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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, air and aerial surveys, and remote sensing techniques

**Grid system:** A system of lines in a rectangular arrangement that indicates the location of artifacts, a grid is mapped out over the excavation area, which is then excavated one square 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, measures the actual age of artifacts in terms of years, centuries, or other units of time

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

▪ **Atmospheric C-14:** A chronological dating technique used to determine the age of materials that undergo changes in their carbon isotope ratios over time

▪ **Paterson-Argon (K-Ar) dating:** A chronological 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-argon dating that measures the age of minerals composed of argon (Ar-40) in volcanic deposits

**Obsidian hydration dating:** Chronometric dating of obsidian artifacts by measuring the water absorbed on worked 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:** The study of tree rings as chronological dating, this absolute dating technique compares a sample that is relevant archaeologically to a pre-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

▪ Handmade of types: Fired storage vessels, cooking pots, bowls, fired crucibles, and pipes, etc.

▪ Wheelmade: One of the most compelling indications of civilization is a pottery

▪ Pottery is one of the most compelling indications of civilization is a pottery

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Antique pottery

## TOOL MAKING

### Tool Traditions

#### Oldowan tool tradition

▪ Oldest known tool-making tradition, associated with Homo habilis, the Oldowan begins the Plio-Pleistocene (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

▪ Oldowan tools were the earliest known to be the prehistoric

▪ **Acheulean tool tradition:** Tool-making tradition after the Oldowan period, during about 1.5 million years ago, associated with Homo erectus

▪ Made the same way as others, but much larger and advertising more standardized shapes

▪ **Paraytut tool production:** was the Acheulean hand-axe, a large, hand-shaped, double-edged hand-axe

▪ **Mousterian tool tradition:** Tool-making tradition of the Neanderthals from 100,000-40,000 years ago in Europe, Southeast Asia, Northeast Africa

▪ Tools generally made smaller, more varied and much more skillfully worked than those previous

▪ Used more advanced pressure-flaking techniques to create the hand-axe pressure-flaking techniques

### Tool techniques

▪ **End-tooth:** used in the Mousterian tool tradition, flakes of straight-edged core tools made by striking a shaped core

▪ **Blade technique:** blades produced by striking a core of stone

▪ **Pressure flaking:** flint, mica or wood tools used to press flakes off a core

▪ Allows for more control over the finished flake

## TRANSITIONAL PERIODS

### Paleolithic in the New World

▪ **Early:** "Old Indian," first group of humans to come to the New World

▪ Many researchers agree Paleolithic came to the New World about 15,000 years ago, during the "Pleistocene (Ice Age)"

▪ Hunted mostly big game animals, learned to utilize fire, used antler points

### Mesolithic

▪ **Mid-Holocene Stone Age:** an archaeological period of time beginning around 12,000 (K-14) years ago

▪ Humans became more sedentary and began to utilize an more stationary food resources

▪ **Neolithic:** A cultural transition beginning in Southeast Asia and spreading to Europe and the Americas

▪ **Carrying the first people who occupied America were seafarers and began developing in this area**

▪ **Archaic Stone Age:** to Mesolithic culture in the New World

▪ Characterized by increasing cultural diversity as people began to settle in different environments

▪ Caused an array of cultures with unique lifecycles and technologies

### Neolithic

▪ **Linear:** "New Stone Age"; established plant and animal agriculture, beginning about 15,000 years ago in the Middle East

▪ **Domestication of plants and animals:** Evolutionary process where humans intentionally or unintentionally plant and animal genetics to better control their environment

### Early cities

#### Neolithic

▪ **Urban:** "New Stone Age"; Neolithic began the domestication of wheat, barley and beans (about 10,000 B.C.)

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▪ **Africa - Nile River Valley:** Wheat and goat domestication began 10,000 B.C.

▪ **China:** Neolithic and agriculture, Early rice culture, about 10,000 B.C.

▪ **Mesopotamia - Tigris-Euphrates Valley:** Early agriculture of mesopotamia, about 10,000 B.C.

▪ **South America - Peru:** Early evidence of Seafaring and agriculture, about 10,000 B.C.

▪ **Highland Peru:** Early evidence of Seafaring and agriculture, about 10,000 B.C.

▪ **Central America:** Early evidence for maize, squash and beans, about 10,000 B.C.

▪ **North American Southwest:** Early domestication of maize, about 10,000 B.C.

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## 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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Product is in great condition. I will definitely be finding this useful.

excellent

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

handy for studying. well made.

Thanks

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Great study!

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