

## Protecting the Past: Things Not to Do

- Touching or walking upon rock art can harm it.
- Making paper rubbings, tracings, or latex molds of rock art can cause damage. Chalking of rock art makes it impossible to use new methods of dating the figures.
- Removal or rearrangement of artifacts destroys archaeological data. Artifacts should be left where they are found. While it is okay to pick up and look at most artifacts, do not make piles of artifacts or take them home.
- Any digging at an archaeological site is not allowed. Not only does unscientific excavation rob the site of artifacts that tell archaeologists about the past, it also destroys data about village patterns, houses, trash deposits, and other important archaeological features.

[Adapted from Hurst and Pachak (1989, pp. 25-26).]