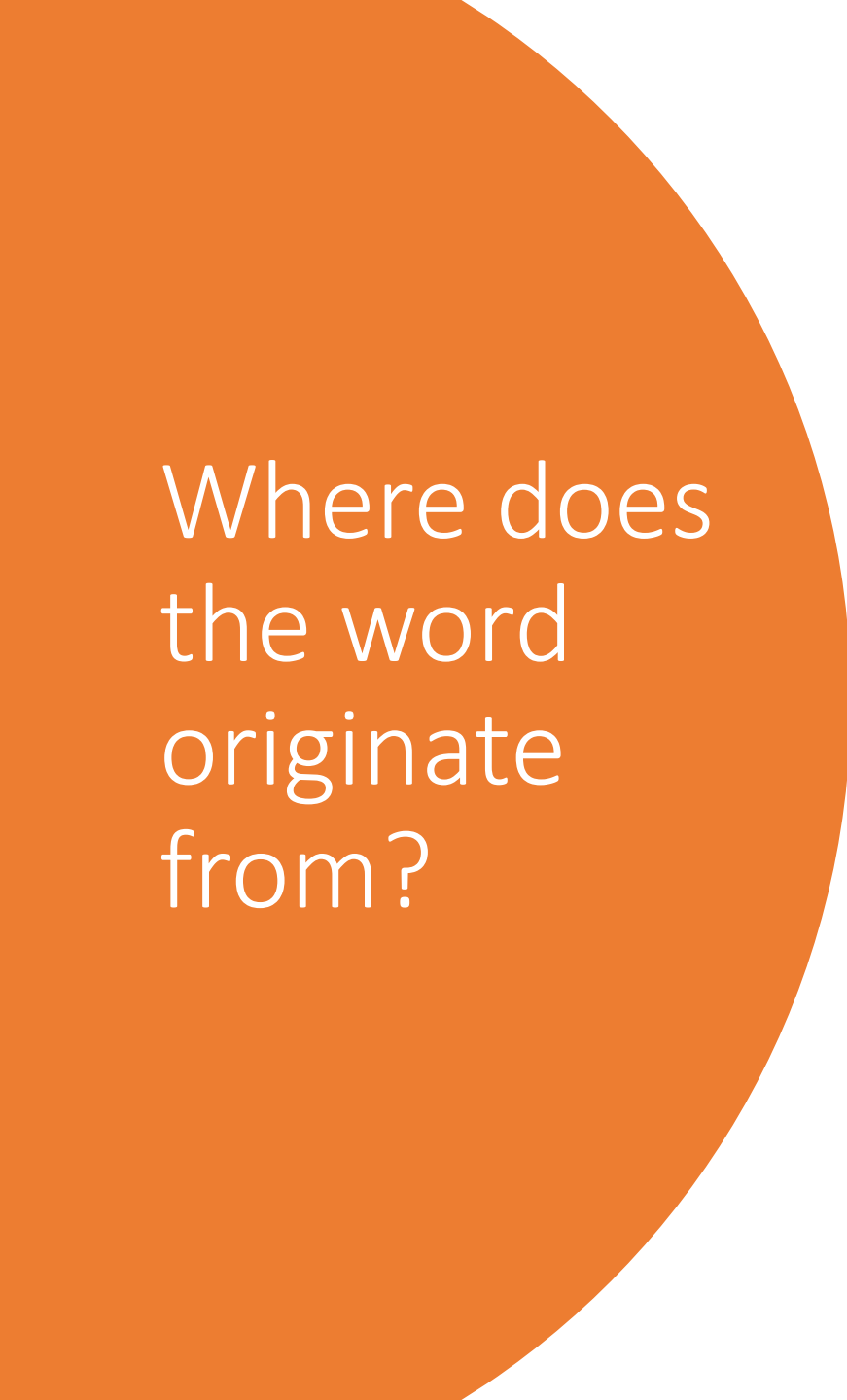



The origins of Archaeology





Where does
the word
originate
from?

- The word archaeology comes from the Greek-“arkhaiologia” or “archaeolos” and “logos” means ‘discourse about ancient things; but today it has come to mean the study of the human past through material traces.
- 

Are there different forms of archaeology?

archaeological science



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graph TD; A[archaeological science] --> B[Bioarchaeology]; B --> C[Classical archaeology]; C --> D[Underwater archaeology]
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Bioarchaeology

Classical archaeology

Underwater archaeology

archaeological science



- Archaeological science consists of the application of scientific techniques to the analysis of archaeological materials and sites.

Bioarchaeology

- Bioarchaeology (oste archaeology) is the study of human remains in archaeological context. It may also be used in a general sense as the study of any biological remains (fauna and flora) recovered from an archaeology site.



Classical archaeology

- Classical archaeology is the archaeological investigation of the Mediterranean civilizations of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. Nineteenth-century archaeologists such as Heinrich Schliemann were drawn to study the societies they had read about in Latin and Greek texts.



Underwater archaeology

- Maritime archaeology is the study of past human cultures with an emphasis on how humans interacted with the world's oceans, lakes and river systems.



There are
many theories
!!!





Early archaeology

- Archaeology has its roots in hunting for old artifacts of past civilizations with little regard to their significance or exact time period.



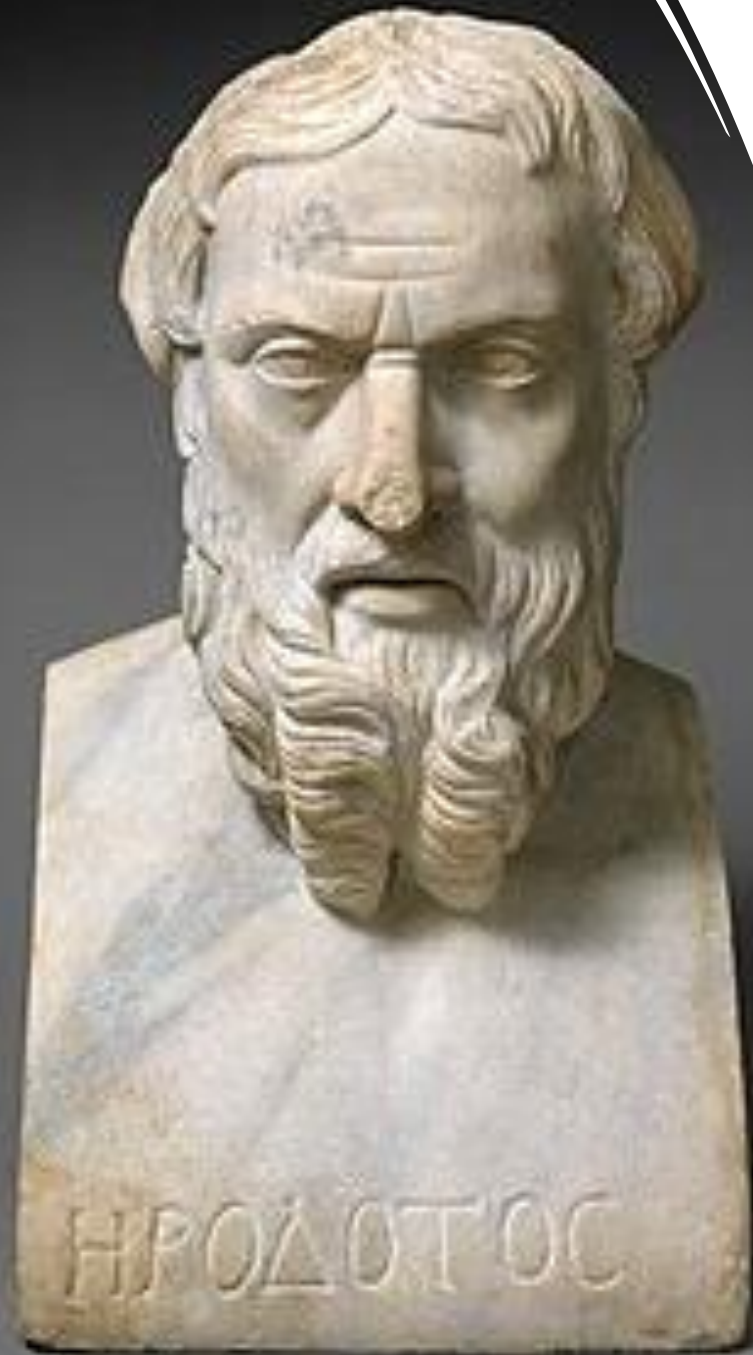
So why
did it
start?

- The development of the field of archaeology has its roots with history and with those who were interested in the past, such as kings and queens and pharaohs who wanted to show past glories of their respective nations.

What was happening in Egypt?



- Khaemwaset, (born c.1303 BCE) a son of ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Ramesses II, was known for his keen interest in identifying and restoring monuments of Egypt's past, such as Djoser's step pyramid. This pyramid, having been built in the 27th century BCE, predated Khaemwaset by approximately 1,400 years. Due to his activities, he is sometimes nicknamed "the first Egyptologist".



Herodotus

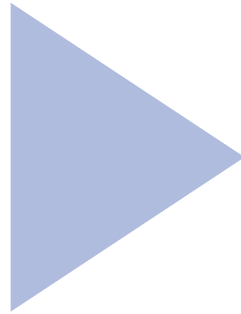
- The 5th-century-BCE Greek historian Herodotus was the first scholar to systematically study the past and also an early examiner of artifacts.

Nabonidus

- Nabonidus was the last king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, ruling from 556 BC to the fall of Babylon to the Achaemenian Empire under Cyrus the Great in 539 BC. Nabonidus was the last native ruler of ancient Mesopotamia,. He was also the last independent king of Babylon. Regarded as one of the most vibrant and individualistic rulers of his time, Nabonidus is characterised by some scholars as an unorthodox religious reformer and as the first archaeologist.



Nabonidus made no
genealogical claims
of kinship to previous
kings



It is possible that he
was connected to the
Chaldean kings via
marriage, possibly
having married a
daughter of
Nebuchadnezzar II
(r. 605–562 BC)

Why is he considered possibly the father of archaeology?

- His excavation and subsequent restoration of ancestral tombs and buildings in Sippar (Iraq) and Harran (Turkey) are believed to be the first known attempts to unearth and understand the past.





Harran in Turkey



Sippar

How do we know this? Nabonidus Cylinder from Sippar

- This cylinder describes how he carefully repaired three temples in Harran and Sippar.
- A copy of this is in the British Museum



The Antiquarian Tradition

- there can be no doubt that it was firmly rooted in all the great empires that arose at the end of the Neolithic era in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China. To build their power base, kings, pharaohs, and emperors needed knowledge. Knowledge about the past—about ancient texts, traditions, and monuments—was part of the political arsenal of every ruler.

Antiquarianism

Antiquarianism represents the investigation of the ancient past. It is the study of archaeological objects in orderly manner to found its age and function.

- An antiquarian researcher will be interested in artifacts only and does not give attention on its context



-
- The search for objects, inscriptions, even monuments from the past is a form of curiosity, most often religious or mystical.
 - The figure of the antiquary first appeared around this time, a person who searched for evidence of the past of all types and styles, and this figure would henceforth be found in all literate societies of the East and West.

-
- Rome, stimulated by the ruins of the Empire's capital, gave this curiosity its origins. Gathering momentum, it spread across the continent:



- Then Venetian and Genoese merchants set off for the eastern Mediterranean in a quest for Greek antiquities. And before long, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia were added to the list of destinations to be explored by antiquaries hoping to enrich the collections of Europe's nobility and bourgeoisie.



Moving
forward a
few
centuries....

- The 15th and 16th centuries saw the rise of antiquarians in Renaissance Europe such as Flavio Biondo who were interested in the collection of artifacts



Flavio Biondo

- Flavio Biondo (1392 –1463) was an Italian Renaissance humanist historian. He was one of the first historians to use a three-period division of history (Ancient, Medieval, Modern) and is known as one of the first archaeologists.



- His scholarly, methodical work contributed greatly to knowledge of the Middle Ages
- He wrote a descriptive catalogue of ruins and monuments of Rome, completed in 1446 and published in 1471, and an archaeological and historical account of Italy from the Alps to Salerno, completed in 1453 and published in Rome in 1474. these documents offer valuable data on monuments extant in 15th-century Italy.

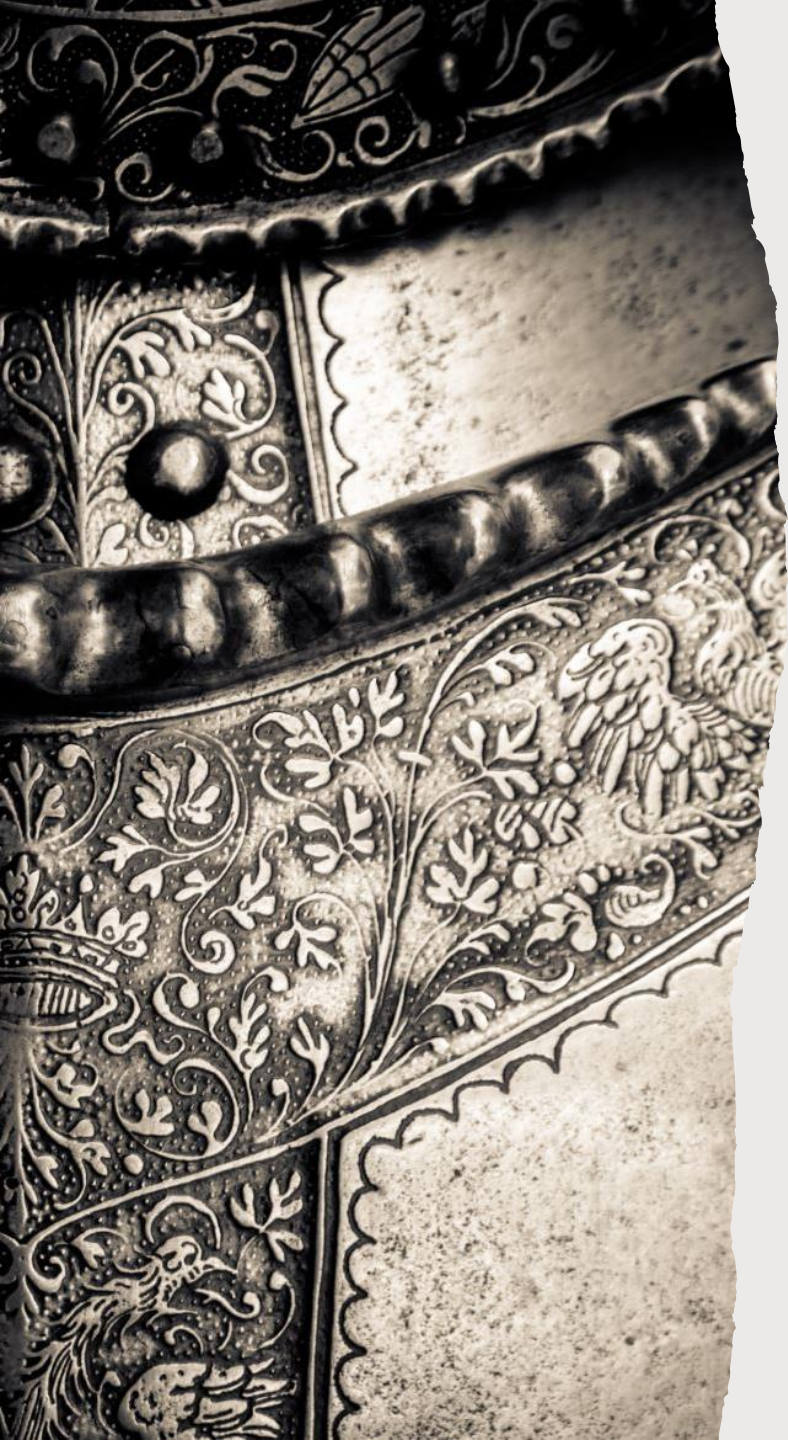


What was happening in china?

- In the Song Empire (960–1279) of Imperial China, Chinese scholar-officials unearthed, studied, and catalogued ancient artifacts, a native practice that continued into the Qing dynasty (1644–1912) before adoption of Western methods.



- Popes, cardinals, and noblemen in Italy in the 16th century began to collect antiquities and to sponsor excavations to find more works of ancient art. These collectors were imitated by others in northern Europe who were similarly interested in antique culture. All this activity, however, was still not archaeology in the strict sense. It was more like what would be called art collecting today.



From antiquary to archaeology

- The seventeenth century marked a decisive stage in the formation of an antiquarian discipline that, not satisfied with merely collecting objects, also tried to interpret them.
- In this context, the transformation of the antiquarian vision evolved into the discipline of archaeology.



-
- Over the past 2 centuries it has evolved into a scientific discipline that studies each item meticulously. By 1800s the field of archaeology was expanding. As more knowledge was accumulated the larger picture became visible with many different cultures able to be identified based on the traces they have left behind.



Egyptian archaeology - egyptology

- Egyptian archaeology began with Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798. He brought with him scholars who set to work recording the archaeological remains of the country. As a result of discoveries made by this expedition, Jean-François Champollion was able to decipher ancient Egyptian writing for the first time in 1822. This decipherment, which enabled scholars to read the numerous writings left by the Egyptians, was the first great step forward in Egyptian archaeology.

Before there was an Indiana Jones

- It seems that people have always been curious about cultures of the past. Evidence of the interest in studying the past goes back at least as far as New Kingdom Egypt (1570-1069 BC) when officials preserved monuments from the Old Kingdom (2613-2589 BC). In the 15th century, King Thutmose IV ordered the Great Sphinx of Giza, which had already nearly been buried in sand, to be excavated. A record of his work was left recorded on a stone tablet, known as the Dream Stele, that was placed between the paws of the monument



Mesopotamian archaeology

- Mesopotamian archaeology also began with hectic digging into mounds in the hopes of finding treasure and works of art, but gradually these gave way in the 1840s to planned digs such as those of the Frenchman Paul-Émile Botta at Nineveh and Khorsabad, and the Englishman Austen Henry Layard at Nimrud,



- No doubt there have always been people who were interested in the material remains of the past, but archaeology as a discipline has its earliest origins in 15th- and 16th-century Europe, when the Renaissance Humanists looked back upon the glories of Greece and Rome.



Early 16th to
mid 18th
centuries - the
prominent
antiquarians
of this period.

John Leland

William Camden

John Aubrey

William Stukeley

William Stukeley



William Stukeley was an antiquarian who contributed to the early development of archaeology in the early 18th century. He also investigated the prehistoric monuments of Stonehenge and Avebury. He was one of the first to attempt to date the megaliths.

An early photograph of Stonehenge
taken July 1877



John Leland

- John Leland conducted topographical surveys of England's countryside, drawing, describing and interpreting the monuments that they encountered.



English antiquarians of the 16th century

- (1503-1552)
- John Leland was concerned to record evidence for the history of England and Wales as it was visible in the landscape, and he therefore took pains to note all kinds of archaeological remains, including megaliths, hillforts, and Roman and medieval ruins



William Camden (1551-1623)

He was best known as author of Britannia, the first chorographical survey of the islands of Great Britain and Ireland

He also travelled throughout Great Britain to view documents, sites, and artefacts for himself:

His fieldwork and firsthand research set new standards for the time.

The London borough of Camden is named after him

John Aubrey – 1626-1697

- John Aubrey was a pioneer archaeologist who recorded numerous megalithic and other field monuments in southern England. He also mapped the Avebury henge monument.





Moving forward to the 18th century



The Mediterranean and the Middle East

- Archaeology proper began with an interest in the Greeks and Romans and first developed in 18th-century Italy with the excavations of the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Classical archaeology was established on a more scientific basis by the work of Heinrich Schliemann, who investigated the origins of Greek civilization at Troy and Mycenae in the 1870s

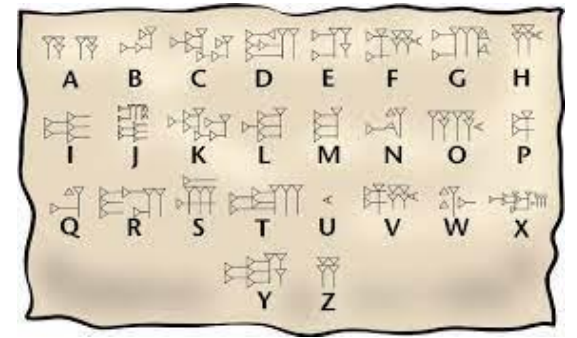
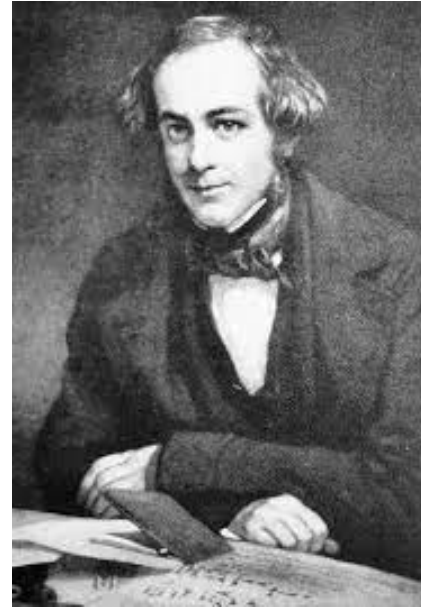


Stratigraphy

- One of the major achievements of 19th century archaeology was the development of stratigraphy. Layers of soil build up over time. Studying the different layers of soil is called stratigraphy. An archaeologist will slowly dig down through these layers of soil to look for artifacts. As a rule, the deeper they dig, the farther back in time they go.



-
- In 1846 Henry Creswicke Rawlinson became the first man to decipher the Mesopotamian cuneiform writing





- He had intended to dig in Crete but did not do so, and it was left to Arthur Evans to begin work at Knossos in 1900 and to discover the Minoan civilization, ancestor of classical Greece.

- The new archaeologists argued that archaeology should focus on explanation of archaeological materials.
- the goal was of understanding the complex factors driving cultural change, and explaining how people adapted to the environmental factors that drove cultural changes.



Flinders Petrie

- Flinders Petrie was a British Archaeologist and Egyptologist.
- • From 1880 to 1883, Flinders studied and excavated The Great Pyramid of Giza.
- • In 1884, Flinders discovered fragments of the statue of Ramses II





Pitt Rivers

1827-1900



Pitt Rivers

Augustus Henry Lane-Fox Pitt Rivers was an English army officer, ethnologist, and archaeologist.

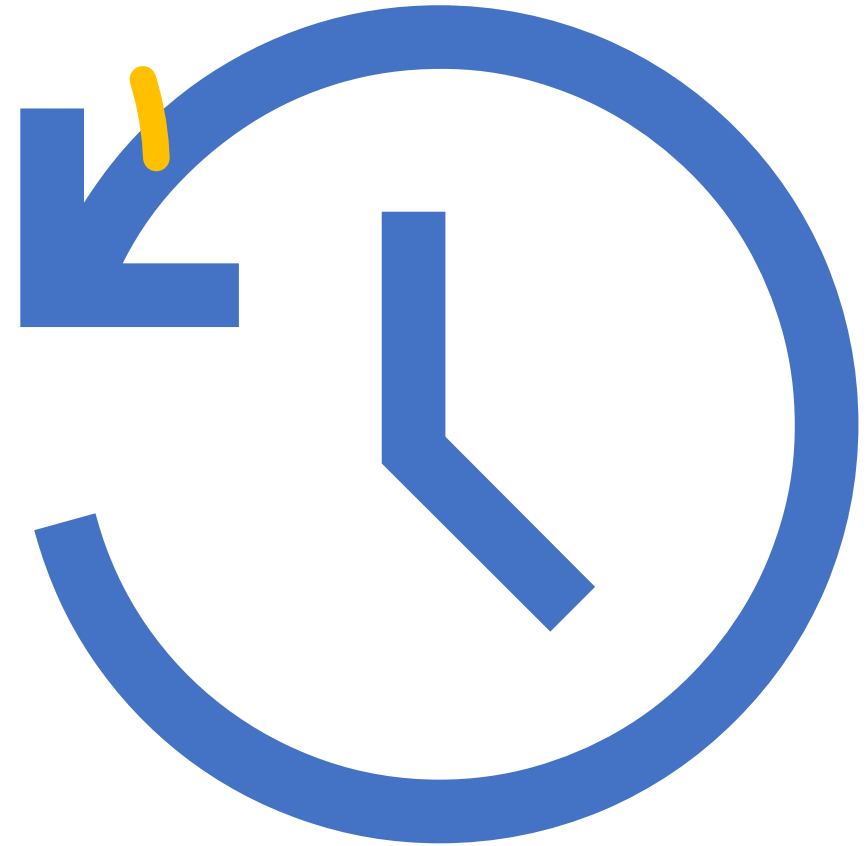
He was noted for innovations in archaeological methodology, and in the museum display of archaeological and ethnological collections.

His international collections are exhibited in the Pitt Rivers Museum at the University of Oxford and at the Salisbury Museum in Wiltshire.

He invented a sequence dating method that made possible the reconstruction of history from the remains of ancient cultures.

Processual Archaeology or New Archaeology- the 1960's

- Processual archaeologist argued that Archaeology is a science and disagree to the traditional view that archaeology is a branch of history that provide material evidences for the historical explanation of the past of prehistoric societies.
- • The new archaeologists argued that archaeology should focus on explanation of archaeological materials.



How has
Archaeology
undergone
change in the
twentieth
century?

- The change is in two ways: approach and techniques. Now Archaeology focuses less on treasure and more on the fascinating details of life and interesting mysteries of death. Secondly, it uses more sophisticated tools including medical technology.

Great finds of the 20th century



Sutton Hoo

- the area consists of two early medieval cemeteries and an important ship burial. To this day, Sutton Hoo is enormously important in studying Anglo-Saxon culture and the history of East Anglia.

Göbekli Tepe- possibly the oldest temple in history

- Göbekli Tepe is a massive site in southeast Turkey dating back to 9,500 BCE. The area was first discovered in 1963, but it wasn't excavated until the mid-1990s. These excavations were started by archeologist Klaus Schmidt,



Machu Picchu

- Found in southern Peru, Machu Picchu was occupied for about one hundred years between the 15th and 16th centuries. Unfortunately, not much is known about the site itself, as the Inca did not have a written language, and therefore did not leave behind any clues. It was eventually rediscovered by explorer Hiram Bingham, who began excavations in 1912.



The Dead Sea Scrolls

- Back in the mid-1940s, three local men were walking through a cave near the Dead Sea when they came across some scrolls housed in old jars. Dated from the 3rd century BCE to the 1st century CE, the scrolls contain important pieces of religious scripture and are largely written in Hebrew.



King Tut's Tomb

- British man Howard Carter made that discovery in November of 1922. After years of failure and dejection, Carter discovered the tomb after his waterboy quite literally tripped over the stairs. Tutankhamun ruled during the Eighteenth Dynasty of Ancient Egypt, his reign spanning 1332 to 1323 BCE.



The Terracotta Army

- the Terracotta Army of China was discovered completely by accident by non-archaeologists. In 1974, a small group of farmers was digging wells in Xi'an, China when they made the startling discovery. And what an amazing discovery it turned out to be. Hundreds of terracotta soldiers, horses, and chariots stand still in time, forever protecting the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. The army dates to approximately 210 BCE, which is when Qin Shi Huang died at the age of 49.



How has archaeology evolved over time?



- Eventually, archaeology evolved into a more systematic discipline. Scientists started using standard weights and measures and other formalized methods for recording and removing artifacts. They required detailed drawings and drafts of the entire dig site, as well as individual pieces.

Post- processual archaeology



- Post-processual archaeology began in Britain during the late 1970s, spearheaded by a number of British archaeologists who had become interested in aspects of French Marxist anthropology. Most prominent among these was Ian Hodder (born 1948),

Who and what inspired me to investigate this ?

- Archaeology: A Secret History is part of BBC Four's season of programmes exploring our fascination with uncovering the past.
- It is a 3 part series lasting 3 hours



