

HIS6E01-PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
MODULE-1  
PHASES IN THE EVOLUTION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

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An illustration of an archaeological excavation site. In the foreground, a large, unrolled scroll is held in place by a wooden frame with blue corner brackets. The scroll is yellowish-tan and features the title 'Archaeology' in large, bold, yellow letters with a drop shadow. Below the title, the subtitle 'CLUES FROM THE PAST' is written in smaller, brown, block letters. To the right of the subtitle, there is a small red stamp or seal. The background shows an excavation pit with a dirt floor, several large grey stones, and a small pile of rubble. The site is surrounded by green grass.

# Archaeology

CLUES FROM THE PAST

# SOURCES OF HISTORY

## Types of Sources or Evidence



# What is archaeology

- Study of ancient sites & objects to learn about past
  - geographical areas & landscapes
  - types of human made objects, such as pottery, coins or writing materials
  - types of human buildings & earthworks
  - organic materials such as human remains, wood, pollen etc

# What is archaeology?

- The scientific study of the physical evidence of past human societies recovered through the excavation. Archaeologists not only attempt to discover and describe past cultures, but to explain the development of these cultures.



# DEFINITIONS

- Studies the story of man's past through his material remains
- Greek word- Archaios- Ancient / Arche- beginning / Logos – theory or science
- 'archaeology is essentially a method of reconstructing the past from the surviving traces of former societies'
- it is a branch of learning that is concerned with the material vestiges of man, 'everything made by human beings from simple tools to complex machines from the earliest temples & tombs to palaces, cathedrals & pyramids'
- Leonard Cottrell- it is a continuing story ' which begins with the first appearance of man on earth & will only end with the final extinction of the species'

- Glyn Daniel- ‘archaeology deals with everything from Eoliths to time capsule & covers such an enormous field that much of it is dealt with in specialist studies such as history of art & architecture’
- Able to probe farther back & study human history even prior to the time of the written records
- Gordon Childe – ‘period covered by written record is at best one hundredth part of the time during which men have been active in our planet. Archaeology surveys a period a hundred times as long’
- ‘About one percent of human past can be studied through written documents . The remaining 99% has left no written record & this is outside the bounds of documentary history. The 99% of human past is the main subject matter of archaeology’
- Study of human culture through material remains

- Greatest achievement of archaeology have been in the study of pre & proto history, where it is the sole source of knowledge