ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

A Systematic Study of the Human Cultural and Social Past using Material Remains
ARCHAEOLOGY

• Uses scientific methods to study the past

• Motive is to record and interpret ancient cultures

• Rather than collecting of artifacts for display or profit
ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE DEAD

• Human behavior

• unified by the concept of culture

• Not artifact collection
Archaeological Goals

• 1) To narrate the sequent story of the past

  – Culture History

    • Descriptive model
    • When, Where, and How
Archaeological Goals

• 2) Explain the past in terms of processes that created it
  – Cultural Process
    • Explanation
    • Why questions
    • Deductive approach

• Culture Change
Archaeological Record

- Artifacts
- Ecofacts
- Features
- Sites
ARTIFACTS

- Raw material of archaeological study
- Material culture
- Any object that was made by humans, or owes its place to human action
ARTIFACTS

• Examination of attributes
• Manifestations of cultural behavior
  – belief systems, ideas, technology
ECOFACTS

• Recoverable remnants of natural environment
  – bone
  – botanical
  – pollen
FEATURES

- Clusters of artifacts and ecofacts representing specific activities
  - hearths
  - pyvns
  - wells pits
  - tombs
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

• Less precise
• Dense concentration of artifacts and features
• However, they are far more
  – several occupational levels?
Site Excavation

- Spatial patterning
- Relationship of each artifact/feature in space and time
- Context!
- Laws of Association
- Indicative of human behavior
Site Excavation

- Grid - Datum
- Scrapping layers of soil
- Screening
Site Excavation

- Mapping
- Recording spatial contexts
- 3 - Dimensional
Geophysical techniques

- Ground-penetrating radar
- Magnetometer
- Electrical resistivity
- Side-scanning sonar
Multi-Disciplinary Studies

- Geography
  - Settlement patterns
  - site location
  - catchment analysis
  - gravity models
Multi-Disciplinary Studies

Figure 2.2
The interdisciplinary approach to archaeological problems.
Multi-Disciplinary Studies

• Biology
  – reconstruction of diet
  – paleoenvironments
  – seasonality

  – Forensic aspects of the human skeleton

  – DNA
Multi-Disciplinary Studies

• Geology
  – Stratigraphy
  – Soil formation
  – Lithic analysis
Multi-Disciplinary Studies

- Chemistry
  - flourine dating

- Physics
  - Radio-carbon dating
  - TL dates
Laboratory

- Cataloguing
- Artifact Analysis
- Computer Databases
- Statistical Analyses
- GIS
- Artifact Conservation
Archaeology and Death

- 18th -19th Century
- Walton Family Cemetery
- Sand & Gravel
- 29 graves
Bioarchaeology

- Southern New England Vampire Folk Belief
- Tuberculosis
- Re-arrangement of skeleton
Pre-Contact Archaeology

- 13,000 to 500 years ago
- Native American heritage
- cultural adaptations to changing environmental conditions
Historical Archaeology

- Written Records
- Material Culture
- New Interpretations
- CT = 17th century through 20th century
Underwater Archaeology

- Shipwrecks

- Rising sea levels and Native American sites submerged
Cornfield Point Lightship

- Coast Guard Vessel
- Sank in 1923 in LIS
Side-Scanning Sonar Image

- Vessel upright
- Hull down
- Archaeological Preserve
Archaeological Preservation

- Economic Development
- CRM
- Vandalism