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# Anthropology (Quickstudy: Academic)

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## ANTHROPOLOGY

### Archaeology

A branch of anthropology focusing on the analysis of human material remains in an attempt to reconstruct past cultures.

#### SOME COMMON METHODS

- Excavation:** Uncovering buried materials from the past so that they may be recorded and analyzed.
- Survey:** Locating artifacts and potential sites through methods such as ground-penetrating radar and aerial surveys, remote sensing techniques.
- Field system:** A technique used in excavation allowing better recording of the location of artifacts; a grid is mapped out over the excavation area, which is then excavated one foot at a time and mapped according to the grid system.

#### DATING TYPES

**Relative dating:** The temporal location of artifacts is described in reference to other artifacts to determine a relative age.


**Stratigraphic dating:** Also known as chronometric dating, determine the actual age of an artifact in terms of years, centuries, or other units of time.

**Radioactive dating:**

- Carbon-14 (<sup>14</sup>C) dating:** Measure dating method measuring the half-life and decay rate of <sup>14</sup>C in isotopes in organic materials.
- Amino acid racemization:** A chronometric dating technique used on organic material, amino changes in proteins when an organism dies to calculate the age at death.
- Potassium-argon (<sup>40</sup>K-<sup>40</sup>Ar) dating:** Chronometric dating method measuring the decay of potassium (<sup>40</sup>K) to argon (<sup>40</sup>Ar) in volcanic deposits.
- Argon-argon (<sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar) dating:** Relative dating technique used in conjunction with potassium-argon dating that estimates relative quantities of argon (<sup>40</sup>Ar) to argon-40 gases in volcanic deposits.
- Dendrochronology dating:** Chronometric dating of wooden artifacts by measuring the tree's annual or worked surface of the artifact.
- Thermoluminescence dating:** Effective dating technique used to determine the age of ceramics, tiles, bricks and any other fired-clay artifacts.
- Dendrochronology:** Also known as tree-ring dating, this absolute dating technique compares a tree sample that is radiocarbon-dated to an exactly dated tree-ring chronology for the area to determine the year the wood was first utilized by humans.
- Electron spin resonance:** Chronometric dating method that measures trapped electrons in shell and bone.

#### POTTERY

- All fired clay artifacts made by humans.
- Hundreds of types: food storage vessels, cooking pots, bowls, burial urns, and pipes, etc.
- Wedged slip is one of the most compelling indicators of activities at a site.
- Pottery fragments used in the early and middle stages of pottery styles.



*Athenian pottery*

#### TOOL MAKING

8,000-10,000 years ago	Upper Paleolithic: Late Stone Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flint</li> <li>Stone</li> </ul>
8,000	Middle Paleolithic: Middle Stone Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flint</li> <li>Stone</li> </ul>
4,000	Lower Paleolithic: Early Stone Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flint</li> <li>Stone</li> </ul>
1,500	Iron Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iron</li> <li>Steel</li> </ul>
2,000	Classical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iron</li> <li>Steel</li> </ul>

#### Tool Traditions

- Oldowan tool tradition:** The earliest identifiable tool-making tradition, associated with Homo habilis, the Oldowan begins the Paleolithic about 2.5 million years ago. Tools were made by striking a stone core, producing flakes which were used as blades and choppers and the cores were used as hammerstones.
- Acheulean tool tradition:** The earliest tradition after the Oldowan period, during time about 1.7 million years ago, associated with Homo erectus. Made for uses such as axes, but much larger and adhering to more standardized shapes.
- Primary tool production:** The Acheulean hand axe, a pear-shaped tool.
- Mousterian tool tradition:** Tool-making tradition of the Neanderthals from 100,000-400,000 years ago in Europe, Southwest Asia, Northern Africa. Tools, generally much smaller, more varied and much more skillfully worked than those previous.
- Tool makers utilized pressure-flaking techniques in conjunction to the earlier percussion-flaking techniques.

#### Tool Techniques

- Lithic:** Used often in the Mousterian tool tradition, like tools of worked stone were made by striking a shaped core.
- Flake techniques:** Flakes produced by striking a core of stone.
- Pressure-flaking:** Stone, rather than wood, used to press small flakes off a flint core. Allowed for more control over the finished flake.

#### TRANSITIONAL PERIODS

##### Paleoindians in the New World

- Initially, "Old Indians", first group of humans to come to the New World.
- Most researchers agree Paleoindians came to the New World sometime before 12,000 years ago, during the Paleoindian ("Old Stone Age").
- Marked mostly big game animals, known for distinctive spear-thrower artifacts.

##### Mesolithic

- Initially, "Middle Stone Age", an archaeological period of time beginning around 12,000 B.C.
- Humans became more sedentary and began to utilize an increasingly varied economy.
- "Natufian", a cultural tradition beginning in Southwest Asia during the Mesolithic period.
- Composed of the first people who accepted permanent settlements and began domestication in this area.
- Artifacts have appeared in Mesolithic cultures in the New World.
- Characterized by increasing cultural diversity as populations adapted to different environments.
- Created an array of cultures with unique lifestyles and technology.

##### Neolithic


- Initially, "New Stone Age", established plant and animal domestication beginning about 11,000 years ago in the Middle East.
- Domestication of plants and animals: Evolutionary process where humans (deliberately or unintentional) bred specific plants and animal genetics to better control their reproduction.

##### Early cities

- Four East:**
  - Uruk: The Sumerians began the domestication of wheat, barley and cattle about 35,000 B.P.
  - Harappan: One of the earliest urban civilizations in the world.

#### Transitions

- Africa - Nile River Valley:** Step and gear agriculture from 6000 B.P.
- China - Southern and northern:** Early rice cultivation, about 5000 B.P.
- Southern Mexico - Tehuacan Valley:** Early evidence of maize, about 5000 B.P.
- South America - Peru:**
  - Highland Peru:** Early evidence of maize and maize, about 3000 B.P.
  - Coastal Peru:** Early evidence for quinoa, squash and peppers, about 3000 B.P.
- North America: Southeast U.S.:** Domestication of squash, 3000 B.P.



*Alpaca valley*

#### CIVILIZATIONS

Effect used to refer to the presence of the modern-day line of social development, rights today in advanced, non-organized, non-tribal societies.

##### Early cities

##### Mesopotamia

- "The land between two rivers", between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, where first civilizations flourished from 3500 B.P.
- The early Mesopotamian civilizations of Sumer, which were the first to use a written language.
- Classical: Early form of writing used to record economic transactions, law, and record-keeping.



## Synopsis

Defines the most important aspects of various forms of anthropology, including archeology, cultural and biological anthropology. For students studying anthropology; most helpful for those in introductory anthropology.

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excellent

It's gives a great summary of anthropology and its subfields it's missing linguistic

handy for studying. well made.

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