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.