

Introduction to Archaeology

Archaeology · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What do archaeologists call the objects made or used by humans in the past?

- A) Fossils
- B) Artifacts**
- C) Sediments
- D) Geodes

2. Which scientific method is used to determine the age of organic materials by measuring carbon decay?

- A) Radiocarbon dating**
- B) DNA mapping
- C) Tree ringing
- D) Satellite imagery

3. What is the term for the process of carefully uncovering archaeological sites by removing layers of soil?

- A) Mapping
- B) Surveying
- C) Excavation**
- D) Sampling

4. In archaeology, what does 'stratigraphy' refer to?

- A) The study of star patterns
- B) The analysis of burial customs
- C) The study of rock or soil layers**
- D) The classification of pottery styles

5. Which of the following is considered an archaeological feature rather than a portable artifact?

- A) A stone tool
- B) A piece of jewellery
- C) A brick wall**
- D) A clay pot

6. What is the main goal of an archaeological survey?

- A) To destroy the site
- B) To locate archaeological sites without digging**
- C) To sell historical artifacts
- D) To change the historical record

7. What do archaeologists call the remains of plants or animals preserved in the earth?

- A) Fossils**
- B) Features
- C) Contexts
- D) Stratigraphy

8. Which type of specialist studies human history specifically through the analysis of bones?

- A) Paleontologist
- B) Physical anthropologist**
- C) Linguist
- D) Numismatist

9. What is the term for the precise location where an artifact is found?

- A) Provenance**
- B) Coordinate
- C) Topography
- D) Grid

10. Why do archaeologists keep detailed records of exactly where an artifact was found?

- A) To make the site look messy
- B) To maintain the context of the find**
- C) To increase the monetary value
- D) To hide the location from the public

11. What are 'ecofacts' in an archaeological context?

- A) Inorganic tools
- B) Human-made buildings
- C) Natural objects like seeds or bones**
- D) Modern garbage

12. Which tool is commonly used by archaeologists for fine excavation work?

- A) Bulldozer
- B) Trowel**
- C) Pickaxe
- D) Dynamite

13. What is 'dendrochronology' used for in archaeological dating?

- A) Analyzing tree rings**
- B) Testing pottery clay
- C) Checking metal purity
- D) Measuring rock hardness

14. What is a 'midden' in archaeology?

- A) A type of burial chamber
- B) A heap of ancient domestic waste**
- C) A ceremonial temple
- D) A defensive wall

15. Which of these is a major ethical rule for modern archaeologists?

- A) Keep artifacts for personal collections
- B) Avoid damaging the site unnecessarily**
- C) Focus only on gold artifacts
- D) Ignore records of modern history