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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 or an attempt to reconstruct past cultures

SOME COMMON METHODS

Excavation: Unearthing buried materials from the past so they may be recovered and analyzed

Survey: Locating artifacts and potential sites through methods such as ground walking, soil-sieving and non-invasive sensing techniques

Grid system: A system used to delineate different areas of a site. A grid is mapped out across the entire area, which is then subsectioned into squares 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

Absolute dating: Also known as chronological dating methods, these are used to determine the actual age in years, centuries or other units of time

Radiocarbon-14 (C-14) dating: Absolute dating method measuring the half-life and decay rate of C-14 in organic materials

• **Atmospheric radiocarbon:** A chronological dating technique used to measure radiocarbon levels in changes to the atmosphere as time passes

• **Proterogenic-Argon (Ar-Ar) dating:** Chronometric dating method measuring the decay of potassium (K-40) to argon (Ar-40) in volcanic deposits

• **Argon-argon (Ar-Ar) dating:** Absolute dating technique used in conjunction with potassium dating that estimates the relative quantities of argon that have been released from a sample

Obsidian Hydration dating: Chronometric dating of obsidian artifacts by measuring the water absorbed by weathered surfaces of the artifact

Thermoluminescence dating: Absolute dating technique used to determine the age of ceramics, glass, bricks and any other fired clay artifacts

Dendrochronology: Also known as tree-ring dating, this method measures the growth of a tree sample that is relevant archaeologically to an artifact dated using tree-ring dating for the tree 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

• Handles of types: Flared mouth vessels, conking pots, bowls, lined caskets, and pipes, etc.

• Whistle-pottery is one of the most compelling indications of civilization at a site

• Pottery designs were used in classifying artifacts by change in pottery styles

Whistle pottery

TOOL MAKING

Tool Traditions

Oldowan tool tradition: The earliest and simplest tool-making tradition, associated with Stone tools, the Oldowan begins the Paleolithic 2.5-1.5 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

Middle Paleolithic - Middle Stone Age: The middle tool-making tradition is the middle chapter

• Developed in eastern Europe. Tool-making tradition after the Oldowan period, during about 2.5-1.5 million years ago, associated with Homo erectus

• Made the same way as others, but much larger and advertising more manufactured edges

• Primary tool produced was the Acheulean hand-axe, a hand-shaped stone

Neanderthal tool tradition: Tool-making tradition of the Neanderthals from 100,000-35,000 B.C. 400,000 years ago in Europe, Southeast Asia, Northeast Africa

• Tools generally made smaller, more varied and much more skillfully worked than these periods

• Stone tools utilized precision-flaking techniques in combination with the percussive-flaking techniques

Tool Techniques

End-tooth: Used in the Neanderthal period, flakes of modified core tools made by striking a shaped core

Blade technique: Stone produced by striking a core of stone

Percussive flaking: Stone, either a rock tool or a piece of stone, hitting another to produce flakes

• Allows for more control over the finished flakes

TRANSITIONAL PERIODS

Palaeolithic in the New World

• **Ust'e, Siberia:** First group of humans to come to the New World

• Most researchers agree Palaeolithic came to the New World about 15,000 years ago, during the "Pleistocene Climate Age"

• Hunted mostly game animals, learned to utilize fire, used artificial points

Mesolithic

• **Chellean, Middle Stone Age:** Archaeological period between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic

• Humans became more sedentary and began to cultivate an more stationary food resources

• **Neolithic:** A cultural tradition beginning in Southeast Asia during the Mesolithic period

• A product of the first people who adopted agriculture and animal domestication to this area

• **Agriculture:** Term applied to Mesolithic cultures in the New World

• Characterized by intensive cultural diversity as populations adapted to different environments

• A product of the use of cultures with unique life-ways and cultures

Neolithic

• **Loketice, New Stone Age:** established plant and animal agriculture in the Middle Stone Age

• **Neolithic revolution:** Revolution where humans deliberately or unintentionally plant and animal genetics in their control their environment

Early Iron

Iron Age

• **Luristan:** The Luristan began the domestication of sheep, horses and bulls (about 10,000 B.C.)

• **Elamite:** Elamite, Central Persia, began the domestication of cattle, sheep, goats and horses (about 8,000 B.C.)

• **Elba:** Elba River Valley, Elba, and green domestication dates (about 8,000 B.C.)

• **China:** Southern and northern, early rice cultivation, about 7000 B.C.

• **Neolithic - Neolithic Valley:** Early agriculture of maize, about 7000 B.C.

• **South America - Peru:** Highland Peru, early evidence of maize and potato cultivation, about 2500 B.C.

• **Central Africa - Early evidence for grains, squash and peppers:** about 5000 B.C.

• **North America - Southeast U.S.:** Domestication of maize, about 3000 B.C.

CIVILIZATIONS

There was no rule in the timeline of the evolution of social development, often today is unchartered, unexplored, and unrecorded

Early cities

Mesopotamia:

• The first human-made river, Mesopotamia had and Andes, and Fertile, along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, where first civilization (Mesopotamia, about 5000 B.C.)

• The early Mesopotamian civilization of Neanderthal growth of cities into a settled city system

• **Cuneiform:** Early form of writing used to record economic transactions, these need to record cities



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

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Thanks

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