

Chapter 2 Questions

1. List and describe the four basic sources of evidence about the past for archaeologists and paleoanthropologists.
2. What is context? How does this relate to archaeological and paleoanthropological research?
3. Explain three different absolute dating methods. What type of material is each method used on? What time range does each method cover?
4. Compare artifacts and ecofacts. How do they differ? What information can be learned from ecofacts?

5. Identify and explain two goals of archaeological research. Relate these to the excavation methods of the archaeologist.

6. Cheryl Classen and Patricia McAnany's work, *Women in the Shell Mound Archaic*, tries to find the connection between excavated artifacts and ecofacts and past ideas about gender. Look around your own home; how many artifacts and ecofacts reveal clues as to the gender of your home's inhabitants?