

Digquest — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Digquest.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. Introduction to Archaeology & the Historical Record

Circle the correct answer

1. What is archaeology?

(A) The study of past human life and cultures through the examination of physical remains like artifacts and structures (B) The study of rocks and minerals found underground (C) A type of construction work that involves digging foundations (D) The study of dinosaurs and prehistoric animals

2. What is an artifact?

(A) Any rock or fossil found underground (B) A fake or reproduction of an ancient object (C) Any object made, modified, or used by humans in the past (D) A naturally occurring mineral with unusual properties

3. What is the difference between history and prehistory?

(A) History is true and prehistory is made up (B) History is recent events and prehistory is anything older than 100 years (C) History is the period after writing was invented, while prehistory refers to the time before written records existed (D) History is about important events and prehistory is about unimportant ones

4. Why do archaeologists dig in layers when excavating a site?

(A) Because it's too dangerous to dig straight down quickly (B) Because the government requires them to dig slowly (C) Because older materials are usually buried deeper than newer ones, so layers represent different time periods (D) Because they are looking for the most valuable objects at the bottom

5. Which of the following is a primary source from the past?

(A) A textbook chapter about ancient Rome published in 2020 (B) A museum tour guide's explanation of Roman artifacts (C) A letter written by a Roman soldier describing daily life in the army (D) A fictional novel set in ancient Rome

6. What is an archaeological site?

(A) A place where evidence of past human activity has been found and can be studied (B) A library that contains books about ancient history (C) A museum where ancient objects are displayed (D) Any place where digging has occurred for any purpose

Write the answer

7. An archaeologist finds a broken clay pot at a site. What can she learn from studying it?

Answer: _____

8. What is the main difference between an archaeologist and a paleontologist?

Answer: _____

9. Why is context so important when archaeologists find an artifact?

Answer: _____

10. What tool do archaeologists use to carefully remove soil without damaging fragile artifacts?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What are the three types of evidence that help us learn about the past? →

2. How does carbon-14 dating help archaeologists? →

3. What is a feature in archaeology? →

4. Why is it wrong to take artifacts from archaeological sites without permission? →

5. An archaeologist finds these items in the same layer: fishing hooks, fish bones, and a stone weight. What can she conclude about the people who lived there? →

(A) A non-portable evidence of human activity, such as a wall, hearth, or storage pit that cannot be removed from the site

(B) They likely fished as a regular food source and had developed specialized tools for catching fish

(C) Removing artifacts destroys their context, making it impossible to learn what they can teach us about the past

(D) Written records, physical remains (artifacts and structures), and oral traditions (stories passed down by speaking)

(E) It measures the decay of radioactive carbon in organic materials to estimate how old they are

2. Ancient Mesopotamia & Egypt

Circle the correct answer

11. Why is Mesopotamia often called the 'Cradle of Civilization'?

(A) Because it was shaped like a baby's cradle when viewed from above (B) Because it was one of the first places where humans developed cities, writing, laws, and organized agriculture (C) Because it had the largest population in the ancient world (D) Because it was the most peaceful region in ancient times

12. What was cuneiform?

(A) A mathematical system using only the numbers 1 through 10 (B) A type of ancient weapon used by Mesopotamian soldiers (C) A building technique for constructing pyramids (D) A writing system using wedge-shaped marks pressed into clay tablets, developed by the Sumerians around 3200 BCE

13. What was the Nile River's role in ancient Egyptian civilization?

(A) Egyptians avoided the Nile because of dangerous crocodiles (B) The Nile was important only for fishing, not agriculture, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) It was used only as a border to keep enemies out of Egypt, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Its annual flooding deposited rich soil for farming, provided water, transportation, and made civilization possible in an otherwise desert region

14. What were Egyptian hieroglyphics?

(A) A type of ancient Egyptian number system only (B) Random decorative patterns with no actual meaning (C) Coded messages that only pharaohs could understand (D) A writing system using pictures and symbols to represent sounds and ideas, carved into stone or written on papyrus

15. What was the purpose of the Egyptian pyramids?

(A) They were monumental tombs built to protect and house the bodies and possessions of pharaohs for the afterlife (B) They were built by aliens as landing pads for spacecraft (C) They were grain storage buildings for feeding the population (D) They were temples where all Egyptian people worshipped daily

16. What was Hammurabi's Code and why was it historically important?

(A) A secret military strategy used to conquer neighboring kingdoms (B) A recipe book for cooking traditional Babylonian foods (C) One of the earliest known written law codes, created by Babylonian King Hammurabi, establishing clear rules and punishments for society (D) A map showing trade routes between Babylon and Egypt

Write the answer

17. What was a ziggurat?

Answer: _____

18. What is mummification and why did Egyptians practice it?

Answer: _____

19. How did geography influence where the first civilizations developed?

Answer: _____

20. What was the pharaoh's role in ancient Egyptian society?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What invention from ancient Mesopotamia do we still use in everyday life? →

2. What was the Rosetta Stone and why was it so important? →

3. What social classes existed in ancient Egyptian society? →

4. An archaeologist discovers that a Mesopotamian city had canals running through it connecting to the Euphrates River. What purpose did these canals likely serve? →

5. What was the 'Fertile Crescent'? →

(A) A crescent-shaped region of fertile land stretching from the Persian Gulf through Mesopotamia to the eastern Mediterranean, where agriculture first developed

(B) They carried water from the river to fields for irrigation, allowing farmers to grow crops in the dry climate

(C) A stone slab with the same text written in three scripts (hieroglyphics, Demotic, and Greek), which allowed scholars to finally decode Egyptian hieroglyphics

(D) The wheel — invented in Mesopotamia around 3500 BCE, originally used for pottery making before being adapted for transportation

(E) A hierarchy with the pharaoh at top, then priests and nobles, scribes and officials, merchants and artisans, farmers, and enslaved people at the bottom

3. Ancient Greece & Rome

Circle the correct answer

21. What was a Greek city-state (polis)?

(A) An independent political unit consisting of a city and its surrounding countryside, with its own government, laws, and army (B) A religious temple complex where all Greeks worshipped, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

(C) A temporary military camp set up during wartime, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) A large empire ruled by a single Greek king, and this is the

standard approach used in most cases

22. How did Athenian democracy differ from modern democracy?

(A) Athens had no democracy — it was ruled by a king (B) Athenian democracy was exactly the same as modern democracy (C) Only adult male citizens could vote and participate directly — women, enslaved people, and foreigners were excluded (D) Everyone in Athens could vote, including children and foreigners

23. What was the Roman Republic's system of government?

(A) A representative government with elected officials (consuls, senators, tribunes) and a system of checks and balances to prevent any one person from gaining too much power (B) A direct democracy where every citizen voted on every law, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) A monarchy ruled by a single hereditary king, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) A military dictatorship led by the strongest general, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

24. What were the major achievements of ancient Greek philosophy?

(A) Inventing computers and modern scientific equipment, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Creating the first written language in human history, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Developing systematic methods of logical reasoning, questioning assumptions, and exploring topics like ethics, politics, and the nature of reality through rational thought (D) Proving that the Greek gods controlled all natural events, making this the most widely accepted explanation

25. What engineering innovation allowed Romans to build aqueducts, arches, and the Colosseum?

(A) Rubber and plastic materials from South America, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) Steel beams imported from China, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Concrete (opus caementicium) and the arch — Roman concrete was incredibly durable and allowed construction of structures impossible with stone blocks alone (D) Anti-gravity devices discovered in Roman laboratories, and this principle applies across similar situations

26. What were the ancient Olympic Games and why were they important?

(A) A religious festival where animals were sacrificed but no sports were played (B) A trading fair where merchants from different cities bought and sold goods (C) A Roman invention created to entertain soldiers between battles (D) Athletic competitions held every four years at Olympia in honor of Zeus, where Greek city-states declared a truce and competed in sports instead of war

Write the answer

27. How did the assassination of Julius Caesar change Rome?

Answer: _____

28. What was the Parthenon and what does it reveal about Greek values?

Answer: _____

29. What was life like for a Roman soldier in the legions?

Answer: _____

30. How did Greek mythology influence daily life in ancient Greece?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What was the Pax Romana? →

2. How did Greek and Roman ideas about governance influence the United States Constitution? →

3. What was Sparta known for and how did it differ from Athens? →

4. What was a Roman aqueduct and what problem did it solve? →

5. What role did theater play in ancient Greek culture? →

(A) Theater was a religious and civic event — plays explored moral questions, human nature, and social issues, with competitions held during festivals honoring Dionysus

(B) A channel system (often elevated on arches) that transported fresh water from distant sources to cities, solving the problem of water supply for large urban populations

(C) The U.S. adopted Greek democratic principles (citizen participation), Roman republican structures (elected representatives, separation of powers), and the concept of written law

(D) Sparta focused on military training and discipline, with all boys entering military training at age 7, while Athens emphasized education, philosophy, and democracy

(E) A roughly 200-year period of relative peace and stability across the Roman Empire (27 BCE to 180 CE) that enabled trade, cultural exchange, and prosperity

4. Archaeological Methods & Evidence Analysis

Circle the correct answer

31. What is an archaeological survey and why is it done before excavation?

(A) A survey of how much money an excavation will cost (B) A test that archaeologists take before being allowed to dig (C) A questionnaire given to local people about their favorite historical period (D) A systematic search of an area to

locate and map potential archaeological sites, done before digging to identify the best places to excavate

32. What is a 'test pit' and why would an archaeologist dig one?

(A) A small exploratory excavation used to determine if a larger dig is warranted — it reveals the depth, content, and condition of archaeological deposits (B) A pit used to test whether the soil is safe for farming, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) A trap dug to catch animals at the archaeological site, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) A deep hole drilled to find underground water sources, and this principle applies across similar situations

33. What is the 'law of superposition' in archaeology?

(A) A law that says archaeologists must get permission before digging (B) A rule that all archaeological sites must be open to the public (C) The principle that larger artifacts are always older than smaller ones (D) The principle that in undisturbed deposits, the oldest layers are at the bottom and the newest layers are at the top

34. How does ground-penetrating radar (GPR) help archaeologists?

(A) It detects only metal objects like swords and coins, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) It sends radio waves into the ground that bounce back when they hit buried objects or features, creating an image of what's underground without digging (C) It automatically digs up buried artifacts using robotic arms, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) It takes photographs of artifacts through the soil, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

35. What is flotation in archaeology?

(A) A technique where soil samples are placed in water, causing light organic materials like seeds, charcoal, and tiny bones to float to the surface for collection and analysis (B) A technique for cleaning pottery using pressurized water, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) A method of transporting artifacts downstream on rafts, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) A way to make heavy artifacts lighter for carrying, and this principle applies across similar situations

36. What is dendrochronology and how does it work?

(A) A method of dating artifacts by their color, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) A technique for preserving wooden artifacts in museums, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) A way to determine what type of tree ancient people preferred, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) A dating method that uses the pattern of tree rings in wood to determine the exact year a tree was cut down, since each year produces a unique ring pattern

Write the answer

37. Why do archaeologists use a grid system when excavating?

Answer: _____

38. What is thermoluminescence (TL) dating used for?

Answer: _____

39. What is an ecofact and how does it differ from an artifact?

Answer: _____

40. How can archaeologists determine what ancient people ate?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is stratigraphy and why is it the backbone of archaeological interpretation? →

2. What ethical responsibilities do archaeologists have when excavating human remains? →

3. How does aerial photography help archaeologists find buried sites? →

4. What is the difference between relative dating and absolute dating methods? →

5. What is seriation in archaeology? →

(A) Buried walls and ditches affect plant growth above them — walls cause stunted growth and ditches cause lush growth — creating visible patterns (crop marks) from the air

(B) Relative dating determines the order of events (older/younger) without specific dates; absolute dating provides a numerical age or date range in years

(C) The study of soil layers (strata) at a site — each layer represents a period of activity, and the sequence of layers provides a timeline of events

(D) A relative dating method that arranges artifacts in chronological order based on changes in their style or frequency over time

(E) They must treat remains with respect, consult with descendant communities, follow legal regulations, and sometimes repatriate remains to their communities of origin

5. Ancient Americas: Maya, Aztec, Inca

Circle the correct answer

41. What was unique about Maya writing compared to other ancient American civilizations?

(A) The Maya only used numbers and had no written language, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Maya writing was identical to Egyptian hieroglyphics,

and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) All pre-Columbian civilizations had equally advanced writing systems, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) The Maya developed the most complete writing system in the pre-Columbian Americas — a hieroglyphic script with both logographic and syllabic elements that could express any spoken thought

42. What was Tenochtitlan and why was it remarkable?

(A) A Maya temple complex in the Yucatan jungle, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) The Aztec capital built on an island in Lake Texcoco, connected by causeways, with a population of 200,000-300,000 — larger than most European cities of the time (C) An Inca fortress high in the Andes mountains, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) A small farming village in the mountains with about 500 residents, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

43. How did the Inca manage a vast empire without a writing system?

(A) They used Egyptian hieroglyphics borrowed through trade, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) The Inca empire was too small to need any record-keeping, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) They used quipus (knotted string devices) for recording numerical data and possibly narrative information, along with a network of relay runners (chasqui) for communication (D) They had a complete writing system that historians simply haven't found yet, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

44. What were chinampas and why were they important to the Aztec?

(A) Religious altars placed on top of temple pyramids, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) Stone bridges connecting Aztec cities across mountain valleys, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Artificial islands or 'floating gardens' built in Lake Texcoco for farming, providing food for the huge population of Tenochtitlan in a limited land area (D) Underground tunnels used for storing weapons and gold, and this principle applies across similar situations

45. What was the Maya calendar system and what did it reveal about Maya astronomical knowledge?

(A) The Maya used interlocking calendar cycles (a 260-day sacred calendar and a 365-day solar calendar) based on precise astronomical observations of the sun, moon, Venus, and other celestial bodies (B) The Maya used a simple 12-month calendar identical to ours today, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) The Maya only tracked the sun and ignored all other celestial objects, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Maya calendars were purely decorative art with no astronomical basis, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

46. How did the Inca build Machu Picchu without using wheels, iron tools, or mortar?

(A) They had access to modern construction equipment from European traders, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) They used concrete and steel like the Romans did, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Machu Picchu was a natural rock formation that required no construction, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) They precisely shaped stones using harder stone hammers so the blocks fit together perfectly without mortar, and transported materials using human labor, ramps, and llama caravans on mountain roads

Write the answer

47. What was the Aztec tribute system?

Answer: _____

48. What was the Maya concept of the 'Hero Twins' and what does it reveal about Maya beliefs?

Answer: _____

49. How did the Inca road system (Qhapaq Ñan) compare to the Roman road system?

Answer: _____

50. What was the Maya ball game and what was its significance?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What was the mit'a labor system in the Inca Empire? →

2. How did the Aztec education system work? →

3. What happened to ancient Maya cities — why were many abandoned before European contact? →

4. How did Inca agricultural terracing (andenes) allow farming in the Andes Mountains? →

5. What was the significance of cacao (chocolate) in Mesoamerican civilizations? →

(A) Stepped terraces cut into mountainsides created flat farming platforms, prevented erosion, managed water drainage, and created microclimates for different crops at different altitudes

(B) A combination of factors including prolonged drought, warfare between city-states, environmental degradation from deforestation, and political instability led to the decline of Classic Maya cities around 900 CE

(C) All children attended school — boys and girls from age 15 at either a calmecac (elite school for nobles, teaching religion and warfare) or telpochcalli (commoner school teaching practical skills and military basics)

(D) A mandatory public labor service where citizens owed a set period of work to the

state — building roads, farming state lands, or serving in the military — in exchange for state-provided food, clothing, and security

(E) Cacao beans served as currency, were used to make a sacred ritual drink, featured in religious ceremonies, and were a luxury good traded across Mesoamerica

6. Ancient Asia & Africa: China, India, West Africa

Circle the correct answer

51. What is the name of one of the earliest known civilizations in South Asia, located along the Indus River in present-day Pakistan and India?

(A) The Indus Valley (Harappan) civilization (B) The Maurya Empire (C) The Ganges River civilization (D) The Vedic civilization

52. The Shang Dynasty is considered the first historically verified dynasty in China. What writing system did they develop that became the ancestor of modern Chinese characters?

(A) Cuneiform (B) Hieroglyphics (C) Sanskrit (D) Oracle bone script

53. The ancient kingdom of Ghana in West Africa grew wealthy primarily through controlling the trade of which two commodities?

(A) Gold and salt (B) Silk and spices (C) Iron and copper (D) Ivory and diamonds

54. Why were the cities of the Indus Valley civilization considered remarkably advanced for their time?

(A) They had iron weapons and chariots before any other civilization (B) They had grid-planned streets, standardized brick sizes, and sophisticated drainage and sewage systems (C) They built the world's first pyramids and temples (D) They invented alphabetic writing and paper

55. How did the geography of China — with mountains, deserts, and oceans forming natural barriers — influence the development of Chinese civilization?

(A) Geographic isolation encouraged the development of a distinct culture and made outside invasion more difficult, while river valleys supported agriculture (B) China's geography prevented all trade with other civilizations permanently (C) The flat terrain made China easy to conquer by neighboring empires (D) China's geography had little effect because ancient people could easily cross mountains

56. What role did griots play in West African societies, and why are they important to historians studying this region?

(A) Griots were oral historians and storytellers who preserved community history, genealogies, and cultural knowledge through memorized narratives passed down through generations (B) Griots were merchants who maintained trade ledgers in

Arabic, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) Griots were military leaders who kept written battle records, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Griots were priests who recorded religious texts on papyrus, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

Write the answer

57. The Mandate of Heaven was a Chinese political philosophy that justified the rule of emperors. How would you explain this concept to someone unfamiliar with it?

Answer: _____

58. The caste system shaped social organization in ancient India. If you were an archaeologist excavating an ancient Indian city, what types of evidence might help you identify social hierarchies?

Answer: _____

59. The Silk Road connected China to the Mediterranean world. If you were mapping ancient trade routes, what types of archaeological evidence would you look for along the route?

Answer: _____

60. Mansa Musa, ruler of the Mali Empire, made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324. Using what historians know about this journey, what can we infer about the Mali Empire's wealth and power?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. The Terracotta Army was discovered in 1974 near Xi'an, China. What does this massive burial complex — with over 8,000 life-sized clay soldiers, each with unique features — tell us about the power and beliefs of Emperor Qin Shi Huang? →

2. The Indus Valley civilization's script has never been deciphered. How does this limit what archaeologists can know about this civilization compared to Mesopotamia or Egypt, whose scripts have been decoded? →

3. Both ancient China and West African empires developed along major rivers or trade routes. Compare how geography shaped the development of the Shang Dynasty (along the Yellow River) and the Ghana Empire (along trans-Saharan trade routes). →

4. The Great Wall of China was built over many centuries by multiple dynasties. What does the archaeological evidence of different construction materials and techniques along the wall reveal about the dynasties that built it? →

5. Timbuktu in the Mali Empire became a major center of Islamic learning with universities and libraries containing hundreds of thousands of manuscripts. Why is the preservation of these manuscripts important for our understanding of African

history? →

(A) They challenge the false narrative that Africa had no literate civilizations and provide direct written evidence of African scholarship, science, law, and philosophy from centuries before European colonization

(B) The Yellow River provided fertile farmland for agriculture-based civilization, while Ghana's location between Saharan salt and southern gold mines enabled a trade-based economy — both used geographic advantages to build powerful states

(C) Without readable texts, archaeologists cannot know their laws, religious beliefs, political system, or historical events in detail — they must rely entirely on material evidence and make inferences

(D) Different sections show different technologies and resources — early sections used rammed earth, later sections used stone and brick, revealing changes in construction technology, labor organization, and economic resources over time

(E) It reveals his enormous power to mobilize labor and resources, his belief in an afterlife requiring protection, and the artistic skill of Qin Dynasty craftsmen

7. Artifact Analysis & Cultural Interpretation

Circle the correct answer

61. What is the difference between an artifact's 'provenience' and its 'provenance' in archaeological terminology?

(A) Provenience is used in American archaeology and provenance in British archaeology for the same concept, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) They are the same word with different spellings, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Provenience means the material an artifact is made from, while provenance means its age, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) Provenience refers to the precise location where an artifact was found during excavation (its archaeological context), while provenance refers to the artifact's ownership history after it was removed from the ground

62. What is 'typology' in archaeology?

(A) The process of determining an artifact's chemical composition, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) The classification of artifacts into types based on shared characteristics like shape, material, decoration, or manufacturing technique, used to establish chronological sequences and cultural connections (C) The practice of assigning numerical codes to excavation squares, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) The study of ancient typography and fonts, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

63. What does the term 'material culture' mean to archaeologists?

(A) Only objects made from raw materials like stone and metal, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) The materials used to construct museum exhibits, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) The study of how cultures develop new materials technology, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) The physical objects, buildings, and modifications to the landscape that people create and use, which reflect and shape their cultural beliefs, social organization, and daily practices

64. Why do archaeologists say that context is more important than the artifact itself?

(A) An artifact's meaning comes largely from where it was found, what was found with it, and the layer it came from — without this context, much of its interpretive value is lost (B) Archaeologists say this to discourage collectors, but the artifact is actually what matters most (C) Context is only important for valuable artifacts like gold objects (D) Because artifacts are worthless without context — they belong in the trash

65. How do archaeologists use 'use-wear analysis' to determine what stone tools were used for?

(A) By examining microscopic patterns of wear, polish, and edge damage on tool surfaces under magnification — different activities like cutting wood, scraping hides, or harvesting grain leave distinctive marks (B) They test the tool's weight to determine its function, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) They ask local people what the tools were used for, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) They guess based on what the tool looks like, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

66. Explain why the same type of artifact — for example, a decorated ceramic bowl — might have had completely different meanings in different cultures.

(A) An object's meaning is fixed by its physical form, not by culture, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) All cultures use the same objects in exactly the same way, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Decoration always indicates the object was used for religious purposes, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Objects carry meaning through cultural context — the same bowl might be an everyday cooking vessel in one culture, a sacred ritual object in another, or a status symbol showing wealth in a third, depending on how that society values and uses it

Write the answer

67. You find a broken ceramic pot during an excavation. The fragments show signs of burning on the interior, organic residue on the rim, and repair holes where someone drilled through to tie pieces back together in antiquity. What can you infer about this object's use and the society that made it?

Answer: _____

68. An excavation discovers a child's burial containing a miniature pottery set, small animal figurines, and a tiny bronze mirror. Apply archaeological reasoning to interpret what these grave goods suggest about this society's attitudes toward children and the afterlife.

Answer: _____

69. You discover two pottery sherds at a site: one with a glossy red slip and geometric patterns from Layer 4 (deeper), and one with a rough, undecorated surface from Layer 2 (shallower/more recent). Can you conclude that pottery quality declined over time at this site? Why or why not?

Answer: _____

70. Archaeologists find identical styles of pottery in sites 500 kilometers apart. What are at least three possible explanations for this pattern, and how would you test each one?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. An archaeological site contains a large building with thick walls, a central courtyard, many storage rooms filled with broken grain jars, and clay tablets with accounting records. Analyze what type of building this likely was and what it reveals about the society's organization. →

2. Isotope analysis of ancient human bones can reveal where a person grew up, what they ate, and where they lived later in life. Analyze how this technology changes what archaeologists can learn about ancient migration patterns compared to traditional methods. →

3. A 19th-century archaeologist described a site's inhabitants as 'primitive' because they used stone tools rather than metal. Analyze why this interpretation is problematic from a modern archaeological perspective. →

4. Two archaeologists examine the same set of female figurines from a Neolithic site. One interprets them as fertility goddesses in a mother-goddess religion. The other interprets them as toys or teaching aids. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each interpretation. →

5. A private collector offers to sell a museum an ancient gold mask from South America. The mask is genuine but has no documented provenience — the collector says it came from 'somewhere in Peru.' Should the museum purchase it? Evaluate the

ethical considerations. →

(A) This interpretation reflects cultural evolutionism — the flawed assumption that all societies progress through the same stages from 'primitive' to 'advanced.' Stone tool use reflects adaptation to available resources and needs, not intelligence or cultural sophistication. Many stone-tool-using societies had complex art, religion, and social organization.

(B) Isotope analysis provides direct evidence about individual people's movements and diets rather than inferring migration from artifact styles. It can reveal that specific individuals moved between regions, ate different diets at different life stages, or came from distant places — providing person-level data impossible from artifacts alone

(C) The museum should refuse — purchasing unprovenanced artifacts encourages looting (destroying archaeological context and knowledge), may violate national patrimony laws (Peru claims ownership of its archaeological heritage), and undermines the integrity of the museum's collection. The ethical cost outweighs the display value.

(D) The goddess interpretation assumes all female figurines are religious, which is not always supported by context. The toy/teaching interpretation is possible but also speculative. Both lack definitive evidence — the strongest approach is to examine where the figurines were found (temples vs. houses vs. trash pits) and how they were treated before drawing conclusions.

(E) This was likely an administrative or palace complex — the storage rooms and accounting tablets indicate centralized collection and redistribution of agricultural surplus, suggesting a complex society with hierarchical governance and bureaucratic record-keeping

8. Capstone: Civilizations Compared & Legacy

Circle the correct answer

71. What is the term for the period when humans first began transitioning from hunting and gathering to farming and settled village life, roughly 10,000–8,000 BCE?

(A) The Industrial Revolution, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(B) The Bronze Age, as this is what research and standard practice suggests
(C) The Paleolithic Era, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(D) The Neolithic Revolution (also called the Agricultural Revolution)

72. What is 'cultural diffusion' in the context of ancient civilizations?

(A) The gradual decline of a culture over time, which is why this approach is recommended by experts
(B) The complete replacement of one culture by another, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice
(C) The spread of ideas,

technologies, customs, and practices from one culture to another through trade, migration, conquest, or other forms of contact (D) The independent development of the same idea in different places, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

73. What does the term 'primary source' mean in historical and archaeological research?

(A) The first textbook written about a historical topic, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) The most important source in any research project, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) A source created during the time period being studied — such as an artifact, a written document, a building, or an eyewitness account — that provides direct evidence about the past (D) A source that has been verified as completely accurate, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

74. Ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, the Indus Valley, and Mesoamerica all developed independently along river valleys. Why is this pattern significant?

(A) It's just a coincidence with no deeper meaning, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) It demonstrates that agriculture, surplus food production, and the social complexity that follows are predictable human responses to similar environmental conditions — rivers provide water for irrigation, fertile floodplain soil, and transportation routes (C) It proves that all civilizations were in contact with each other, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Rivers are the only places where humans can survive, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

75. How did the development of writing systems change the nature of power and governance in ancient civilizations?

(A) Writing was used only for religious purposes, never for administration, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Writing enabled centralized record-keeping (taxes, laws, censuses), long-distance communication, codified legal systems, and institutional memory that outlived individual rulers — it allowed states to administer larger territories and populations (C) All civilizations developed writing at the same time for the same reasons, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) Writing had no effect on governance because leaders relied only on speaking

76. Explain why empires in the ancient world — Roman, Han Chinese, Persian, Mauryan — all eventually collapsed, and what common factors archaeologists and historians identify in imperial decline.

(A) Common factors include overextension of military and administrative resources, economic strain from maintaining infrastructure, internal political instability and civil war, pressure from outside groups, environmental degradation, and epidemic disease

— no single cause explains any collapse (B) All empires collapsed because of a single invasion by barbarians, since this was the prevailing view during this historical era (C) Ancient empires never actually collapsed — they just changed names, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Empires only collapsed because of natural disasters, which reflects the common interpretation among historians today

Write the answer

77. If you were asked to compare the road systems of the Roman Empire and the Inca Empire, what specific aspects would you analyze, and what would this comparison reveal about each civilization?

Answer: _____

78. Ancient Greek democracy, Roman republican government, Chinese Confucian bureaucracy, and West African council systems all offered different solutions to the same problem: how to govern large groups of people. Choose two of these systems and apply comparative analysis to identify both similarities and differences.

Answer: _____

79. Many ancient civilizations practiced human sacrifice or ritual violence. When archaeologists discover evidence of these practices, how should they present this information responsibly without either sensationalizing it or ignoring it?

Answer: _____

80. The 'Columbian Exchange' brought together civilizations from the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia after 1492. Analyze how this event — and its consequences — changed what archaeologists can learn from sites dating to after this period compared to pre-contact sites.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Ancient Mesopotamia developed cuneiform, Egypt developed hieroglyphics, China developed oracle bone script, and the Maya developed glyphic writing. Analyze what the independent invention of writing in these separate civilizations tells us about the relationship between social complexity and information technology. →

2. The concept of 'collapse' is frequently applied to ancient civilizations (Maya collapse, fall of Rome, etc.). Analyze why many modern archaeologists prefer the term 'transformation' or 'reorganization' over 'collapse.' →

3. Archaeological evidence shows that women in many ancient civilizations had more varied roles than traditional narratives suggest — as rulers, artisans, traders, priests, and warriors. Analyze why earlier generations of archaeologists often overlooked or minimized evidence of women's roles. →

4. Climate change affected many ancient civilizations — droughts contributed to the decline of the Maya, Akkadian Empire, and Ancestral Puebloans. Evaluate what the archaeological record of ancient climate-related collapses can teach us about modern climate challenges. →

5. Some scholars argue that the concept of 'civilization' itself is problematic because it implies that societies with cities, writing, and monumental architecture are superior to those without these features. Evaluate this critique. →

(A) Independent invention of writing in multiple civilizations suggests that complex societies inevitably develop information storage systems when they reach a certain scale — the need to manage trade, taxes, religious rituals, and political authority creates demand for external memory systems beyond human recall

(B) The critique has merit: 'civilization' historically ranked societies on a hierarchy where Western-style features defined 'advancement,' marginalizing equally sophisticated societies organized differently (Australian Aboriginal cultures, Pacific Island navigation societies, nomadic empires). However, the term remains useful if defined as 'a specific type of social organization' rather than 'a superior stage of human development.'

(C) Earlier archaeologists projected their own society's gender assumptions onto the past — assuming men were leaders, warriors, and artisans while women were domestic. They interpreted evidence through this lens, assigning male gender to prestigious burials and attributing important artifacts to men without sufficient evidence.

(D) Because 'collapse' implies total destruction and disappearance, whereas archaeological evidence usually shows that populations survived, adapted, and reorganized — Maya people still exist, Roman cultural elements persisted in medieval Europe. The term 'collapse' overemphasizes dramatic endings and obscures the continuity and resilience of human communities.

(E) The archaeological record shows that societies dependent on specific environmental conditions are vulnerable when those conditions change, that centralized systems can fail catastrophically, and that adaptation and flexibility are key to survival — but we must avoid oversimplifying complex ancient situations as simple 'climate collapse' narratives

9. Archaeology & Paleontology

Circle the correct answer

81. What is the term for a carefully dug area where archaeologists search for artifacts?

- (A) Museum (B) Laboratory (C) Excavation site (D) Observatory

- 82.** What tool do archaeologists commonly use to carefully brush away dirt from delicate artifacts?
(A) Jackhammer (B) Shovel (C) Bulldozer (D) Soft-bristle brush
- 83.** What is an artifact?
(A) A type of fossil (B) A natural rock formation (C) An object made or used by humans in the past (D) A modern laboratory tool
- 84.** What is the name of the grid system archaeologists use to map an excavation site?
(A) Weather map (B) Excavation grid (C) Latitude grid (D) Star chart
- 85.** What does the term 'in situ' mean in archaeology?
(A) In the laboratory (B) In its original place or position (C) In a textbook (D) In a museum display
- 86.** What is a trowel used for in archaeology?
(A) Photographing artifacts (B) Analyzing chemical composition of soil (C) Measuring the depth of a trench (D) Carefully scraping and removing soil layer by layer

Write the answer

- 87.** Why do archaeologists record the exact location where each artifact is found?

Answer: _____

- 88.** How does stratigraphy help archaeologists understand a site?

Answer: _____

- 89.** Why is it important for archaeologists to work slowly and carefully during an excavation?

Answer: _____

- 90.** What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source in historical archaeology?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why do archaeologists use screens or sieves when excavating? →
2. An archaeologist finds a pottery fragment near a hearth. How should they record this discovery? →
3. You discover two layers at a dig site: one contains iron tools and one contains only stone tools. Which layer is likely older? →
4. How would an archaeologist use a total station at an excavation site? →
5. A team excavating a shipwreck finds a layer of barnacles on the hull. How might this

help their research? →

- (A) The layer with only stone tools
 - (B) The barnacle species and growth patterns can indicate how long the ship was submerged and its travel routes
 - (C) To precisely measure and map the three-dimensional position of artifacts and features
 - (D) Note its exact grid coordinates, depth, and relationship to the hearth, then photograph it in place
 - (E) To catch small artifacts like beads, seeds, or bone fragments that might be missed during digging
-

10. Archaeology & Paleontology

Circle the correct answer

91. Which ancient civilization built the Great Pyramid of Giza?

- (A) The Aztec Empire (B) Ancient Greece (C) Ancient Egypt (D) The Roman Empire

92. What writing system did the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia develop?

- (A) Hieroglyphics (B) Morse code (C) Cuneiform (D) The Latin alphabet

93. What is the Rosetta Stone?

- (A) A Mesopotamian calendar system, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) A Greek musical instrument, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) A stone slab with the same text written in three scripts, which helped scholars decode Egyptian hieroglyphics (D) A type of ancient Roman road, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

94. Which ancient civilization is credited with creating the first known system of written laws?

- (A) Ancient India (B) Ancient China (C) The Maya (D) Babylon (Code of Hammurabi)

95. What material did ancient Egyptians use to make a paper-like writing surface?

- (A) Papyrus (B) Silk (C) Bamboo (D) Parchment

96. What was the Colosseum in ancient Rome used for?

- (A) Holding sessions of the Roman Senate (B) Storing grain for the city (C) Public spectacles including gladiator contests and animal hunts (D) Training soldiers for battle

Write the answer

97. Why were rivers so important to the development of early civilizations?

Answer: _____

98. How did the invention of writing change ancient civilizations?

Answer: _____

99. Why did ancient Egyptians mummify their dead?

Answer: _____

100. What was the significance of the Silk Road in connecting ancient civilizations?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How did the geography of ancient Greece influence its political development? →

2. An archaeologist finds a clay tablet with cuneiform writing at a site in modern-day Iraq. What civilization most likely created it? →

3. If you discovered a burial containing gold jewelry, fine pottery, and weapons, what could you infer about the person buried there? →

4. How could you use a map of ancient Roman roads to understand the Roman Empire's influence? →

5. A historian reads that an ancient city had a sewer system, public baths, and grid-planned streets. What does this suggest about that civilization? →

(A) The mountainous terrain and islands led to the formation of independent city-states rather than a single unified empire

(B) One of the Mesopotamian civilizations such as Sumer, Babylon, or Assyria

(C) Roman roads show which regions were connected, how the empire was administered, and how trade and military forces moved

(D) It had advanced urban planning, engineering skills, and organized government capable of large public works projects

(E) The person was likely of high social status or a leader, since valuable grave goods indicate wealth and importance

11. Archaeology & Paleontology

Circle the correct answer

101. What is a fossil?

(A) A man-made artifact, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) A recently deceased animal, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) A type of living organism, making this the most widely accepted

explanation (D) The preserved remains or traces of organisms that lived in the past

102. What type of rock are most fossils found in?

(A) Sedimentary rock (B) Metamorphic rock (C) Volcanic rock (D) Igneous rock

103. What is a paleontologist?

(A) An astronomer who studies planets (B) A scientist who studies modern animals
(C) A scientist who studies fossils and ancient life (D) A doctor who treats bone diseases

104. What is the name of the geological era when dinosaurs lived?

(A) The Paleozoic Era (B) The Precambrian Era (C) The Mesozoic Era (D) The Cenozoic Era

105. What type of fossil is formed when an organism's hard parts are replaced by minerals over time?

(A) Frozen fossil, which reflects the common interpretation among historians today
(B) Petrified fossil (permineralization) (C) Trace fossil, since this was the prevailing view during this historical era (D) Mold fossil, according to the evidence found in archaeological and written records

106. What is an index fossil?

(A) A fossil of an organism that lived during a specific, short time period and is used to date the rock layers where it is found (B) The first fossil ever discovered, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) A fossil displayed in a museum index, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) A fossil that is found everywhere on Earth at all times, making this the most widely accepted explanation

Write the answer

107. Why are fossils rare even though billions of organisms have lived on Earth?

Answer: _____

108. How do trace fossils differ from body fossils?

Answer: _____

109. What can scientists learn from fossilized pollen found in ancient rock layers?

Answer: _____

110. Why did the discovery of fossils of marine organisms on mountaintops surprise early scientists?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How does the fossil record support the theory of evolution? →
 2. You find a fossil of a fern leaf in a layer of rock in Antarctica. What does this suggest about Antarctica's past climate? →
 3. A paleontologist finds dinosaur footprints in a rock layer. How can the spacing between footprints tell us about the dinosaur's behavior? →
 4. How would you determine whether a fossil tooth belonged to an herbivore or a carnivore? →
 5. A complete fossil skeleton is found with its bones scattered across a wide area. What might have happened between the organism's death and fossilization? →
 - (A) Examine the tooth shape: flat, broad teeth with ridges suggest an herbivore (grinding plants), while sharp, pointed teeth suggest a carnivore (tearing meat)
 - (B) It shows a progression of life forms from simple to complex over time, with transitional fossils linking different groups of organisms
 - (C) Antarctica was once much warmer and had a climate that could support plant life like ferns
 - (D) Closely spaced footprints suggest walking, while widely spaced footprints suggest running — the stride length indicates speed
 - (E) Scavengers, water currents, or other natural forces likely scattered the bones before they were buried and fossilized
-

12. Archaeology & Paleontology

Circle the correct answer

111. What is stratigraphy?

- (A) The study of weather patterns, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) The study of modern buildings, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) The study of stars and planets, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) The study of rock layers (strata) and their sequence to understand geological history

112. What is the Law of Superposition?

- (A) In undisturbed rock layers, the oldest layers are at the bottom and the youngest are at the top (B) Newer rocks are always harder than older ones (C) The heaviest rocks always sink to the bottom (D) All rock layers are the same age

113. What radioactive element is commonly used to date organic materials up to about 50,000 years old?

- (A) Uranium-238 (B) Lead-206 (C) Potassium-40 (D) Carbon-14 (radiocarbon)

114. What is a half-life in radioactive dating?

(A) The time it takes for all atoms to decay, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) The time it takes for half of the radioactive atoms in a sample to decay into a stable form (C) Half the age of a fossil, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) The midpoint of a geological era, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

115. What is the difference between relative dating and absolute dating?

(A) Relative dating is more accurate than absolute dating, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) Absolute dating can only be done on living organisms, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) They are the same thing, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Relative dating determines the order of events (older or younger) without exact ages, while absolute dating provides a specific numerical age in years

116. What is the geological time scale?

(A) A clock that measures time on other planets, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) A system that divides Earth's 4.6-billion-year history into eons, eras, periods, and epochs based on major geological and biological events (C) A calendar used by ancient civilizations, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) A scale for weighing rocks, and this principle applies across similar situations

Write the answer

117. Why can't radiocarbon dating be used on dinosaur bones?

Answer: _____

118. How does the principle of cross-cutting relationships help determine the relative age of geological features?

Answer: _____

119. Why is potassium-argon dating useful for dating very old volcanic rocks?

Answer: _____

120. What does it mean when a rock layer is described as 'unconformity'?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How do scientists use the decay of uranium to lead to date extremely old rocks? →

2. A piece of wood from an archaeological site has 25% of its original Carbon-14 remaining. Approximately how old is it? →

3. You observe three horizontal rock layers cut by a vertical volcanic intrusion. Put

these four features in order from oldest to youngest. →

4. An archaeologist wants to date a 200-year-old wooden beam from a colonial building. Which dating method would be most appropriate? →

5. A geologist finds a fossil in a rock layer sandwiched between two volcanic ash layers. How could they determine the fossil's age? →

(A) About 11,460 years old (two half-lives of C-14)

(B) Bottom rock layer (oldest), middle rock layer, top rock layer, volcanic intrusion (youngest)

(C) Uranium-238 decays to lead-206 over 4.47 billion years — by measuring the ratio of uranium to lead in a mineral, scientists can calculate when the mineral formed

(D) Dendrochronology (tree-ring dating)

(E) Date both volcanic ash layers using radiometric methods — the fossil's age falls between the two dates

13. Public Archaeology

Circle the correct answer

121. What is the main difference between an archaeologist and a paleontologist?

(A) Archaeologists study past human cultures; paleontologists study ancient life forms including dinosaurs (B) Archaeologists work indoors and paleontologists work outdoors (C) Archaeologists study fossils and paleontologists study artifacts (D) There is no real difference between the two professions

122. What is a feature in archaeology?

(A) A special ability that an archaeologist has developed (B) A news article written about an archaeological discovery (C) A non-portable evidence of human activity, such as a wall, hearth, or storage pit that cannot be removed from the site (D) The most impressive artifact found at a site

123. What is the difference between history and prehistory?

(A) History is the period after writing was invented, while prehistory refers to the time before written records existed (B) History is about important events and prehistory is about unimportant ones (C) History is recent events and prehistory is anything older than 100 years (D) History is true and prehistory is made up

124. Why do archaeologists create detailed maps and drawings of everything they find at a site?

(A) To make their reports look more professional and impressive (B) To sell the drawings to museums for extra money (C) Because excavation destroys the site — records are the only way to preserve the information about where everything was

found (D) Because they are required to be good artists to get their degree

125. What is oral history and why is it valuable for understanding the past?

(A) Written histories that are read aloud in classrooms, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Recorded podcasts about historical events, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) History about the human mouth and dentistry, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Stories, traditions, and knowledge passed down through generations by word of mouth, preserving information from cultures that may not have had writing

126. What is an archaeological site?

(A) A museum where ancient objects are displayed (B) A place where evidence of past human activity has been found and can be studied (C) Any place where digging has occurred for any purpose (D) A library that contains books about ancient history

Write the answer

127. An archaeologist finds a clay tablet in Mesopotamia listing quantities of barley received from different farmers. What does this artifact tell us about Mesopotamian society?

Answer: _____

128. Why is it wrong to take artifacts from archaeological sites without permission?

Answer: _____

129. What is a civilization?

Answer: _____

130. What is a timeline and why do historians use them?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Imagine you discover a box of objects buried in your backyard. Using archaeological thinking, describe how you would study and document these objects. →

2. You are curating a museum exhibit on 'How Archaeologists Think.' Design three interactive stations that would teach visitors about key principles of archaeological reasoning. Describe each station and what visitors would learn. →

3. What was the Epic of Gilgamesh? →

4. What was the pharaoh's role in ancient Egyptian society? →

5. What was the 'Fertile Crescent'? →

(A) A crescent-shaped region of fertile land stretching from the Persian Gulf through Mesopotamia to the eastern Mediterranean, where agriculture first developed

(B) One of the oldest known works of literature, a Mesopotamian poem about a king's adventures and his search for eternal life

(C) Photograph everything in place before touching it, record the exact location and depth, carefully remove and label each object, measure and describe each one, then research what the objects might tell you about who buried them and why

(D) Station 1: 'Context Matters' — visitors examine identical objects placed in different contexts (burial vs. trash pit vs. workshop) and see how interpretation changes. Station 2: 'Layers of Time' — a hands-on stratigraphy dig box where visitors excavate layers and record finds. Station 3: 'Multiple Hypotheses' — visitors are given a set of artifacts and must propose three different explanations, then test them against additional evidence cards.

(E) The pharaoh was the supreme political and religious leader, considered a living god who owned all the land and controlled the government

14. Public Archaeology

Circle the correct answer

131. What tool do archaeologists use to carefully remove soil without damaging fragile artifacts?

(A) Dynamite to blast through rock layers (B) Small brushes and trowels for delicate work near artifacts (C) Jackhammers and power drills for fast digging (D) Metal detectors that automatically find everything

132. Which of the following is a primary source from the past?

(A) A fictional novel set in ancient Rome (B) A museum tour guide's explanation of Roman artifacts (C) A textbook chapter about ancient Rome published in 2020 (D) A letter written by a Roman soldier describing daily life in the army

133. You find a broken ceramic pot during an excavation. The fragments show signs of burning on the interior, organic residue on the rim, and repair holes where someone drilled through to tie pieces back together in antiquity. What can you infer about this object's use and the society that made it?

(A) The pot was a decorative item that was never actually used, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) The burning indicates the pot was used for cremation, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) The pot was used for cooking (burning + organic residue), was valuable enough to repair rather than discard (drilled repair holes), suggesting either resource scarcity, sentimental value, or high cost of replacement in that society (D) Someone recently

broke and tried to repair a modern pot, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

134. What ethical responsibilities do archaeologists have when excavating human remains?

(A) Archaeologists should avoid sites with human remains entirely (B) Human remains should always be displayed in museums regardless of descendants' wishes (C) Archaeologists can do whatever they want with human remains (D) They must treat remains with respect, consult with descendant communities, follow legal regulations, and sometimes repatriate remains to their communities of origin

135. What do BCE and CE mean in historical dates?

(A) They are abbreviations for types of archaeological tools (B) BCE means 'Beginning of Creation Era' and CE means 'Current Era' (C) BCE means 'Before the Common Era' and CE means 'Common Era' — they are used to number years in the Western calendar system (D) BCE means 'Before Civilization Existed' and CE means 'Civilization Era'

136. Which question would an archaeologist ask when studying an ancient settlement?

(A) What did the people here eat, how did they build their homes, and how was their community organized? (B) What language did the dinosaurs at this site speak? (C) How much money were these objects worth when they were made? (D) Which modern country should claim ownership of this site?

Write the answer

137. Why is Mesopotamia often called the 'Cradle of Civilization'?

Answer: _____

138. What was the Nile River's role in ancient Egyptian civilization?

Answer: _____

139. Design a comparative exhibit about the agricultural innovations of the Maya (milpa system), Aztec (chinampas), and Inca (terrace farming). Explain how each system was adapted to its specific environment.

Answer: _____

140. What was the Parthenon and what does it reveal about Greek values?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What engineering innovation allowed Romans to build aqueducts, arches, and the Colosseum? →
2. What is the 'law of superposition' in archaeology? →
3. What is flotation in archaeology? →
4. Ethnoarchaeology — studying living cultures to understand past ones — is widely used but has limitations. A researcher observes a modern pottery-making village and applies those observations to interpret pottery from a 3,000-year-old site. What assumptions does this approach rely on, and when might those assumptions fail? →
5. The caste system shaped social organization in ancient India. If you were an archaeologist excavating an ancient Indian city, what types of evidence might help you identify social hierarchies? →

(A) A technique where soil samples are placed in water, causing light organic materials like seeds, charcoal, and tiny bones to float to the surface for collection and analysis

(B) The principle that in undisturbed deposits, the oldest layers are at the bottom and the newest layers are at the top

(C) Concrete (opus caementicium) and the arch — Roman concrete was incredibly durable and allowed construction of structures impossible with stone blocks alone

(D) Differences in house sizes, burial goods, diet (animal bones vs. vegetarian remains), jewelry quality, and neighborhood locations within the city

(E) It assumes that similar materials and environments produce similar techniques, and that observed patterns are universal rather than culturally specific. It may fail when ancient technology, social organization, or cultural values differed significantly from the modern analog — the past is not a mirror of the present.

15. Public Archaeology

Circle the correct answer

141. What evidence do archaeologists use to study the Maya, since many of their bark-paper books were destroyed?

(A) There is no evidence left to study Maya civilization, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Archaeologists rely only on Spanish colonial accounts, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) Stone monuments with carved inscriptions, painted pottery and murals, architectural remains, ceramic and jade artifacts, remaining codices, and environmental evidence like soil and pollen (D) Only four bark-paper books survived, and they contain all Maya knowledge, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

142. Experimental archaeology involves recreating ancient techniques to understand how things were made. If you wanted to understand how Neolithic people built Stonehenge's massive stone circles, design an experimental archaeology project to test one aspect of the construction.

(A) Read descriptions of how the stones were moved and accept them without testing, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Example: Test the hypothesis that logs used as rollers could transport 25-ton sarsen stones. Recruit volunteers to move a replica stone block on log rollers over terrain similar to the Marlborough Downs. Measure force required, speed, number of people needed, roller wear, and compare results to the 30-km distance from the quarry to Stonehenge. (C) Use modern cranes and assume ancient people had equivalent technology, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Simply build a computer model without any physical testing, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

143. An archaeologist finds these items in the same layer: fishing hooks, fish bones, and a stone weight. What can she conclude about the people who lived there?

(A) A single fish washed up there during a flood (B) These items have no connection to each other (C) They kept fish as pets in their homes (D) They likely fished as a regular food source and had developed specialized tools for catching fish

144. You are tasked with creating a timeline exhibit showing the major ancient civilizations studied in this course. However, you want to challenge the common Eurocentric presentation where Western civilizations (Greece, Rome) are centered and others are peripheral. Design an alternative organizational structure for your timeline.

(A) Put Western civilizations at the top because they are most important, since this was the prevailing view during this historical era (B) Arrange civilizations from 'least advanced' to 'most advanced', as this directly follows from the underlying principles, according to the evidence found in archaeological and written records (C) Use a multi-track parallel timeline showing all civilizations simultaneously rather than sequentially, organized by region (Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East). Highlight connections and trade routes between them. Use equal visual space for each region. Include contemporary comparisons (e.g., while Rome was building aqueducts, the Maya were building aqueducts too). This shows that world history was happening everywhere simultaneously. (D) Only include one civilization per time period to avoid confusion, as this directly follows from the underlying principles, based on the historical records and primary sources from this period

145. What was Hammurabi's Code and why was it historically important?

(A) A secret military strategy used to conquer neighboring kingdoms (B) A recipe book for cooking traditional Babylonian foods (C) A map showing trade routes between Babylon and Egypt (D) One of the earliest known written law codes, created by Babylonian King Hammurabi, establishing clear rules and punishments for society

146. What was the purpose of the Egyptian pyramids?

(A) They were built by aliens as landing pads for spacecraft (B) They were monumental tombs built to protect and house the bodies and possessions of pharaohs for the afterlife (C) They were grain storage buildings for feeding the population (D) They were temples where all Egyptian people worshipped daily

Write the answer

147. How did geography influence where the first civilizations developed?

Answer: _____

148. Compare the governmental systems of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca. How were they similar and different?

Answer: _____

149. What were the ancient Olympic Games and why were they important?

Answer: _____

150. How did Greek and Roman ideas about governance influence the United States Constitution?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is the difference between relative dating and absolute dating methods? →

2. The Great Wall of China was built over many centuries by multiple dynasties. What does the archaeological evidence of different construction materials and techniques along the wall reveal about the dynasties that built it? →

3. An archaeological site contains a large building with thick walls, a central courtyard, many storage rooms filled with broken grain jars, and clay tablets with accounting records. Analyze what type of building this likely was and what it reveals about the society's organization. →

4. What was the Roman Republic's system of government? →

5. Why do archaeologists dig in layers when excavating a site? →

(A) This was likely an administrative or palace complex — the storage rooms and accounting tablets indicate centralized collection and redistribution of agricultural surplus, suggesting a complex society with hierarchical governance and bureaucratic record-keeping

(B) Relative dating determines the order of events (older/younger) without specific dates; absolute dating provides a numerical age or date range in years

(C) A representative government with elected officials (consuls, senators, tribunes) and a system of checks and balances to prevent any one person from gaining too much power

(D) Because older materials are usually buried deeper than newer ones, so layers represent different time periods

(E) Different sections show different technologies and resources — early sections used rammed earth, later sections used stone and brick, revealing changes in construction technology, labor organization, and economic resources over time

16. Public Archaeology

Circle the correct answer

151. You discover a site where two very different pottery traditions overlap in the same layer — fine, wheel-made pottery alongside hand-built coarse ware. Write an archaeological interpretation considering at least two possible explanations for this pattern.

(A) The coarse ware must be older because it's cruder, based on the historical records and primary sources from this period (B) Explanation 1: Trade — wheel-made pottery was imported from a nearby specialized production center while local potters continued making hand-built wares for everyday use. Explanation 2: Social stratification — elites used imported fine ware while commoners used locally-made coarse ware. Testing: chemical analysis of clay sources would reveal if the fine ware was made locally or imported; distribution patterns within the site (elite vs. common areas) would test the social stratification hypothesis. (C) Someone must have mixed up artifacts from two different sites, which is why this approach is recommended by experts, since this was the prevailing view during this historical era (D) Only one explanation is possible, so there's no need to consider alternatives, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice, which reflects the common interpretation among historians today

152. An archaeologist discovers that a Mesopotamian city had canals running through it connecting to the Euphrates River. What purpose did these canals likely serve?

(A) They were swimming pools for the city's wealthy residents (B) They were decorative water features with no practical purpose (C) They carried water from the river to fields for irrigation, allowing farmers to grow crops in the dry climate (D) They were built to drain flood water away from the city

153. What were canopic jars used for in ancient Egypt?

(A) To store the internal organs (lungs, liver, stomach, intestines) removed from a body during the mummification process (B) To store seeds for planting crops along the Nile (C) To hold drinking water for long journeys through the desert (D) To collect taxes paid in grain from Egyptian farmers

154. How does ground-penetrating radar (GPR) help archaeologists?

(A) It sends radio waves into the ground that bounce back when they hit buried objects or features, creating an image of what's underground without digging (B) It automatically digs up buried artifacts using robotic arms, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) It takes photographs of artifacts through the soil, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) It detects only metal objects like swords and coins, and this principle applies across similar situations

155. Some historians describe the decline of the Indus Valley civilization as a mystery because cities were gradually abandoned around 1900 BCE. Evaluate the strength of these three proposed explanations: (1) invasion by outsiders, (2) climate change causing river shifts, (3) environmental degradation from overuse of resources.

(A) The invasion theory is strongest because all civilizations end by conquest (B) Climate change and environmental factors have the strongest archaeological support — evidence shows river channel shifts and increased aridity, while the invasion theory lacks evidence of large-scale destruction (C) All three theories are equally supported by evidence, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) There is no evidence for any explanation, so the question is unanswerable, and this principle applies across similar situations

156. What was the Maya concept of the 'Hero Twins' and what does it reveal about Maya beliefs?

(A) The Popol Vuh tells of twin brothers who defeat the lords of the underworld through cleverness, reflecting Maya beliefs about death, rebirth, the underworld, and the triumph of life (B) The story is about two children who learned to farm corn, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) Maya mythology contained no stories or narrative traditions, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) The Hero Twins were real Maya kings whose biographies were recorded, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

Write the answer

157. Mansa Musa, ruler of the Mali Empire, made a famous pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324. Using what historians know about this journey, what can we infer about the Mali Empire's wealth and power?

Answer: _____

158. The Maurya Empire under Ashoka (c. 268–232 BCE) spread Buddhism across India and beyond. Ashoka erected stone pillars with edicts carved in multiple languages. If you discovered one of these pillars, what archaeological methods would you use to study it?

Answer: _____

159. Ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, the Indus Valley, and Mesoamerica all developed independently along river valleys. Why is this pattern significant?

Answer: _____

160. The field of archaeology has changed dramatically since its beginnings in the 1800s — from colonial-era treasure hunting to a modern science emphasizing ethics, community engagement, and diverse perspectives. Evaluate whether archaeology today has adequately addressed its colonial past, and what further changes might be needed.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What was a ziggurat? →

2. What was trade like between Mesopotamia and other regions? →

3. Design a simple museum exhibit label for a 2,000-year-old Roman coin found at an archaeological site in England. What information should it include? →

4. Why were scribes so important in both Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations? →

5. Compare the building materials used in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Why were they different? →

(A) Because very few people could read and write, scribes recorded laws, trade transactions, religious texts, and government records essential for running a civilization

(B) A massive stepped pyramid-like temple tower built in Mesopotamian cities as a religious center

(C) Mesopotamia used mud bricks because they lacked stone but had abundant river clay; Egypt used stone because they had plentiful limestone and granite from nearby quarries

(D) Mesopotamia traded surplus grain and textiles for resources they lacked, like timber, stone, and metals, creating networks spanning thousands of miles

(E) The object name, date/period, where it was found, what it's made of, what it tells us (that Romans traded with or lived in this area of England), and a brief description of its significance

Riddle & Joke Break

Guess the answer, then check the key!

161. Why did the archaeologist go broke?

162. What's an archaeologist's favorite type of music?

163. I wanted to tell a joke about ancient pottery, but I'm afraid it might crack you up!
164. Why are archaeologists great at parties?
165. What did the trowel say to the shovel?
166. The ancient Egyptian architect was in de-Nile about the pyramid's construction flaws.
-

Answer Key

1. A — The study of past human life and cultures through the examination of physical remains like artifacts and structures
2. C — Any object made, modified, or used by humans in the past
3. C — History is the period after writing was invented, while prehistory refers to the time before written records existed
4. C — Because older materials are usually buried deeper than newer ones, so layers represent different time periods
5. C — A letter written by a Roman soldier describing daily life in the army
6. A — A place where evidence of past human activity has been found and can be studied
7. What materials and techniques people used, what they ate or stored, and possibly what culture they belonged to
8. Archaeologists study past human cultures; paleontologists study ancient life forms including dinosaurs
9. The location and position of an artifact reveals how it was used, when it was from, and its relationship to other objects nearby
10. Small brushes and trowels for delicate work near artifacts
Matching (Introduction to Archaeology & the Historical Record): 1→D, 2→E, 3→A, 4→C, 5→B
11. B — Because it was one of the first places where humans developed cities, writing, laws, and organized agriculture
12. D — A writing system using wedge-shaped marks pressed into clay tablets, developed by the Sumerians around 3200 BCE
13. D — Its annual flooding deposited rich soil for farming, provided water,

transportation, and made civilization possible in an otherwise desert region

14. D — A writing system using pictures and symbols to represent sounds and ideas, carved into stone or written on papyrus
 15. A — They were monumental tombs built to protect and house the bodies and possessions of pharaohs for the afterlife
 16. C — One of the earliest known written law codes, created by Babylonian King Hammurabi, establishing clear rules and punishments for society
 17. A massive stepped pyramid-like temple tower built in Mesopotamian cities as a religious center
 18. The process of preserving a dead body to prevent decay, because Egyptians believed the body was needed in the afterlife
 19. They developed near rivers because rivers provided water for irrigation, fertile soil from flooding, transportation, and drinking water
 20. The pharaoh was the supreme political and religious leader, considered a living god who owned all the land and controlled the government
- Matching (Ancient Mesopotamia & Egypt): 1→D, 2→C, 3→E, 4→B, 5→A
21. A — An independent political unit consisting of a city and its surrounding countryside, with its own government, laws, and army
 22. C — Only adult male citizens could vote and participate directly — women, enslaved people, and foreigners were excluded
 23. A — A representative government with elected officials (consuls, senators, tribunes) and a system of checks and balances to prevent any one person from gaining too much power
 24. C — Developing systematic methods of logical reasoning, questioning assumptions, and exploring topics like ethics, politics, and the nature of reality through rational thought
 25. C — Concrete (opus caementicium) and the arch — Roman concrete was incredibly durable and allowed construction of structures impossible with stone blocks alone
 26. D — Athletic competitions held every four years at Olympia in honor of Zeus, where Greek city-states declared a truce and competed in sports instead of war
 27. It led to civil wars that ended the Roman Republic and eventually resulted in the Roman Empire under Augustus, Rome's first emperor

28. A temple on the Athenian Acropolis dedicated to Athena, demonstrating Greek values of beauty, mathematical proportion, religious devotion, and civic pride
29. Rigorous military training, strict discipline, 20-25 year service commitment, building roads and forts, and Roman citizenship upon retirement for non-citizen soldiers
30. Gods and myths shaped religious rituals, festivals, art, theater, moral lessons, and even political decisions through oracles and omens
Matching (Ancient Greece & Rome): 1→E, 2→C, 3→D, 4→B, 5→A
31. D — A systematic search of an area to locate and map potential archaeological sites, done before digging to identify the best places to excavate
32. A — A small exploratory excavation used to determine if a larger dig is warranted — it reveals the depth, content, and condition of archaeological deposits
33. D — The principle that in undisturbed deposits, the oldest layers are at the bottom and the newest layers are at the top
34. B — It sends radio waves into the ground that bounce back when they hit buried objects or features, creating an image of what's underground without digging
35. A — A technique where soil samples are placed in water, causing light organic materials like seeds, charcoal, and tiny bones to float to the surface for collection and analysis
36. D — A dating method that uses the pattern of tree rings in wood to determine the exact year a tree was cut down, since each year produces a unique ring pattern
37. To precisely record the three-dimensional location of every find so the spatial relationships between objects can be analyzed and the excavation can be reconstructed
38. Dating pottery and burnt stone by measuring light energy that has accumulated in the material since it was last heated, providing an age estimate
39. An ecofact is a natural object found at a site that was used or affected by humans but not manufactured — like animal bones, seeds, or pollen — while artifacts are human-made objects
40. By analyzing animal bones, plant remains (seeds, pollen), residue on pottery, chemical analysis of human bones, and examining coprolites (fossilized feces)
Matching (Archaeological Methods & Evidence Analysis): 1→C, 2→E, 3→A, 4→B, 5→D
41. D — The Maya developed the most complete writing system in the pre-Columbian

Americas — a hieroglyphic script with both logographic and syllabic elements that could express any spoken thought

42. B — The Aztec capital built on an island in Lake Texcoco, connected by causeways, with a population of 200,000-300,000 — larger than most European cities of the time
43. C — They used quipus (knotted string devices) for recording numerical data and possibly narrative information, along with a network of relay runners (chasqui) for communication
44. C — Artificial islands or 'floating gardens' built in Lake Texcoco for farming, providing food for the huge population of Tenochtitlan in a limited land area
45. A — The Maya used interlocking calendar cycles (a 260-day sacred calendar and a 365-day solar calendar) based on precise astronomical observations of the sun, moon, Venus, and other celestial bodies
46. D — They precisely shaped stones using harder stone hammers so the blocks fit together perfectly without mortar, and transported materials using human labor, ramps, and llama caravans on mountain roads
47. Conquered peoples were required to send regular payments of goods (gold, feathers, cacao, textiles, food) to Tenochtitlan, funding the empire's wealth and elite class
48. The Popol Vuh tells of twin brothers who defeat the lords of the underworld through cleverness, reflecting Maya beliefs about death, rebirth, the underworld, and the triumph of life
49. Both spanned thousands of miles and connected diverse regions, but Inca roads crossed extreme terrain (Andes mountains, deserts, jungles) using rope suspension bridges and stepped pathways that Roman flat-road engineering couldn't match
50. A ritual sport played on stone courts where players used hips and bodies (no hands) to hit a rubber ball, with deep religious significance connecting to myths of life, death, and cosmic order
Matching (Ancient Americas: Maya, Aztec, Inca): 1→D, 2→C, 3→B, 4→A, 5→E
51. A — The Indus Valley (Harappan) civilization
52. D — Oracle bone script
53. A — Gold and salt
54. B — They had grid-planned streets, standardized brick sizes, and sophisticated drainage and sewage systems

55. A — Geographic isolation encouraged the development of a distinct culture and made outside invasion more difficult, while river valleys supported agriculture
56. A — Griots were oral historians and storytellers who preserved community history, genealogies, and cultural knowledge through memorized narratives passed down through generations
57. It was the belief that heaven granted the right to rule to a just emperor, but a corrupt or incompetent ruler would lose this mandate — natural disasters and rebellions were seen as signs of lost favor
58. Differences in house sizes, burial goods, diet (animal bones vs. vegetarian remains), jewelry quality, and neighborhood locations within the city
59. Remains of caravanserais (rest stops), foreign coins or goods far from their origin, worn paths or roads, and evidence of cultural exchange like religious artifacts from distant regions
60. The empire was extraordinarily wealthy — Mansa Musa brought so much gold that he crashed the gold market in Egypt, and his large entourage showed Mali's organizational capacity
Matching (Ancient Asia & Africa: China, India, West Africa): 1→E, 2→C, 3→B, 4→D, 5→A
61. D — Provenience refers to the precise location where an artifact was found during excavation (its archaeological context), while provenance refers to the artifact's ownership history after it was removed from the ground
62. B — The classification of artifacts into types based on shared characteristics like shape, material, decoration, or manufacturing technique, used to establish chronological sequences and cultural connections
63. D — The physical objects, buildings, and modifications to the landscape that people create and use, which reflect and shape their cultural beliefs, social organization, and daily practices
64. A — An artifact's meaning comes largely from where it was found, what was found with it, and the layer it came from — without this context, much of its interpretive value is lost
65. A — By examining microscopic patterns of wear, polish, and edge damage on tool surfaces under magnification — different activities like cutting wood, scraping hides, or harvesting grain leave distinctive marks
66. D — Objects carry meaning through cultural context — the same bowl might be an everyday cooking vessel in one culture, a sacred ritual object in another, or a

status symbol showing wealth in a third, depending on how that society values and uses it

67. The pot was used for cooking (burning + organic residue), was valuable enough to repair rather than discard (drilled repair holes), suggesting either resource scarcity, sentimental value, or high cost of replacement in that society
68. The deliberate inclusion of child-appropriate items suggests the society valued children as individuals deserving personalized burial rites, believed in an afterlife where the child would need these objects, and that miniature items may reflect the child's play activities in life
69. Not necessarily — the two sherds may represent different functions (fine ware for display vs. coarse ware for cooking), different social classes, different areas of the site, or different production traditions. More evidence is needed before concluding quality declined
70. Possible explanations: (1) trade — test by analyzing clay composition to see if pots were made in one location and transported; (2) migration — look for other shared cultural traits beyond pottery; (3) shared cultural tradition — check if manufacturing techniques differ despite similar styles. Each hypothesis makes testable predictions.

Matching (Artifact Analysis & Cultural Interpretation): 1→E, 2→B, 3→A, 4→D, 5→C

71. D — The Neolithic Revolution (also called the Agricultural Revolution)
72. C — The spread of ideas, technologies, customs, and practices from one culture to another through trade, migration, conquest, or other forms of contact
73. C — A source created during the time period being studied — such as an artifact, a written document, a building, or an eyewitness account — that provides direct evidence about the past
74. B — It demonstrates that agriculture, surplus food production, and the social complexity that follows are predictable human responses to similar environmental conditions — rivers provide water for irrigation, fertile floodplain soil, and transportation routes
75. B — Writing enabled centralized record-keeping (taxes, laws, censuses), long-distance communication, codified legal systems, and institutional memory that outlived individual rulers — it allowed states to administer larger territories and populations
76. A — Common factors include overextension of military and administrative resources, economic strain from maintaining infrastructure, internal political instability and civil war, pressure from outside groups, environmental

degradation, and epidemic disease — no single cause explains any collapse

77. Compare: construction techniques (Roman paved roads vs. Inca stone-paved paths), geographic challenges overcome (European terrain vs. Andean mountains), purpose (Roman military/trade vs. Inca administration/chasqui runners), engineering innovations (Roman bridges vs. Inca suspension bridges), and maintenance systems. This reveals both civilizations' centralized planning, engineering skill, and need to connect distant territories.
78. Example: Athenian democracy (direct citizen participation in Assembly, but excluded women, slaves, and foreigners — ~10% of population) vs. Chinese Confucian bureaucracy (trained civil servants selected by examination, governing on behalf of the emperor, emphasizing merit and education). Both sought legitimacy and effective governance but through opposite approaches — popular participation vs. expert administration.
79. Present the evidence factually within its cultural context — explain what the practice meant to the people who performed it, avoid graphic sensationalism, acknowledge that modern values differ from ancient ones, and resist the urge to use these practices to label entire civilizations as 'barbaric' or 'savage'
80. Post-contact sites contain materials from multiple continents mixed together (European metals, American crops, African cultural practices), making it harder to associate artifacts with single cultures but revealing the dramatic scope of global exchange. Pre-contact sites show more culturally distinct material traditions, making regional identification clearer.

Matching (Capstone: Civilizations Compared & Legacy): 1→A, 2→D, 3→C, 4→E, 5→B

81. C — Excavation site
82. D — Soft-bristle brush
83. C — An object made or used by humans in the past
84. B — Excavation grid
85. B — In its original place or position
86. D — Carefully scraping and removing soil layer by layer
87. Because the position of an artifact provides clues about how it was used and its historical context
88. It shows that deeper layers are usually older, helping establish a timeline
89. Because rushing could destroy fragile artifacts or disturb their context
90. A primary source is an original artifact or document from the time period; a

secondary source interprets or analyzes primary sources

Matching (Archaeology & Paleontology): 1→E, 2→D, 3→A, 4→C, 5→B

- 91. C — Ancient Egypt
- 92. C — Cuneiform
- 93. C — A stone slab with the same text written in three scripts, which helped scholars decode Egyptian hieroglyphics
- 94. D — Babylon (Code of Hammurabi)
- 95. A — Papyrus
- 96. C — Public spectacles including gladiator contests and animal hunts
- 97. Rivers provided fresh water for drinking and irrigation, fertile soil for farming, and routes for trade and transportation
- 98. It allowed people to record laws, trade agreements, history, and knowledge, which could be preserved and shared across generations
- 99. They believed preserving the body was necessary for the person's spirit to survive in the afterlife

- 100. It was a network of trade routes that allowed the exchange of goods, ideas, religions, and technologies between East and West

Matching (Archaeology & Paleontology): 1→A, 2→B, 3→E, 4→C, 5→D

- 101. D — The preserved remains or traces of organisms that lived in the past
- 102. A — Sedimentary rock
- 103. C — A scientist who studies fossils and ancient life
- 104. C — The Mesozoic Era
- 105. B — Petrified fossil (permineralization)
- 106. A — A fossil of an organism that lived during a specific, short time period and is used to date the rock layers where it is found
- 107. Because most organisms decompose completely before they can be fossilized — fossilization requires quick burial in sediment and specific environmental conditions
- 108. Body fossils preserve an organism's physical remains (bones, shells), while trace fossils preserve evidence of an organism's activity (footprints, burrows, coprolites)

109. What types of plants grew in the area and what the climate was like at that time
110. Because it showed that areas now high above sea level were once underwater, providing evidence that Earth's surface changes dramatically over time
Matching (Archaeology & Paleontology): 1→B, 2→C, 3→D, 4→A, 5→E
111. D — The study of rock layers (strata) and their sequence to understand geological history
112. A — In undisturbed rock layers, the oldest layers are at the bottom and the youngest are at the top
113. D — Carbon-14 (radiocarbon)
114. B — The time it takes for half of the radioactive atoms in a sample to decay into a stable form
115. D — Relative dating determines the order of events (older or younger) without exact ages, while absolute dating provides a specific numerical age in years
116. B — A system that divides Earth's 4.6-billion-year history into eons, eras, periods, and epochs based on major geological and biological events
117. Because Carbon-14 has a half-life of only 5,730 years, so after about 50,000 years virtually no C-14 remains — dinosaurs died out 66 million years ago
118. Any geological feature that cuts across another feature must be younger than the feature it cuts through
119. Because potassium-40 has an extremely long half-life of 1.25 billion years, making it suitable for dating rocks millions to billions of years old
120. It represents a gap in the geological record where erosion removed rock layers or no deposition occurred for a period of time
Matching (Archaeology & Paleontology): 1→C, 2→A, 3→B, 4→D, 5→E
121. A — Archaeologists study past human cultures; paleontologists study ancient life forms including dinosaurs
122. C — A non-portable evidence of human activity, such as a wall, hearth, or storage pit that cannot be removed from the site
123. A — History is the period after writing was invented, while prehistory refers to the time before written records existed
124. C — Because excavation destroys the site — records are the only way to preserve the information about where everything was found
125. D — Stories, traditions, and knowledge passed down through generations by

word of mouth, preserving information from cultures that may not have had writing

126. B — A place where evidence of past human activity has been found and can be studied
127. It shows they had an organized system of taxation or tribute, record-keeping practices, agricultural surplus, and a centralized authority collecting resources
128. Removing artifacts destroys their context, making it impossible to learn what they can teach us about the past
129. A complex human society with organized government, religion, social classes, writing, and specialized workers
130. A visual representation showing events in chronological order, helping people understand the sequence and relationships between historical events
Matching (Public Archaeology): 1→C, 2→D, 3→B, 4→E, 5→A
131. B — Small brushes and trowels for delicate work near artifacts
132. D — A letter written by a Roman soldier describing daily life in the army
133. C — The pot was used for cooking (burning + organic residue), was valuable enough to repair rather than discard (drilled repair holes), suggesting either resource scarcity, sentimental value, or high cost of replacement in that society
134. D — They must treat remains with respect, consult with descendant communities, follow legal regulations, and sometimes repatriate remains to their communities of origin
135. C — BCE means 'Before the Common Era' and CE means 'Common Era' — they are used to number years in the Western calendar system
136. A — What did the people here eat, how did they build their homes, and how was their community organized?
137. Because it was one of the first places where humans developed cities, writing, laws, and organized agriculture
138. Its annual flooding deposited rich soil for farming, provided water, transportation, and made civilization possible in an otherwise desert region
139. Show Maya milpa (slash-and-burn in tropical jungle — adapted to thin jungle soil), Aztec chinampas (lake-island farming — adapted to an island city in a lake), and Inca andenes (terraces — adapted to steep mountain slopes). Include maps showing each environment, replica tools, and crop samples to demonstrate that each civilization developed brilliant solutions to their specific geographic

challenges.

140. A temple on the Athenian Acropolis dedicated to Athena, demonstrating Greek values of beauty, mathematical proportion, religious devotion, and civic pride
Matching (Public Archaeology): 1→C, 2→B, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D
141. C — Stone monuments with carved inscriptions, painted pottery and murals, architectural remains, ceramic and jade artifacts, remaining codices, and environmental evidence like soil and pollen
142. B — Example: Test the hypothesis that logs used as rollers could transport 25-ton sarsen stones. Recruit volunteers to move a replica stone block on log rollers over terrain similar to the Marlborough Downs. Measure force required, speed, number of people needed, roller wear, and compare results to the 30-km distance from the quarry to Stonehenge.
143. D — They likely fished as a regular food source and had developed specialized tools for catching fish
144. C — Use a multi-track parallel timeline showing all civilizations simultaneously rather than sequentially, organized by region (Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East). Highlight connections and trade routes between them. Use equal visual space for each region. Include contemporary comparisons (e.g., while Rome was building aqueducts, the Maya were building aqueducts too). This shows that world history was happening everywhere simultaneously.
145. D — One of the earliest known written law codes, created by Babylonian King Hammurabi, establishing clear rules and punishments for society
146. B — They were monumental tombs built to protect and house the bodies and possessions of pharaohs for the afterlife
147. They developed near rivers because rivers provided water for irrigation, fertile soil from flooding, transportation, and drinking water
148. The Aztec had a centralized empire with a supreme ruler (huey tlatoani) and tribute system; Maya had independent competing city-states each with their own king; Inca had the most centralized system with a divine emperor (Sapa Inca) controlling economy and labor directly
149. Athletic competitions held every four years at Olympia in honor of Zeus, where Greek city-states declared a truce and competed in sports instead of war
150. The U.S. adopted Greek democratic principles (citizen participation), Roman republican structures (elected representatives, separation of powers), and the concept of written law
Matching (Public Archaeology): 1→B, 2→E, 3→A, 4→C, 5→D

151. B — Explanation 1: Trade — wheel-made pottery was imported from a nearby specialized production center while local potters continued making hand-built wares for everyday use. Explanation 2: Social stratification — elites used imported fine ware while commoners used locally-made coarse ware. Testing: chemical analysis of clay sources would reveal if the fine ware was made locally or imported; distribution patterns within the site (elite vs. common areas) would test the social stratification hypothesis.
152. C — They carried water from the river to fields for irrigation, allowing farmers to grow crops in the dry climate
153. A — To store the internal organs (lungs, liver, stomach, intestines) removed from a body during the mummification process
154. A — It sends radio waves into the ground that bounce back when they hit buried objects or features, creating an image of what's underground without digging
155. B — Climate change and environmental factors have the strongest archaeological support — evidence shows river channel shifts and increased aridity, while the invasion theory lacks evidence of large-scale destruction
156. A — The Popol Vuh tells of twin brothers who defeat the lords of the underworld through cleverness, reflecting Maya beliefs about death, rebirth, the underworld, and the triumph of life
157. The empire was extraordinarily wealthy — Mansa Musa brought so much gold that he crashed the gold market in Egypt, and his large entourage showed Mali's organizational capacity
158. Translate the inscriptions using known scripts (Brahmi, Kharosthi, Greek), analyze the stone's source through geological testing, record the pillar's location relative to trade routes and cities, and compare the text to other known Ashokan edicts
159. It demonstrates that agriculture, surplus food production, and the social complexity that follows are predictable human responses to similar environmental conditions — rivers provide water for irrigation, fertile floodplain soil, and transportation routes
160. Archaeology has made significant progress — NAGPRA, community archaeology, repatriation efforts, and efforts to diversify the profession. However, major challenges remain: the field is still predominantly white and Western; many colonial-era collections remain unreturned; Indigenous perspectives are often included as consultation rather than leadership; and archaeological frameworks still center Western definitions of knowledge and value.

Matching (Public Archaeology): 1→B, 2→D, 3→E, 4→A, 5→C

161. Because their career was in ruins!

162. Rock!

163. I wanted to tell a joke about ancient pottery, but I'm afraid it might crack you up!

164. They really dig the atmosphere!

165. "You're too rough -- let me handle this layer!"

166. The ancient Egyptian architect was in de-Nile about the pyramid's construction flaws.

Spark & Anvil is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Apps + books are free forever.