

# HIS6E01-PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

## MODULE-2 KINDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

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# ETHNO ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Subfield of archaeology
- ✘ Is the study of contemporary cultures in order to interpret social organization within an archaeological site
- ✘ Ethno-archaeology is an ethnographic approach, to the study of contemporary, living human societies that seeks to identify behavioral realities that structure the potential archaeological record.
- ✘ Study of present in order to answer the past
- ✘ simply refers to ethnographic field work by archaeologist & become a proper sub discipline of anthropology

# ETHNO- ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Observing the living cultures in their natural environment and cautiously making deductions about the characteristics and behavior of their ancestors
- ✘ Part of socio- anthropological approach to archaeology
- ✘ Involves the study of social & cultural customs, practices & the material equipment(artefacts, house patterns, burial methods) of present day tribes or inhabitants of a locality as a guide to the understanding of the patterns & remains found in archaeological contexts
- ✘ Observation & study of tools & other artefacts of present day tribes or the village folk besides their techniques have often provided clues to a better understanding of the artefacts from excavation
- ✘ Lewis Binford's study of the Eskimos – best known study of Ethno-archaeology
- ✘ Method was adopted for a few Indian pre-historic sites by scholars like H.D.Sankalia

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- ✘ But caution should be observed in this approach also since some tribes have been influenced by the urban centers in the recent years & to that extent, there have been changes in their practices & tool equipment
  - ✘ This mistake can be avoided if the study is extended to larger areas for a wider comparison of the primitive tools & practices
  - ✘ This would provide necessary corrective to any hasty conclusions based on observations of limited or urban-influenced ethnic groups
  - ✘ These archaeologists spend much time among the people they are studying, keeping detailed records of their daily activities and behaviors.
  - ✘ They attempt to make accurate records of any abandoned settlements, including rubbish pits, discarded food and artefacts including tools for hunting, trapping, or food preparation.

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- ✘ These are compared with patterns observed in excavated archaeological sites.
  - ✘ Ethno-archaeologists can provide an important angle for interpreting the accumulations of artefacts and other remains found at excavation locations.
  - ✘ They become particularly helpful in recognizing associations between activities such as tool making or animal slaughtering.

# UNDER – WATER ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ distinct from the archaeology from earth
- ✘ Systematic Study of past human life, behaviours, activities & cultures using physical remains as well as other evidence found in the under water environment
- ✘ Underwater archaeology employs special techniques to study shipwrecks and other submerged archaeological sites such as water-buried cities.
- ✘ Needs special equipment & skill to undertake under- water archaeology either in a lake or a sea
- ✘ Archaeologists who work under water rely on sophisticated diving and excavating equipment and employ special methods to preserve perishable materials that have been waterlogged for long periods.
- ✘ There is significant danger involved when working at low depths and with little visibility.
- ✘ The use of robotic divers, armed with strong lights and cameras, helps greatly in the safety of underwater archaeology

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- ✘ AIMS- to integrate archaeological data & interpretation to the broader study of human past, emphasizing not only materials from submerged sites, but also from marine activities
  - ✘ Much like today, ships were the primary mode of transport for international trade in ancient times.
  - ✘ Many a full cargo, along with the entire crew, was lost at sea never to arrive at its destination.
  - ✘ Yet more often than not, it is the rocky, shallow waters that mostly took their toll.
  - ✘ Underwater archaeologists find lucrative bounty in these shallow water shipwrecks.
  - ✘ These archaeologists are not searching for gold and sunken treasure chests but instead are trying to discover more about the society that lived at the time of the sinking.
  - ✘ Cups, plates, weapons, food items and cargos will all piece together to bring the shattered jigsaw of past cultures to life again.

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- ✘ The warship of the Tudor King Henry VIII, which sank in the Solent(a strait separate Isle of Wight & England)off the south coast of England in 1545 has been excavated using the latest techniques of marine archaeology
  - ✘ A Byzantine ship of 6<sup>th</sup> C carrying Roman goods was excavated off the Turkish coast



# SALVAGE/RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ This modern form of archaeology, as a structured division of archaeology's diversity, has gained many hasty titles.
- ✘ Among the more scholarly are names such as salvage or preventive archaeology.
- ✘ However, the most common are the colloquial terms rescue or crisis archaeology.
- ✘ All four names, in one manner or another, seem to express the urgency that underpins the nature of this type of excavation work.
- ✘ A composite of all of these names is sufficient to fashion the character of the effort.
- ✘ For example, take this situation. The archaeologist is interrupted by the news of the discovery of vital remains this minute exposed by a road works bulldozer. A bulldozer is not one of the archaeologist's usual trade tools and its use on a delicate site can cause enormous, unrecoverable damage. The archaeologist has a crisis. He must prevent the loss of valuable remains by salvaging whatever artefacts are present and, if possible, rescue the site for further careful exploration at a later time.

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- ✘ Particular kind of archaeology –assumed importance all over the world in the wake of many developmental programmes & constructional activities
  - ✘ In India, several huge river- valley projects, water-reservoirs & dams are being constructed which would inundate vast areas & hundreds of ancient villages, temples & other monuments
  - ✘ The Nagarjunasagar Dam in the KrishnaValley & Srisilam Hydro- electric project both in Andhra Pradesh, the Kangasawati project in Bengal can be sited as few examples
  - ✘ Here the archaeologists are often called upon to do something to recue the archaeological sites & monuments from total destruction in a short period
  - ✘ Often this kind of work involves the transplantation of the ancient monuments to safer areas
  - ✘ World famous Nubian monuments in the Aswan Dam Project in Nile valley in Egypt belongs to this category

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- ✘ Another instance of transplantation of a variety of Buddhist stupas, Chaityas & other monuments is provided by the remarkable work done in the ancient city of Vijayapuri on the banks of the Krishna in the giant project of Nagarjunasagar excavations in AP
  - ✘ In such contexts archaeologists have to work under pressure of time & therefore, sites taken up have to be selective with greater emphasis on clearance & recovery of antiquities without prejudice to the scientific methods
  - ✘ This is indeed a difficult task & the results may not be cent percent technically sound; but it is the best that could be done in the circumstances
  - ✘ In recent years, archaeologists have developed sound methods & techniques of survey & excavation work in salvage operations

# COGNITIVE ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Cognitive archaeology is recognized as a sub-discipline of archaeology which is itself a sub-discipline of anthropology.
- ✘ The word 'cognitive' is derived from the Latin 'cognoscere', meaning 'to know'.
- ✘ Cognitive archaeology deals with the study of artefacts, sourced from the archaeological record, to arrive at conclusions about why and what ancient people were thinking when they built or used the objects under consideration.
- ✘ Cognitive archaeology is the branch of archaeology that investigates the development of human cognition.
- ✘ Cognitive archaeology is the study of past ways of thought as inferred from the surviving material remains.
- ✘ Although in the broad sense this initiative might be regarded as including any attempt to reconstruct the 'meaning' to their makers and users of the objects and the symbols from the past which the archaeologist recovers

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- ✘ To recover such ‘meaning’ remains the avowed goal of some researchers working in the recent ‘hermeneutic’ or interpretive tradition which arose with the ‘post-processual’ archaeology of the 1980s and 1990s .
  - ✘ For those working in that tradition, which can be traced back to the earlier work of R.G.Collingwood and of the Italian philosopher Benedetto Croce
  - ✘ It therefore deals with a great variety of evidence, ranging from early rock art to other forms of paleoart, from animal cognition to palaeo-anthropology to psychology and onto cognitive development, and it also needs to concern itself with evidence of early human technology and the ability of domesticating natural systems of energy.
  - ✘ In short, this Endeavour needs to draw its information from many disciplines

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- ✘ The field of cognitive archaeology falls naturally into two sub-fields.
  - ✘ The first deals with the evolution of the cognitive capacities of our pre-sapient (i.e. before *Homo sapiens sapiens*) ancestors. This is the long story of the developing skills and abilities of such ancestral species as *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*, as well as of our relatives *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*. It is the story therefore of the emergence of human capacities, including the use of language and the development of self-awareness, up to what is sometimes called the ‘human revolution’ which involves the appearance of our own species, *Homo sapiens sapiens*.
  - ✘ The second field of cognitive archaeology involves the subsequent emergence within our species of the varying cognitive capacities and devices associated with the different trajectories of cultural development which diverse human societies have since then followed. Notable among these has been the development of writing, apparently quite independently in different parts of the world.

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- ✘ Its ultimate purpose is to consider how early humans managed to formulate their various constructs of reality, and how these may have led to the worldviews held by the human species today.
  - ✘ Therefore human cognitive evolution is intimately connected to fundamental questions of epistemology: what were the processes that led to the way we experience the world today, that created the frameworks of reference humans use to map the physical reality they perceive to exist

# ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ Environmental archaeology is a field of archaeology that studies the mutual effect of man and environment by reproducing the paleoenvironment around the site.
- ✘ The objective of environmental archaeology is not to merely learn about changes in the paleoenvironment, but to find out how people of the past adapted to the surrounding natural environment, how they obtained various resources from the natural environment and how they altered the natural environment.
- ✘ Environmental archaeology can be roughly divided into geoarchaeology and bioarchaeology.
- ✘ "Environment" in geoarchaeology refers to the geographical environment. It borrows the concepts and research methods of topography, geology, pedology, geography and so on.
- ✘ "Environment" in bioarchaeology refers to the natural environment. It borrows the concepts and research methods of botany, zoology, anthropology and so on.
- ✘ The type of research employed in environmental archaeology



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- ✘ Environmental archaeology is the study of the relationship between humans and their natural environment through time.
  - ✘ As a sub-discipline of archaeology, it has grown dramatically since the late 1960s, largely through the stimulus of the 'New Archaeology' drawing upon systems theory and ecological archaeology .
  - ✘ However, its roots go back to those years that followed Darwin's seminal publication.
  - ✘ Many of the principal lines of enquiry within the sub-discipline were already underway by the end of the nineteenth century, including the studies of vertebrate remains, insects, molluscs, plant macrofossils, peat stratigraphy and glacial geomorphology.
  - ✘ In 1916, these were finally complemented by one of the most pivotal methodologies within environmental archaeology, *pollen analysis*.
  - ✘ Today, environmental archaeology encompasses the study of a wide range of materials that have in common that they are not predominantly shaped by human action. They are not *artefacts* but *ecofacts*. Their form reflects human engagement with nature, rather than culture, with climate, weather, biology and landform.

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- ✘ The boundary is far less clear than was once thought, as all archaeological materials bear witness to their natural origin and cultural modification.
  - ✘ Recently archaeologists have found it interesting to look upon pottery as harvested mud, and meals as artefacts, blurring and subverting these boundaries
  - ✘ Nonetheless, as environmental evidence in broad terms presents different challenges to artefactual evidence, environmental archaeology has a range of its own concepts, which not surprisingly have close parallels with concepts relating to artefact study.
  - ✘ The type of research employed in environmental archaeology is generically referred to as "natural scientific analysis."

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- ✘ As the fields of research used in environmental archaeology become more diversified, archaeologists must conduct joint research together with experts in various types of natural scientific analysis.
  - ✘ It also demands that the respective results research be generalized. It is important for those involved in archaeological excavation to have a clear sense of purpose, and they need to have the necessary knowledge and must be prepared in order to employ environmental archaeology properly

# GENDER ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Gender archaeology is a sub-discipline investigative method of studying ancient societies through close examination of the roles played by men and women as exhibited in the archaeological record of the past
- ✘ **Gender archaeology** is a method of studying past societies through their material culture by closely examining the social construction of gender identities and relations.
- ✘ Gender archaeology itself is based on the ideas that even though nearly all individuals are naturally born to a biological sex (usually either male or female, although also intersex), there is nothing natural about gender, which is actually a social construct which varies between cultures and changes through time.
- ✘ Gender archaeologists examine the relative positions in society of men, women, and children through identifying and studying the differences in power and authority they held, as they are manifested in material (and skeletal) remains.
- ✘ These differences can survive in the physical record although they are not always immediately apparent and are often open to interpretation.
- ✘ The relationship between the genders can also inform relationships between other social groups such as families, different classes, ages and religions.

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- ✘ Archaeologist Bruce Trigger noted that gender archaeology differed from other variants of the discipline that developed around the same time, such as working-class archaeology, indigenous archaeology and community archaeology, in that "instead of simply representing an alternate focus of research, it has established itself as a necessary and integral part of all other archaeologies.
  - ✘ Gender archaeology studies begun in the last three decades within the English-speaking archaeological community. Margaret Conkey and Janet D. Spector (1984) are considered the first in the Anglo-American field to examine the application of feminist approaches and insights to archaeological practice and theory.

# MARXIST ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ **Marxist archaeology** is an archaeological theory that interprets archaeological information within the framework of Marxism.
- ✘ Although neither Karl Marx nor Friedrich Engels described how archaeology could be understood in a Marxist conception of history, it was developed by archaeologists in the Soviet Union during the early twentieth century.
- ✘ Becoming the dominant archaeological theory in that country, it was subsequently adopted by archaeologists in other nations, particularly the United Kingdom, where it was propagated by influential archaeologist Gordon Childe.
- ✘ With the rise of post-processual archaeology in the 1980s and 1990s, forms of Marxist archaeology were once more popularised amongst the archaeological community.
- ✘ Marxist archaeology has been characterised as having "generally adopted a materialist base and a processual approach whilst emphasising the historical-developmental context of archaeological data".

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- ✘ The theory argues that past societies should be examined through Marxist analysis, thereby having a materialistic basis.
  - ✘ It holds that societal change comes about through class struggle, and while it may have once held that human societies progress through a series of stages, from primitive communism through slavery, feudalism and then capitalism, it is typically critical of such evolutionary typology today.
  - ✘ Marxist archaeology places an **emphasis on learning how people lived and worked in the past.**
  - ✘ In attempting to do this, Marxist archaeologists working in the **Soviet Union** during the **1920s** and following decades denounced what they saw as "artifactology", the simple categorising of artefacts in typologies, because they believed that it took archaeological focus away from the human beings who created and used them.

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- ✘ Marxist archaeology was first pioneered in the Soviet Union, a state run by a Marxist government, during the 1920s.
  - ✘ Upon taking power in the Russian Empire and reforming it as a socialist republic following the 1917 revolution, the Communist Party – as a part of their general support for scientific advancement – encouraged archaeological study, founding the **Russian Academy for the History of Material Culture in 1919**.
  - ✘ Soon renamed the **State Academy for the History of Material Culture** following the re-designation of the Empire as the Soviet Union, it was centred in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), and initially followed pre-existing archaeological theories, namely culture-historical archaeology



# GEO-ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ **Geoarchaeology is a multi-proxy approach where geographical and geoscientific concepts and methods are applied to Prehistory, Archaeology and History.**
- ✘ **Geoarchaeology consists in using methods and concepts of the Earth Sciences for archaeological research purposes.**
- ✘ However, to elucidate environmental contextual issues, geoarchaeologists must be more than casual practitioners of applied science
- ✘ Indeed, if archaeological excavation emerged in the 18th Century with a systematic analysis of the material excavated—notably in Herculaneum (Italy), stratigraphic excavation that applied environmental evolution data for the first time ever did not become established until the end of the 19th Century.
- ✘ Finally, to better understand environmental changes, particularly throughout the historical period, geomorphological research became an essential preliminary to the study of all archaeological sites in the 1980s

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- ✘ **Geoarchaeology is a multi-disciplinary approach which uses the techniques and subject matter of geography, geology and other Earth sciences to examine topics which inform archaeological knowledge and thought.**
  - ✘ **Geoarchaeologists study the natural physical processes that affect archaeological sites such as geomorphology, the formation of sites through geological processes and the effects on buried sites and artifacts post-deposition.**
  - ✘ **Geoarchaeologists' work frequently involves studying soil and sediments as well as other geographical concepts to contribute an archaeological study.**  
Geoarchaeologists may also use computer cartography, geographic information systems (GIS) and digital elevation models (DEM) in combination with disciplines from human and social sciences and earth sciences.
  - ✘ **Geoarchaeology is important to society because it informs archaeologists about the geomorphology of the soil, sediments and the rocks on the buried sites and artifacts they're researching on.**
  - ✘ **By doing this we are able locate ancient cities and artifacts and estimate by the quality of soil how "prehistoric" they really are.**
  - ✘ **It provides evidence for the development, preservation, and destruction of archaeological sites, and for regional-scale environmental change and the evolution of the physical landscape, including the impact of human groups.**

# BEHAVIOURAL ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ Behavioral archaeology is a social science with a unique approach to the study of human behavior.
- ✘ Inspired by the New Archaeology early in the **1970s**, **J. Jefferson Reid, William L. Rathje, and Michael B. Schiffer** ambitiously redefined archaeology as a discipline that focused on the role objects play in all human activities past and present.
- ✘ By giving material objects an active role in behavior, they could extend the rigor of archaeological analyses of artifacts into other social science arenas, giving archaeology a more central role in the production of method and theory.
- ✘ Not surprisingly, behavioral archaeologists developed new models of inference for handling archaeological evidence and material culture.
- ✘ This has led to detailed studies of how technologies are developed and change as well as the extension of behaviorally oriented studies on subjects such as ritual and communication that have typically not been arenas for object-focused studies of behavior

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- ✘ Behavioral archaeology is an emerging branch of anthropology emphasizing the study of relationships between human behavior and artifacts (material culture) in all times and places
  - ✘ As such, it aspires to make contributions beyond the confines of archaeology to other behavioral sciences and to society in general.
  - ✘ *'Behavioral Archaeology'* is a selection of writings by Michael Schiffer, one of the field's primary proponents. Schiffer lists the field's most important principles, tenets, and premises.
  - ✘ Readers will discover that although behavioral archaeologists have put archaeological inference on a scientific footing and have fostered the growth of experimental archaeology and ethnoarchaeology as research strategies, behavioral archaeology is not confined to methodology.

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- ✘ Indeed, cultivation of the fields established here is leading to the development of new behavioral science focused on **studies of people-artifact interactions.**
  - ✘ An approach to the study of archaeological materials formulated by **Michael B. Schiffer in the mid-1970s that privileged the analysis of human behaviour and individual actions, especially in terms of the making, using, and disposal of material culture**
  - ✘ In particular this **focused on observing and understanding what people actually did, while refraining from considering people's thoughts and intentions in explaining that behaviour.**

# EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ **Experimental archaeology** (also called **experiment archaeology** and **experiential archaeology**) is a field of study which **attempts to generate and test archaeological hypotheses, usually by replicating or approximating the feasibility of ancient cultures performing various tasks.**
- ✘ **It employs a number of methods, techniques, analyses, and approaches, based upon archaeological source material such as ancient structures or artifacts**
- ✘ Living history and historical reenactment, which are generally undertaken as a hobby, are the non archaeological person's version of this academic discipline.
- ✘ One of the main forms of experimental archaeology is the **creation of copies of historical structures using only historically accurate technologies.**
- ✘ This is sometimes known as **reconstruction archaeology** or **reconstructional archaeology**; however, reconstruction implies an exact replica of the past, when it is in fact just a construction of one person's idea of the past; the more archaeologically correct term is a *working construction of the past.*

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- ✘ In recent years, **experimental archaeology has been featured** in several television productions, such as **BBC's "Building the Impossible"** and the **PBS's *Secrets of Lost Empires***.
  - ✘ Most notable were the **attempts to create several of Leonardo da Vinci's designs from his sketchbooks, such as his 15th century armed fighting vehicle.**
  - ✘ Experimental archaeology is one of the very practical methods of archaeological interpretation.
  - ✘ It is a living analytical process used to re-create aspects in part or in whole, of ancient societies in order to test hypotheses or proposed interpretations and assumptions about that society.
  - ✘ Experimental archaeology attempts **to observe a modern manufactured replica of an ancient site and/or objects based on the discoveries of items from the archaeological record, in a controlled environment where archaeologists can test and re-test their theories about the lost society.**

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- ✘ Experimental archaeology has **two distinct variants**.
  - ✘ The **first is called historical re-enactment** and it is **an artificial re-creation of a past culture (or part of it) and the testing of all of the many theories about building construction, transport systems, weapons, metals, ceramics, use of fire and so on.**
  - ✘ The **second variant is known as living history**, and it requires archaeologists, usually coupled with anthropologists, to **find a similar modern group of people living in and under the same types of conditions of the ancient target group, and to live with, or at the very least, to observe and study that group in order to determine the how's, what's and why's that are unstated in the archaeological record.**
  - ✘ **Historical re-enactment is the most common form of experimental archaeology** and by far the most profitable for researchers as tests can be repeated and small adjustments made in a suitably controlled manner to yield scientifically valid results.



# INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Industrial ARCHAEOLOGY is a type of interdisciplinary history **that promotes understanding of the industrial era by focusing on physical remains, whether above ground or below, and by combining the insights of fieldwork and historical research.**
- ✘ The name is recent in origin but already is well established throughout the world
- ✘ **Industrial archaeology (IA) is the systematic study of material evidence associated with the industrial past.**
- ✘ This evidence, collectively referred to as **industrial heritage, includes buildings, machinery, artifacts, sites, infrastructure, documents and other items associated with the production, manufacture, extraction, transport or construction of a product or range of products.**
- ✘ The field of industrial archaeology **incorporates a range of disciplines including archaeology, architecture, construction, engineering, historic preservation, museology, technology, urban planning and other specialties, in order to piece together the history of past industrial activities.**

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- ✘ The scientific interpretation of material evidence is often necessary, as the written record of many industrial techniques is often incomplete or nonexistent. Industrial archaeology **includes both the examination of standing structures and sites that must be studied by an excavation**
  - ✘ The field of industrial archaeology developed during the **1950s in Great Britain**, at a time when many historic industrial sites and artifacts were being lost throughout that country.
  - ✘ In the **1960s and 1970s**, with the rise of national cultural heritage movements, industrial archaeology grew as a distinct form of archaeology, with a strong emphasis on preservation, first in Great Britain, and later in the United States and other parts of the world.
  - ✘ During this period, the **first organized national industrial heritage inventories** were begun, including the Industrial Monuments Survey in England and the Historic American Engineering Record in the United States.

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- ✘ Additionally, a number of regional and national IA organizations were established, including the **North American-based Society for Industrial Archeology in 1971**, and the **British-based Association for Industrial Archaeology in 1973**.
  - ✘ That same year, the *First International Conference on the Conservation of Industrial Monuments* was held at Ironbridge in Shropshire. (England)
  - ✘ This conference led, in 1978, to the formal establishment of **The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage** (commonly known as "TICCIH") as a worldwide organization for the **promotion of industrial heritage**.
  - ✘ The members of these and other IA groups are generally a diverse mix of professionals and amateurs who share a common interest in promoting the study, appreciation and preservation of industrial heritage resources.

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- ✘ The term “**industrial archaeology**” was popularised in **Great Britain in 1955** by **Michael Rix of Birmingham University**, who wrote an article in *The Amateur Historian*, about the need for greater study and preservation of 18th and 19th century industrial sites and relics of the **British industrial revolution**.
  - ✘ In 1959, Council for British Archaeology (CBA) established an **industrial archaeology research committee**.
  - ✘ In **1965**, the **National Record of Industrial Monuments (NRIM)** was created as a central archive for the record cards
  - ✘ By the late 1960s, a number of local industrial archaeology groups had been formed in the UK, including the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology in 1963, the Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society in 1967, and the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society in 1968, among others.
  - ✘ **The primary mission of these local IA groups during this period was recording the remaining relics of industrial history, especially those deemed to be most at risk from urban redevelopment schemes.**

# HOLISTIC/CONTEXTUAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Holistic archaeology involves a broad and inclusive approach to archaeological research.
- ✘ Articulated in a series of publications by American archaeologists **Joyce Marcus and Kent Flannery** since the **1970s**
- ✘ holistic archaeology involves the **comprehensive investigation of all aspects of human societies, from ecological relationships and economy, to social organisation and politics, to art and ideology.**
- ✘ The theory and methods of holistic archaeology are particularly suited to the work of anthropological archaeologists and especially those interested in complex societies (such as the Maya, Aztec, Moche or Inca) for which the archaeological record is rich and complex.
- ✘ As a wide-ranging investigation of different phenomena and their interrelationships, holistic archaeology also **encompasses diverse methods and sources, including ethnography, ethno-history and contextual archaeology.**

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- ✘ During the 1960s, as processual archaeology emerged , archaeologists developed ecological models and emphasised the reconstruction of past environments using scientific techniques.
  - ✘ In line with cultural evolutionary theory ,these archaeologists saw societies as adaptive systems; innovations in technology that facilitated the production of a surplus were given primary emphasis in explanations for societal change.
  - ✘ Changes in other spheres of life, from social institutions to religion and ideology, were of interest to these scholars, although for many they were epiphenomenal—i.e. of secondary importance.
  - ✘ This bias, coupled with the difficulties inherent in studying symbols and their meanings in the archaeological record, meant that the study of religion or art was often relegated to the sidelines or left entirely to researchers in other disciplines such as art history.
  - ✘ Flannery believed that human societies depended critically upon ritual activities and socio-political institutions that managed and regulated social relations and monitored human use of the natural environment.

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- ✘ Flannery insisted that **states emerged through complex interactions of multiple variables, from technology and the economy to social institutions and the symbolic.**
  - ✘ Building upon these theoretical foundations, holistic archaeology helped to **bridge an intellectual divide that has often separated anthropological archaeologists (with interests in subsistence and ecology) from humanist scholars (whose emphasis is on art, symbolic systems or religion).**
  - ✘ A holistic approach **involves archaeological study conducted with careful reference to information from the related disciplines of ethnohistory and ethnography wherever possible.**
  - ✘ While holistic **archaeology encourages the use of ethnohistoric and ethnographic evidence, it also offers a clear methodology—called contextual archaeology—for the study of archaeological remains.**
  - ✘ This approach was presented in one chapter of Flannery's edited volume, ***The Early Mesoamerican Village***. In this book, processual archaeologists explored new techniques of statistical and spatial analysis using data from Formative Period (1500 BC to AD 100) villages in Mesoamerica.

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- ✘ In a contextual analysis, a researcher asks about an artefact's context (e.g. its location within the site and its associations with other artefacts), with the goal of inferring the nature of the human behaviour or activity that led to the artefact being deposited there.
  - ✘ Contextual archaeology is concerned, therefore, not only with single artefacts, but also with the associations among artefacts.



# SYMBOLIC AND STRUCTURALIST ARCHAEOLOGY

- ✘ The archaeology of symbolism has a long pedigree, even if research in this area was not always known by that name.
- ✘ For example, culture historical approaches focused on style and cultural variation that was often thought to relate to groups of people. The styles of cultures ‘represented’ social or ethnic groups, and in this sense they were symbolic. The symbolism of an artefact is usually defined as the secondary meanings that go beyond primary (often functional) use. Thus an axe may be used to cut down a tree (the primary or ‘sign’ meaning of the axe) but its secondary meaning may refer to strength, or agricultural power, or the people that used it. Thus the axe can ‘stand for’ or represent the group—the axe symbolises the group. On the whole, however, culture historical approaches to symbolism focused most on the affiliations between regional styles and cultures without exploring secondary meanings very fully.
- ✘ To some extent the situation changed in processual archaeology , although the focus on symbols primarily concerned how the symbols functioned to enhance adaptations of people to environments,

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- ✘ So symbols were seen as a function of information exchange.
  - ✘ The main interest of processual approaches to symbols concerned their functional aspects rather than their secondary meanings. Another important area of processual concern with symbols was the study of burial assemblages where the presence of prestige goods helped to identify individuals of higher status.
  - ✘ One of the limitations of such views is that symbolism is seen as compartmentalized and peripheral or secondary. But in fact it is difficult to identify any act or object that does not have symbolic meaning. It is also often difficult to argue that the functional meanings are always primary over the symbolic or representational. An alternative view is that everything is symbolic to some degree, or that symbolism is everywhere

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- ✘ Marxist archaeologists in general believe that the bipolarism that exists between the processual and post-processual debates is an opposition inherent within knowledge production and is in accord with a dialectical understanding of the world.
  - ✘ Many Marxist archaeologists believe that it is this polarism within the anthropological discipline (and all academic disciplines) that fuels the questions that spur progress in archaeological theory and knowledge.
  - ✘ This constant interfacing and conflict between the extremes of the two heuristic playing grounds (subjective vs. objective) is believed to result in a continuous reconstruction of the past by scholars
  - ✘ Marxist archaeologists often interpret the archaeological record as displaying this progression through forms of society.

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- ✘ **Archaeometry**, the study of archaeological and art history materials using the techniques of the physical and biological sciences, including radiometric dating and the chemical and isotopic analysis of artefacts.

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- ✘ Depending on the condition of the site or artifact, recording typically consists of compiling a brief summary of the site's history through available records, including old maps or photographs, followed by detailed onsite measurements, drawings and photographs of the existing conditions of the site. Generally, a report is prepared and copies are filed in a public archive for the benefit of future generations. Most recording trips are intended to obtain a general overview of existing conditions, and are not meant to be an exhaustive study.

# SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ✘ Settlement archaeology is the study of the selection criteria and implantation of settlements in the landscape, interrelationships between cities and their rural surroundings, the impact of human occupation on the natural environment and vice versa under past conditions.
- ✘ study of social relationships using archaeological data
- ✘ Includes an inquiry in to the synchronic/structural & diachronic /developmental aspects of social relationships