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**SOURCE: Nancy Marie White, *Archaeology for Dummies*. Wiley Publishing, Inc.: Hoboken, NJ (2008)**

**N.B.:** The Instructor has made the following summaries from Nancy Marie White’s book excerpts. Titles and *some* passages are quoted directly from the book.

**Summary (pp.15-19)**

**How Archaeology Became a Modern Science – Early Diggers (p.15)**

Many famous, fascinating personalities were pioneers in the development of archaeology (and models for characters like Indiana Jones).

Historical records say that a sixth-century B.C. Babylonian king and princess were the first to dig up remains of their own society’s glorious past, restore a by-then ancient Sumerian temple-pyramid, and display artifact finds in the palace.

Real archaeology is only traceable (so far) back to the Renaissance (14th through 17th centuries), when a passion for learning about the classical past developed. Wealthy folks traveled to ancient lands like Egypt and Mesopotamia and collected antiquities (old items, usually sculptures) dug out of ruins. …. Antiquarian societies and collectors accumulated loads of items and began to establish museums to display them by the 18th century.

Most of the knowledge of the past that people had until modern times came from historical writings or myth and legend until real science began to emerge in the Western world. The Bible told people what had happened in the past, and folktales supplied the rest.

**Nineteenth-century archaeology (p.16)**

By the early 1800s, naturalists and early scientists had accumulated a good body of artifacts and archaeological knowledge and were using it to interpret humanity’s past in an orderly fashion. With historical models, they charted the progress of human society through time.

Many early archaeologists looked for adventure in searching out the remains and exquisite artifacts of the ancient past. They did not really “discover” various sites. It was the local people, who actually led them there. Some good archaeologists published the information and drawings and brought back antiquities for display. However, others grabbed ancient treasures to sell for profit or display on their own estates.

**Late 19th and early 20th-century improvements (p.17)**

The goals of archaeological pursuits became more sophisticated and scientific by the late 19th century as investigators realized they needed systematic study to make sense of the wealth of finds. Here are some notable figures of this time in archaeology’s history when more careful digging developed:

General Pitt Rivers (southern England in the 1880s)

Sir Flinders Petrie (Egyptian pyramids)

Sir Arthur Evans (Knossos, Crete, 1900. Minoan civilization)

Cyrus Thomas (U.S. Mississippi Valley, Native American groups)

**The early 20th century: Fabulous finds and academic advances (p.18)**

Archaeologists did more orderly excavation, and synthesis of the results became more commonplace during that period.

**Famous early figures**

**1.** ***Howard Carter***, who had worked with Flinders Petrie in Egypt. He discovered the spectacular tomb of **King Tut***.*

**2.** ***Sir Leonard Woolley*** dug in Syria in 1912, assisted by **T.E. Lawrence** (Lawrence of Arabia), with whom he also engaged in spy activities for the British government.

**3.** ***Gertrude Bell***, an Arabic-speaking British travel writer and fascinating political figure in the Middle East, investigated Mesopotamian ruins and was also involved in British intelligence. She was instrumental in the emergence of the modern country of **Iraq**.

**4.** ***Gertrude Caton-Thompson*** worked in Egypt and then excavated at Great Zimbabwe in southern Africa in 1929. She said those ruins originated with indigenous African people.

**5.*****Sir Mortimer Wheeler*** was a major British archaeologist by the 1920s. He dug sites of many kinds, from Roman towns to the famous Iron-Age hill fort Maiden Castle in southern England. Then he went to India and brought to light the ancient cities of the lost Indus Valley civilization in Pakistan.

**Archaeology gets more academic (p.19)**

Scholars realized that their major goal should now be to organize some of the vast amounts of information that digs were providing. **V. Gordon Childe**, an Australian who delved into archaeology across Europe, produced the first major syntheses of prehistory. He talked about the processes of change in the deep human past that led to the Agricultural Revolution and the Urban Revolution – in other words, food production and later the emergence of early states.

In the early 20th century, lots of fossil finds that show that early humans first appeared in Africa came to light. Most of this study was not archaeological but the subject of human paleontology or paleoanthropology.

**During the Great Depression of the 1930s,** **U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt** began programs to bring jobs to the country, including a great deal of archaeological work, especially in the poor region of the South. Hundreds of mounds and other sites were dug, and thousands of bags of artifacts were retrieved and piles of data accumulated. By then, academic institutions were beginning to train archaeologists who could supervise workers and then synthesize the findings for major regions.

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**Different Kinds of Archaeology (pp.49-50)**

1. ***Avocational and educational archaeology*.** Amateur or avocational archaeologists do it as a hobby, not as a profession. … The word *amateur* comes from the Latin for “love” – you do it because you love it, not because you’re getting paid.
2. ***Landscape archaeology*** *considers the whole integrated environment in which people lived. For this specialty, you need to know geology, landforms, biology, and ecosystems to see resources available and how people would have used, even shaped, their surroundings.* Environmental archaeology *is another term for this.*
3. ***Geoarchaeology*** *combines geology, geography, and archaeology in various ways, whether studying soils, rock formations, and landforms or remote sensing, imaging, and mapping techniques.*
4. ***Mortuary archaeology*** *involves specialists who excavate human graves, often to relocate them out of the path of some new construction - or they may study different kinds of burials to learn about social organization and religion.*
5. ***Bioarchaeology*** *refers to the study of human skeletons and their contexts; it requires training in biological anthropology.*
6. ***Field archaeology*** *(going out and digging) can be contrasted with* laboratory archaeology(processing and analyzing materials and data that come in from the dig), *but most professionals and amateurs do both.*
7. ***Theoretical archaeology*** *means figuring out what happened in the past by using particular models and assumptions about how humans behave at a general level. .… Different types of theories include* cognitive archaeology (γνωστικός/humanistic, dealing with how people thought in the past), processual archaeology (διαδικαστική/scientific), and culture history (περιγραφική/ αναλυτική/ παραστατική/descriptive).
8. ***Ethnoarchaeology*** *(studying living cultures and their material stuff) and* experimental archaeology(replicating [αναπαράγω] past artifacts yourself) *are two techniques used to help interpret what you’re digging up.*
9. ***Biblical archaeology*** *looks for evidence in the ground to support the historic record of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. So, it’s a particular form of* historical archaeology*.*
10. ***Archaeoastronomy*** *studies how past peoples related with the sky, including aligning monuments with the sun, moon, or planets and using astronomical knowledge for religious or other purposes.*
11. ***Garbology*** *is a term for the archaeology of our very modern trash, as collected weekly from our homes or deposited in landfills (χωματερές). It can tells us things about ourselves (consumer behavior, waste, biodegradability [βιοδιάσπαση]) that we can’t get anywhere else.*

**Special Studies Related to Archaeology (p.51)**

1. *Zooarchaeology:* Animal remains
2. *Paleoethnobotany:* Plant remains
3. *Archaeometry:* Archaeological sciences (and techniques)

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