

WHAT JAPAN  
CAN LEARN FROM  
CHERNOBYL

Why Android  
Beat the  
iPhone

15 Gadgets,  
Tested & Rated

# WIRED

OH HAI / MAY 2011

THE  
HUMOR  
ISSUE



SNL's  
Andy Samberg  
and His Digital  
Laugh Factory

Why America's  
Funniest Home  
Videos Won't Die

The  
Wild & Crazy  
Science  
of Funny

# HOW THE INTERNET SAVED COMEDY

Lolcats! Viral videos!  
Tweet jokes! ROTFL!!!



usa | us\$ 6.99



TOOLKIT

# The Well-Armed Archaeologist



Guinnessa Mahar, a lab manager at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, knows the ups and downs of archaeology. "I've done high-altitude surveying in Nevada and underwater archaeology along the Jersey Shore," says the 30-year-old digger, who uses everything from metal detectors to portable x-ray fluorescence machines to uncover relics. Mahar took a break from excavating 500-year-old Spanish artifacts on an island off the Georgia coast to tell us about her favorite gear. —AARON ROWE



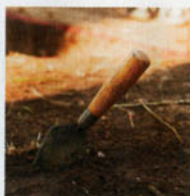
### Fluxgate Gradiometer FM 256

This gadget holds a pair of magnetometers, which measure subtle alterations in Earth's magnetic field caused by buried objects. It helps find not just metallic stuff but bricks and pottery, too. \$18,000 and up



### Trimble Total Station 3600

An artifact's position helps reveal its story. A laser beam from this tool maps where every object in a site was located. "You want other researchers to be able to find the spot later," Mahar says. \$9,990 (5-inch model)



### Marshalltown Philadelphia Style Pointing Trowel

Sophisticated tech tools are great, but the most important task on a dig is digging. Marshalltown has a special line of carbon-steel trowels made just for archaeologists. \$14 (4.5-inch model)



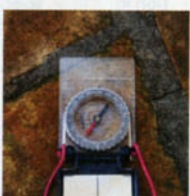
### Panasonic CF30 Toughbook

In the field, this rugged laptop is perfect for checking data from the soil probe and gradiometer. Mahar also uses it to catalog descriptions of artifacts and the locations where they were unearthed. \$5,310



### Geoscan RM15-D Resistance Meter

Artifacts may contain different amounts of moisture than the surrounding soil. Scientists send an electric current and look for speed changes to pinpoint, say, the walls of buried dwellings. \$18,000 and up



### Suunto MC-2DLIN Compass

Google Maps and iPhone GPS are great ... if you have service. "You never go into the woods alone without a compass," Mahar says. The MC-2DLIN is compact, highly accurate, and needs no batteries or 3G signal. \$55