

# What is Archaeology?

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*Photo from my work at  
Mammoth Cave National Park.*

# Archaeologists DO NOT:

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- ✦ Study dinosaurs.
- ✦ Just look for pretty or valuable objects.
- ✦ Just pick up artifacts.
- ✦ Spend all their time just digging.
- ✦ Buy, sell, or put a price on artifacts.



# So what is archaeology?

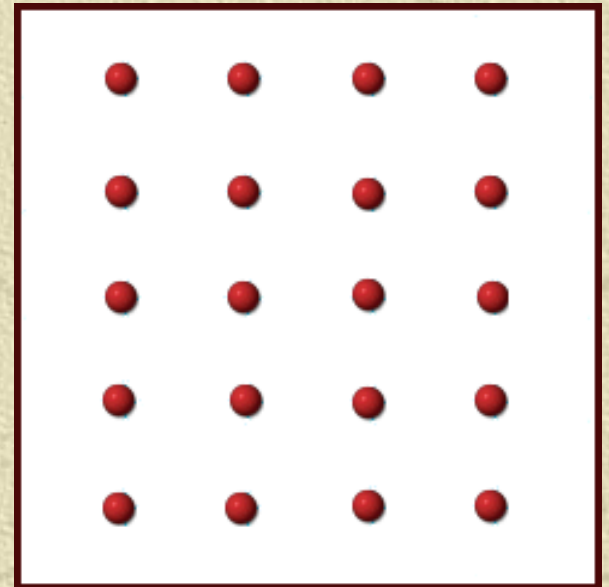
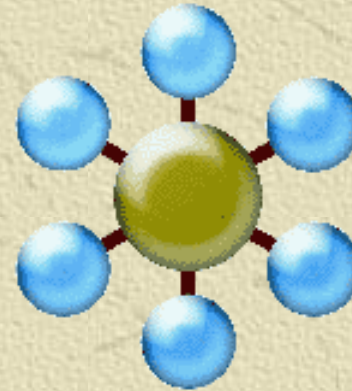
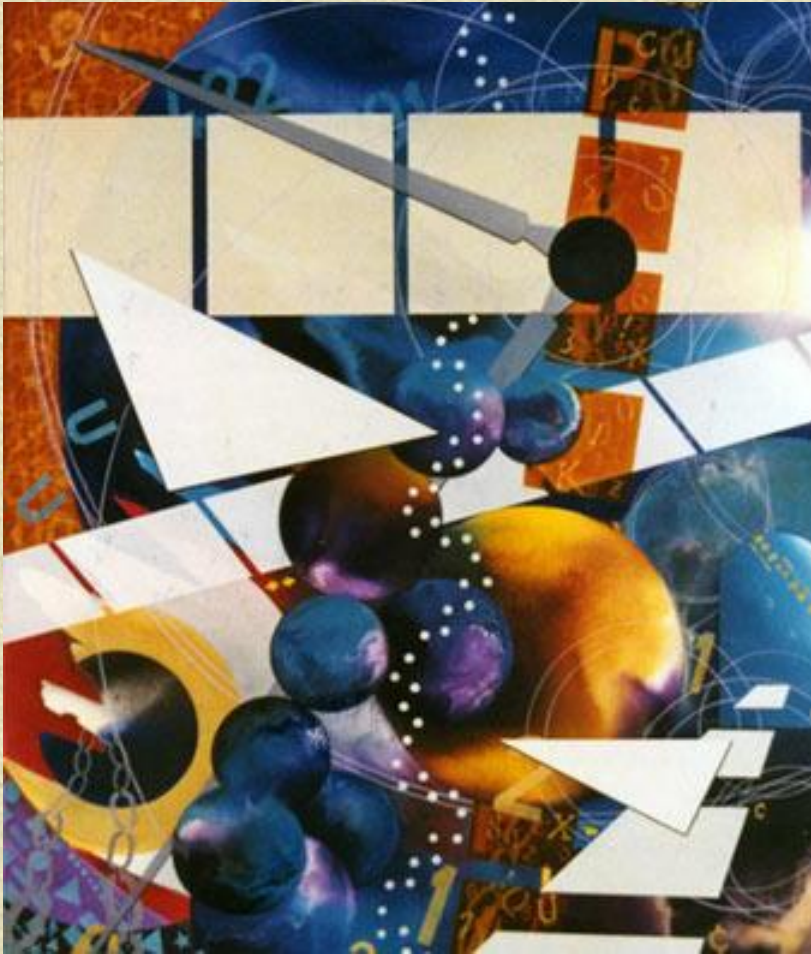
The systematic, scientific recovery and analysis of artifacts in order to answer questions about past human culture and behavior.



*Photos from my work at Mammoth Cave National Park.*

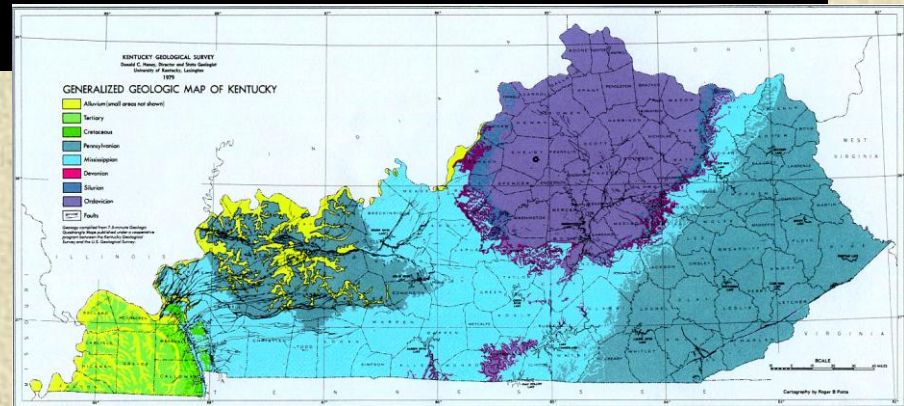
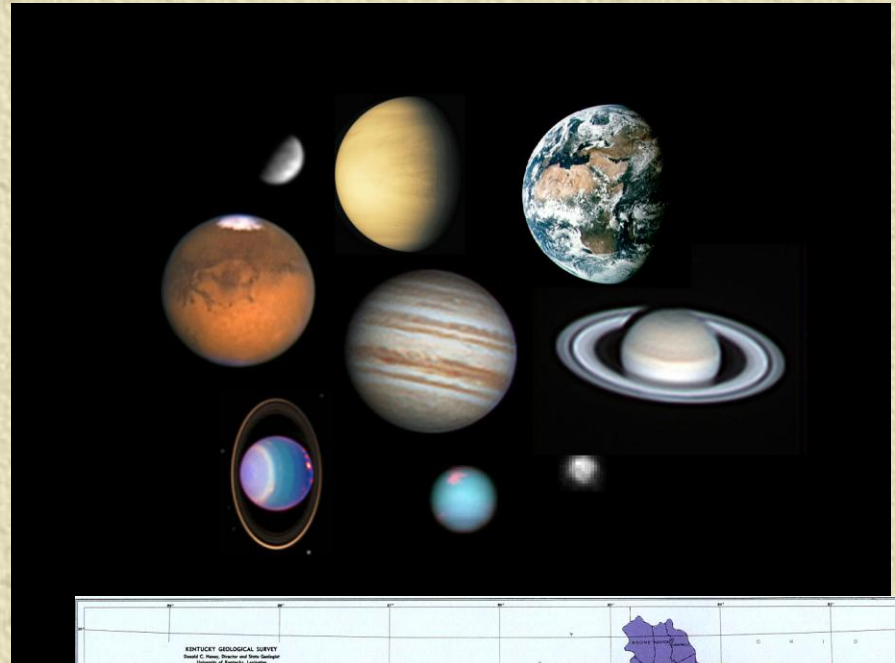
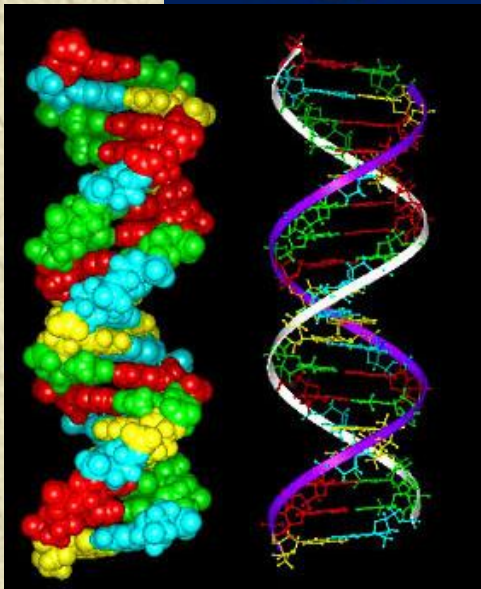
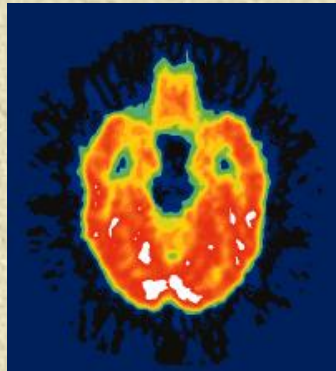
**Systematic:** A consistent way of studying anything.

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# Science: Methods and knowledge of studying anything.

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# Recovery / Analysis: To collect and study artifacts.

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**Question-based:** Archaeologists study artifacts in order to answer questions about how humans lived.

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Did they have religion?

Did they have disease or sickness?

What tools did they use?

What did they eat?

When did they live?

Did they have laws?

Did they hunt or farm?

Where did they live?

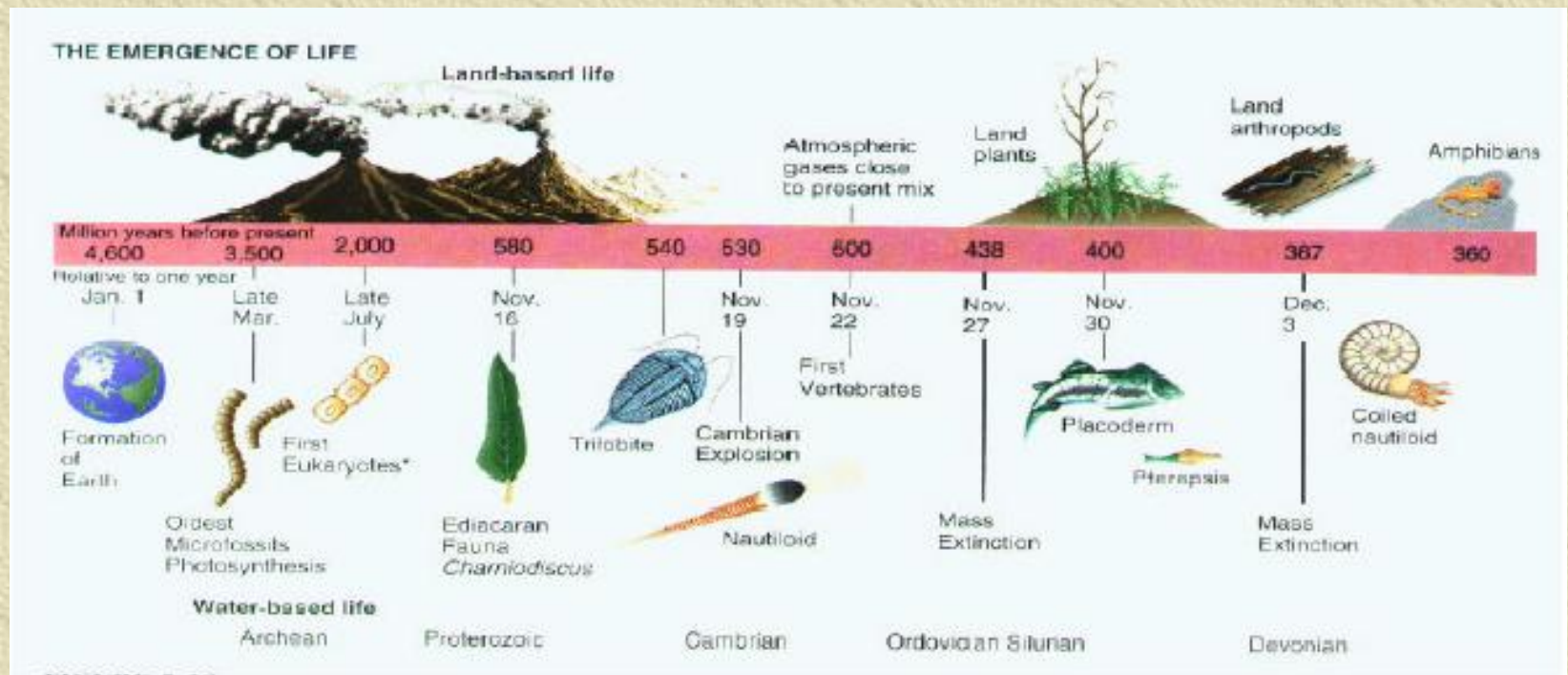
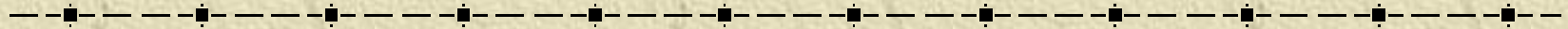
Who took care of the children?

Did they have art?

Did they have writing?

How large was the group?

Past: Archaeologists study human cultures that are no longer living.



Culture: Any learned behavior that is shared with others.

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# So what is Archaeology?

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✦ More simply it is the study of artifacts left behind to learn about people from the past.

OR

People  
and their  
Garbage

# Types of Archaeology

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- ✦ Prehistoric Archaeology

- ✦ Before writing.

- ✦ Historical Archaeology

- ✦ Document/writing assisted

- ✦ Classical Archaeology

- ✦ Greek and Roman

- ✦ Biblical Archaeology

- ✦ Underwater Archaeology

- ✦ Shipwrecks or anything else under water.

- ✦ Industrial Archaeology

- ✦ Industrial Revolution and other modern structures

- ✦ Egyptologists, Mayanists, Assyriologists

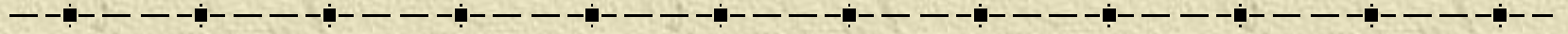
- ✦ Study of specific civilizations or time periods.

- ✦ Cultural Resource Management

- ✦ Management and assesment of significant cultural resources.



# References



- ✧ Applegate, Darlene. “Anth 130” In-class notes. Western Kentucky University, Spring 2004.
- ✧ Google Images. 1 December 2005.  
<<http://www.google.com/imghp?hl=en&tab=wi&q=>>