

Middens:

kitchen midden/midden, refuse heap left by a prehistoric settlement; more specifically, a deposit consisting primarily of discarded shell and related cultural material in coastal environments. First studied (1848) in Denmark, middens are an important source of ecological and cultural information.

- encyclopedia.com

Indigenous middens often have shells and bones. Examples in the soil where it's really dark indicate where things have been burnt. Soil samples that are highly concentrated in certain minerals suggest certain stuff.

You know it's a midden because you're walking in the woods and find shells all of a sudden- that's where a house or residence used to be.

McLean woods also has bodies buried there amongst the shells of the midden there

- source: mom

What is a midden:

- An actual midden is literally a word to describe an archaeological site of waste and refuse.
- So it's places where indigenous people or people, there was a lot of them in Europe basically that
- you're going to be walking through the forest and you'll see a lot of shells or ceramics or things that have kind of been unearthed over time (because they were never that deep underground)
- indicates where a settlement has been, where a residence has been
- oftentimes the midden or the refuse pile was kind of near where the residence was
- there's one in McLean Woods down at the bottom of Torrence
- Some people, specifically in Europe, just take things from middens because they're not as culturally relevant, they're mostly filled with things that historians already know about.
- Painted ceramics or like wooden or metal tools that aren't necessarily unique enough to warrant archaeologists or historians taking an interest in them
- in the Valley and on the West Coast and in Canada, being a bit of a younger place of human settlement, Indigenous middens are a lot more sacred and special.
- Especially since the Canadian government, settler government, colonialism and all that really tried to wipe everything away.

- as we explore middens and learn about historical evidence and stuff like that, and we learn about different artifacts and human remains in the things and such that we are then able to preserve that knowledge and pass it on
- hold on to it as culture in the community.
- then we can really be more respectful and knowledgeable. The land that we live on and the people who were here before us.
- No matter where we live, there are a lot of middens in Scotland and northern Europe in particular, as that was like a settlement
- I guess the further north you got the smaller the settlements got and the more likely you are to find a midden in those areas, so Sweden, Denmark, Scotland, Ireland.

What is an artist's midden:

- An artist's midden could contain things that are no longer needed or used and are discarded
- things that we as artists keep - things that others no longer find useful or helpful, but that we still see potential in.
- Things we artists hold onto that others might think are trash.
- broken tools, cast away bottles of paint, scraps of fabric and paper, bent knives, broken machinery, snapped frames, shards of glass, etc.
- kind of hoarding things that may seem like trash to others, but to an artist, they have a potential future within art and creative stuff
- Finding broken things, collections of things, hordes of things that artists have kept or found over the years.
- Finding the treasure within the trash and keeping it and holding on to it and preserving it in a way, can also be taken in a conceptual/historical way.

I think.

I'll be honest, the document wasn't entirely helpful to be honest. The way it was formatted was quite confusing. I think if there's a section for resources like a separate document for resources and a separate document that just had the bare bones of what they assignment required, it would be a lot easier to navigate and understand. At least for me.