



EMORY

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# Archaeology CSI: Cultural Scene Investigation

## Vocabulary

**Anthropology:** The study of human kind. This field includes linguistics, cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, and archaeology.

**Archaeology:** The study of artifacts from the past.

**Artifact:** Any object made or modified by humans.

**Archaeological Context:** The artifact in relation to its surroundings. This includes where it is located in the site and other objects that are found with it.

**Material culture:** The physical evidence of a culture in the objects and architecture they make or have made.

**Paleontology:** The study of life in past geological times through plant and animal fossils.

**Radiocarbon dating:** Using the decay rate of the isotope carbon-14 in previously living tissue to date an artifact. Radiocarbon dating is accurate up to 40,000 years in the past.

**Relative dating:** Dating an object in relation to others. This allows archaeologists to determine if an object is older or younger in a sequence without necessarily determining its specific age.

**Stratigraphy:** The analysis of the order and position of layers of archaeological deposits.