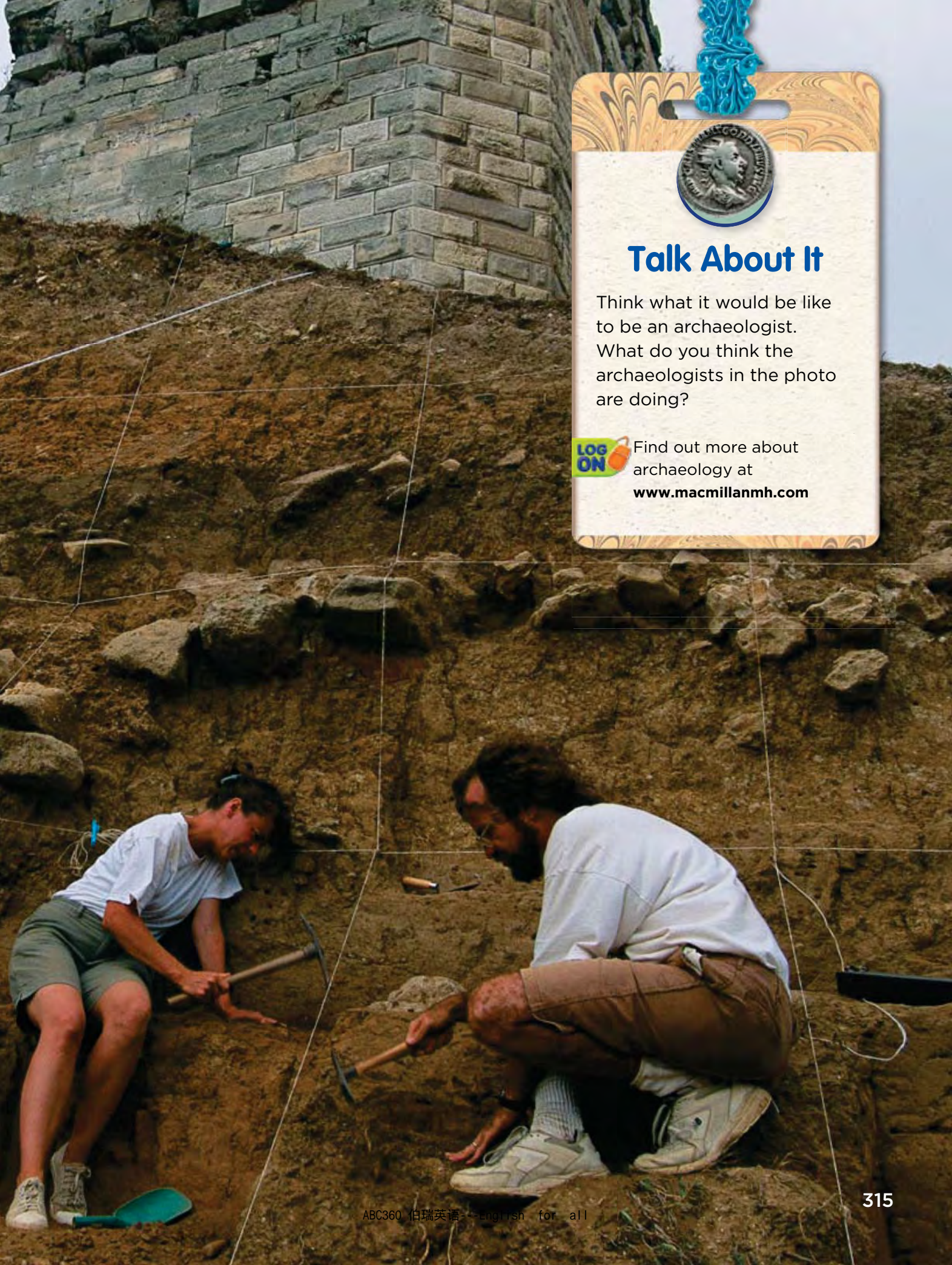


ARCHAEOLOGY



Talk About It

Think what it would be like to be an archaeologist. What do you think the archaeologists in the photo are doing?



Find out more about archaeology at

www.macmillanmh.com

BRINGING THE

by Sam Ames

Vocabulary

utensils	trenches
superstitious	steadfastly
civilized	precede
excavate	prolong



Word Parts

Prefixes are added to the beginning of words and change the meanings of words.

pro + = “extending out”

prolong = “to lengthen,” “to take a longer time”

An archaeologist is a kind of science detective. By studying objects from the past, an archaeologist can find clues about what life was like long ago.

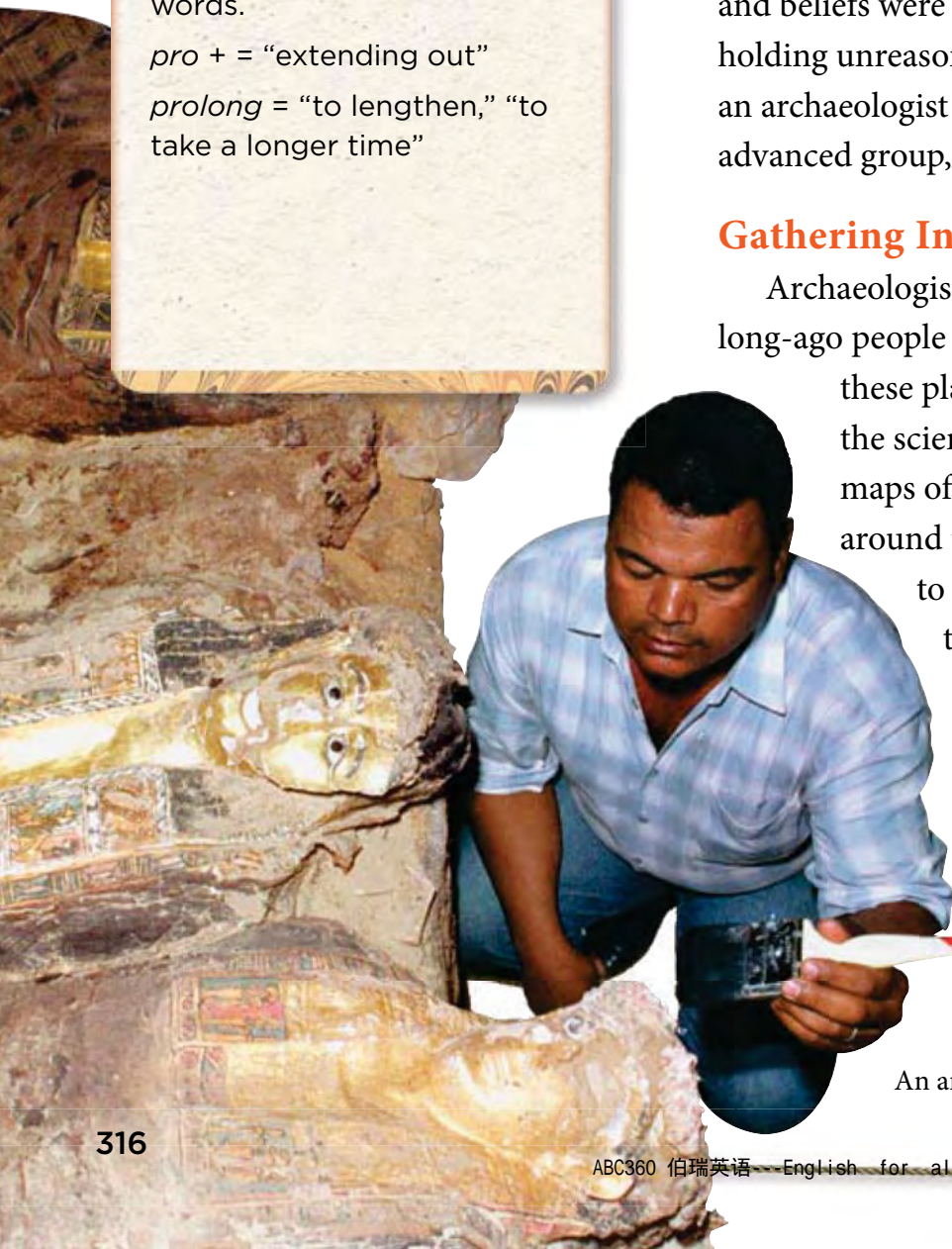
An archaeologist can learn about the food people ate and the **utensils** they used to eat with. An archaeologist can learn from the weapons, art, and tools a people left behind. These objects help archaeologists figure out what a group’s customs and beliefs were and if they were **superstitious**, holding unreasonable fears. They can help an archaeologist determine the **civilized**, or advanced group, versus the primitive.

Gathering Information

Archaeologists **excavate** in places where long-ago people once lived. Digging to uncover these places is exacting work. First, the scientists take surveys and make maps of the site. They dig long **trenches** around tombs or buildings. They try not to disturb any evidence buried in the earth.

Archaeologists work carefully and **steadfastly** for long hours to recover small objects. With patient determination, they often use paintbrushes to clean dirt off pieces of pottery

An archaeologist dusts off his discovery.



PAST TO THE PRESENT

or other delicate things. As an item is uncovered, the archaeologists photograph it and describe it.

Understanding the Findings

Archaeologists follow several steps to learn from what they find. First, they sort the items and look for patterns. Then they determine how old something is, a process known as dating. Besides the exact age of an object, the scientists want to know how old something is in relation to other things. Did a certain object **precede** others that were found, or did it come after?

Finally, archaeologists try to answer these questions: How did this culture develop? When and why did it change?



A Big Job

Work at a dig takes many years. One reason is that most archaeologists have jobs in museums or as teachers. Bad weather can also **prolong** the time it takes to excavate. Then, too, some archaeological sites are underwater or beneath existing cities.

Archaeologists have a big job in bringing the past to the present!

Reread for Comprehension



Monitor Comprehension

Summarize

One way to monitor your understanding of a selection is to summarize events in a selection. As you summarize, look for major points and for the details that support them. Always use your own words.

Use the Summary Chart as you reread “Bringing the Past to the Present.”

