

Archaeology – Chapter 1 & 2 Review

General Archaeology/Anthropology Info:

The four fields of Anthropology (Physical/Biological; Cultural: Archaeology, Linguistics, Ethnology)

Scientific Method

Evolution

Archaeological Record: Artifacts, Ecofacts, Features

Types of Archaeology: Classical, Biblical, Medieval, CRM

History/Pre-history

Dating: Relative vs. absolute

Pseudoscience (what a bunch of bologna!)

Define Culture ☺

Ethnocentrism vs. Cultural Relativism

Chapter 1

Objectives:

To describe what archaeology is.

To understand the difference between science and pseudoscience.

To explain how the process of evolution by natural selection works.

To describe why archaeology is important to study.

To describe the various career paths in archaeology.

Summary:

This chapter provides some background information about the discipline of archaeology. Several examples are provided to illustrate the kind of work archaeologists do. Basic information about the nature of science is provided as well.

The chapter opens with a description of some of the findings from excavations at Poplar Forest, a retreat home of Thomas Jefferson. This is used as an introduction to the field of archaeology. Information about the everyday lives of slaves is emphasized, which shows that archaeologists do not always look for monumental architecture in their inquiries.

The chapter places emphasis on distinguishing between science and pseudoscience. The steps in the scientific process are outlined. Examples of non-science are provided such as the Piltdown discovery. The discussion about science also incorporates the theory of evolution as well as information about creationism.

Another important emphasis of the chapter is a description of what archaeology is and what archaeology is not. Information about where the department is housed in colleges or universities is provided. There is also information about the importance of archaeology to humankind.

The chapter concludes with information about careers in archaeology. How one becomes an archaeologist is outlined. Information on obtaining academic degrees is traced from undergraduate studies to the Ph.D. level. There is a discussion employment patterns as well. Finally, three examples are provided of typical days for people working as archaeologists.

Chapter 02

Objectives:

- To describe the problems of looting in archaeology.
- To trace the development of Moche culture.
- To describe the findings of the tombs of Sipán.
- To describe what the tombs at Sipán reveal about Moche culture.
- To describe what the skeleton at Sipán revealed about the population.

Summary:

This chapter focuses on the spectacular tombs of Sipán in Peru to illustrate several issues relating to archaeology. Included in the chapter is a detailed description of the findings of one of the tombs. Considerations relating to looting and relations with local populations are discussed as well. In addition, information about Moche culture is presented.

The chapter begins with a brief description of the environment of Peru and its influence on Moche and other cultures. There is also an overview of the history of the region, including the origins and demise of Moche civilization. The provides a context for the discoveries at Sipán.

A specific focus of the chapter is that of looting of the materials found at Sipán. An even-handed approach is used to illustrate both the problems of looting and the underlying reasons for such actions. There is a discussion about the relationship between the archaeologists working at Sipán and the local residents.

The major emphasis of the chapter is a description of the finds from Sipán. A detailed account of the findings from one of the tombs is provided. The analysis of various elements of Moche society is woven into the description.