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# Introduction to Archaeology Past, Present and Future

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# **Class 1 | The Basics: Archaeology 101**

— Archaeology and its  
methods (Continuation) —

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# Questions!

Let's review the material from Class 1!

artifacts

survey

material culture

stratigraphy

archaeology

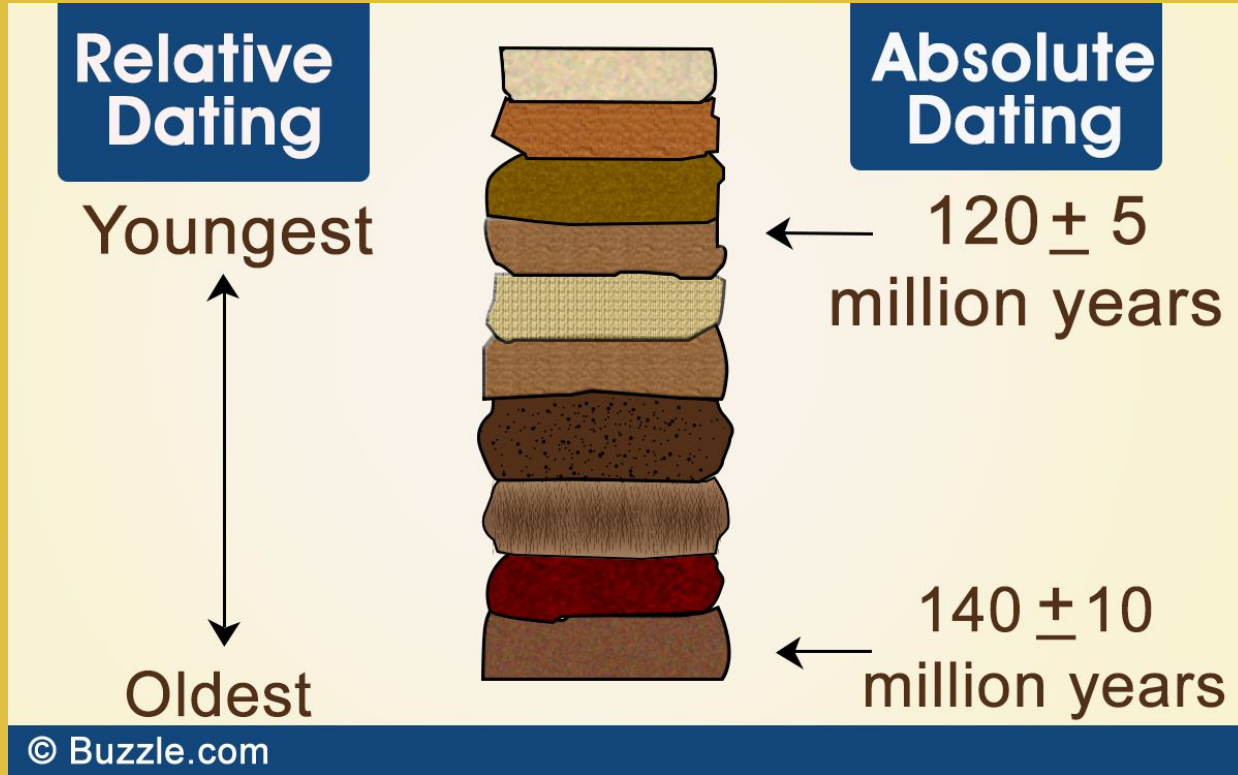
excavation

relative dating

ecofacts

absolute dating

# Absolute vs. Relative Dating



# Absolute Dating

The shirt from Tarkhan, Egypt

3482-3102 BCE



# Relative Dating



[www.kahoot.it/](http://www.kahoot.it/) Game Pin 8050770

1



2



3



4



5



6

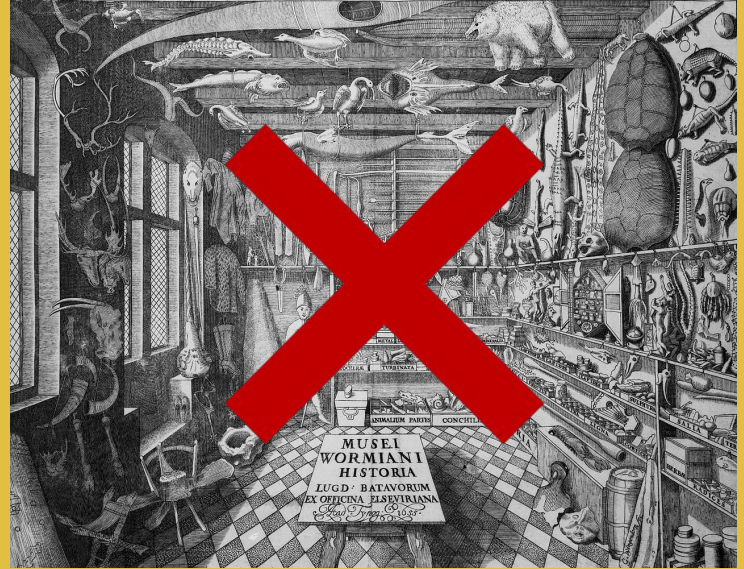




# What isn't archaeology?



Indiana Jones, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Paramount Pictures, 1981



Frontispiece from the Museum Wormianum depicting Ole Worm's cabinet of curiosities



# Looting

Loss of context = loss of knowledge



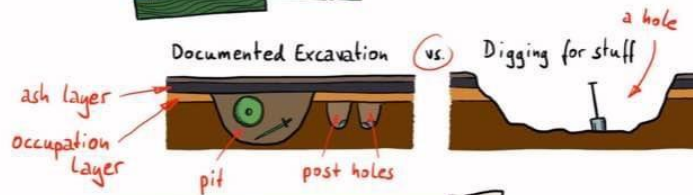
Cerro de Oro, Peru. Jackeline Paico  
Correa



Evidence for looting visible from space. Ignacio  
Cancino



Archaeology is not about nice objects. Not only.



A lone object is like an image ripped from a book. But only in context of the rest of the book this image really makes sense.



# Archaeology 101 Kahoot!!!

[https://kahoot.it?pin=4552743&refer\\_method=link](https://kahoot.it?pin=4552743&refer_method=link)

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# Class 2 | From the Ground to the Museum

Where do objects go after  
they are excavated?

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**Where do you think material  
culture goes after it is excavated by  
archaeologists?**

1. Storage awaiting to be researched
2. Museum exhibit - less than 10% of museum collections are on display!



THE SPURLOCK MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-  
CHAMPAIGN



HALL OF NATIVE SOUTH AMERICAN PEOPLES, AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL  
HISTORY



# History of Museums

Cabinets of Curiosities  
Antiquarianism

The study of ancient and rare objects under the official purpose of “science and research” but clouded by colonialist thought and desire of ownership of the heritage of other cultures.



# Museums Today

Open access information  
and photos

Hands -on research

Preservation in controlled  
environments

Educational material

Promoting connection  
with one's heritage



# Types of Museums

Take a few minutes to do Google research and come up with three different kinds of museums and an example from the USA for each type.

Tell us which museum would you like to visit soon and why?

# Archaeology and the Law

Local and global  
protections to prevent  
looting and the selling of  
material culture in the  
antiquities black market



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Convention for the fight  
against the illicit trafficking  
of cultural property

# Illicit Antiquities Trafficking

War zones

Terrorism

Other illegal activities  
(subsistence looting)

Supporting  
an armed conflict  
has never been  
so decorative.

**Funerary relief  
Palmyra, 50-150 A.D.**

This priceless antiquity was stolen in the National Museum of Palmyra by Islamic State militants during their occupation of the city, before being smuggled into the European market. The trade in antiquities is one of the terror group's main sources of funding.





# So what happens when...

Look through museum archives

Research possible provenance

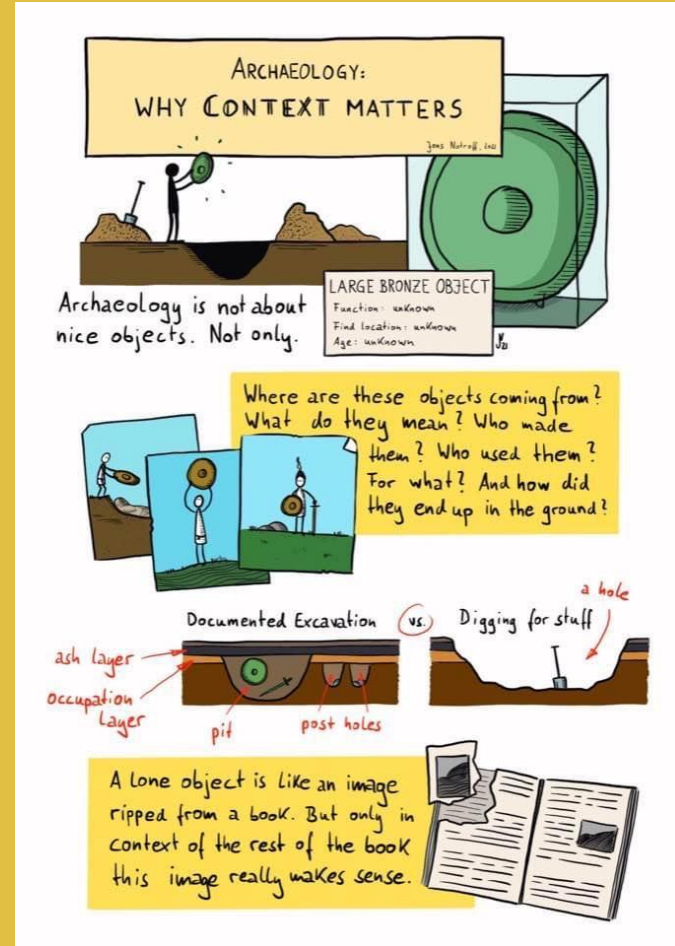
Conduct analysis to find out its date

Research other similar artifacts

Create a label

Invite experts to study it

Repatriate it!





# Cultural Heritage and Repatriation

What is repatriation?

The New York Times

## *Smithsonian Moves Toward Returning Benin Bronzes*

The institution's National Museum of African Art says it has removed the artworks from display. It is the latest museum to begin a process that could lead to the return of the works to Nigeria.



# The Case of the Benin Bronzes



# US-based measures: NAGPRA (1990)

NAGPRA: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Types of evidence:  
geographical, archaeological, biological, oral history, expert analysis, linguistics, folklore, kinship, history, traditional indigenous knowledge

<https://blogs.umass.edu/satalay/repatriation-comic/>

