegal to remove artifacts from public lands without a permit.

A Few Links to Learn More about Archaeology and the Great Dismal Swamp



[The Secret Society of the Great Dismal Swamp](#)
(5:28, TED-Ed)



[Life in the Great Dismal Swamp](#)
(The Archaeological Conservancy)



[A Bug-Filled Journey Through the Great Dismal Swamp](#)
(6:04, WFAE Charlotte NPR)

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AN INITIATIVE OF LYDA HILL PHILANTHROPIES

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