**UNIT 1** **Introduction.**

**History. Anthropology. Archaeology. Mythology**

***Τὰ πάντα*** [***ῥεῖ***](https://lsj.gr/wiki/%E1%BF%A5%CE%AD%CF%89) ***καὶ οὐδὲν μένει - Everything*** [***flows***](https://lsj.gr/wiki/flow) ***and*** [***nothing***](https://lsj.gr/wiki/nothing)[***stands***](https://lsj.gr/wiki/stand)[***still***](https://lsj.gr/wiki/still) ***- Heraclitus***

**WARM-UP EXERCISE.** *Discuss the following with your instructor and fellow students. You can keep notes before or after the discussion*.

1. What is meant by the term ‘Humanities’?
2. Give a definition of History, Archaeology and Anthropology.

**NOTES.**

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**NAVIGATION. KEY TERMS.** *Study the following words prior to reading the text*.

**documentation**: material providing evidence

[**cultural heritage**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_heritage): the legacy of both *tangible* and *intangible heritage*. *Tangible heritage* includes artifacts, buildings, landscape, archaeological remains (cultural property), whereas *intangible heritage* includes customs, practices, artistic expressions and values

**cross-cultural**: relating to different cultures

**antiquity**: ancient times

**rite**: a ceremony that leads one to a new phase of life – e.g., *rite of passage*

**ritual**: a religious or [solemn](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sca_esv=581692793&biw=1275&bih=595&q=solemn&si=ALGXSlZs_yOcjbcvFwhB4E04oe9YFB-Hg3nB21oDzd4TNU8hSK_zN_AvIolKe-2xIq1Z6Ys5CMGkyrv3jBKNvuJytS2dRigNSg%3D%3D&expnd=1) ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order – e.g., *fertility ritual*

**READING History. Anthropology. Archaeology. Mythology**

The word *History* derives from [ancient Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek_language) [*ἱστορία*](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E1%BC%B1%CF%83%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%81%CE%AF%CE%B1#Ancient_Greek) *(historía)*, meaning “inquiry”, knowledge acquired through the systematic study and documentation of past [human activity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_activity). ‘History’ is an [umbrella term](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umbrella_term) comprising past events as well as the memory, discovery, collection, organization, presentation, and interpretation of these events. The time-period of events before the [invention of writing systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_writing#Inventions_of_writing) is considered [prehistory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistory). The boundary, or dividing line, then, between ‘history’ and ‘prehistory’ is usually considered to be the written records of events and human activities of the past.

Stories, which are common to a particular culture, but which are not supported by external sources, are usually classified as [*cultural heritage*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_heritage)or[*legends*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legend). History is supported by verifiable [evidence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evidence), and in this respect, it differs from [myth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myth). Of course, there are stories told by witnesses who experienced events in their personal lives and/or those of others close to them. Recorded interviews between an interviewee and interviewer, as well as photographs, letters, and other relevant material that can enhance and greatly contribute to written - or, at times, missing - historical records can be viewed as ‘oral history’.

[Herodotus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodotus), a 5th-century BC [Greek historian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_historiography) from the Greek city of Halicarnassus, in Caria, Anatolia, is considered the ‘father of history’, as he was the first writer to perform [systematic investigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method) of historical events. The Athenian historian Thucydides has been called the ‘father of [scientific history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_history)’ by those who accept his claims to have applied strict standards of impartiality and evidence-gathering and analysis of cause and effect.

*Anthropology* derives from the Greek words *άνθρωπος* (*Anthropos*/man) *+ λόγος* (*logos*/study). Anthropology is the scientific study of what it means to be human, with a particular focus on culture and social relations, human behaviour patterns, human biology and evolution, as well as languages, music, art and architecture, and vestiges of human habitation. It considers how peoples' behaviors change over time, why and how people from various parts of the world and dissimilar cultures are both different and the same, and how individuals understand and operate successfully in distinct cultural settings. Social Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Linguistics and Archaeology are considered to be branches of Anthropology.

*Social Anthropology* is the study of human societies and cultures through a comparative lens, seeking to understand how people live in societies and how they make their lives meaningful. *Cultural Anthropology* is a branch of [Anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology), focused on the study of [cultural variation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_variation) among humans. Cultural variation refers to the diversity in social practices that different cultures exhibit around the world. *Linguistics* is the scientific study of language and its structure.

*Archaeology* attempts to understand, describe and study past societies’ cultures, behaviours and ways of life through excavations and analyses of ancient human material remains. Whereas history is based on documented evidence, archaeology goes beyond recorded dates of knowledge. It uncovers and investigates finds that, along with history and social/cultural anthropology, it will seek to interpret. Archaeology is also linked with *Mythology*. For mythology, albeit not a science, and besides being of great interest to the social/cultural anthropologist, has seemingly also played a role in certain research pursuits with regard to archaeological sites, their possible location and finds, as it did in the case of Troy, for instance.

History, Archaeology and Social/ Cultural Anthropology - all deal with the human thought, action, ingenuity and creativity - as do myths, whose values transcend the frontiers of time. For a myth would express a community’s perception of the reality of natural phenomena, and would be enacted with rites. In his book *Myth and Reality*, Mircea Eliade, a Romanian historian of religion, expounds on ‘living’ myths in societies around the world: ‘living’, because myths provide models for human behaviour. Human behaviour is one of the reasons why archaeology investigates, uncovers and studies human material remains of the antiquity.

The anthropologist–cum-archaeologist–cum-historian also explores how humans, who lived in the remote (prehistoric and historical) past, must have tackled a number of difficulties and overcome hurdles in their effort to survive adverse conditions, while trying to find a permanent, liveable place to settle down in. The researcher investigates how the first settlements were organized, what their nourishment was like, whether a community lived on agriculture or whether they were fishing, weaving, trading, what kinds of tools they used, etc. Cross-cultural studies help the researcher/ practitioner to compare different groups of societies, so they can detect differences and similarities in these societies’ way of sociocultural organization in the environment they lived in.

To sum up, all of the above fields of study, History, Archaeology and Social/ Cultural Anthropology, can be considered as inter-complementary time-sciences. They are intertwined, broadening our perspective with regard to the development and acquisition of knowledge and understanding concerning human life across time and space.

**TASKS.**

**Task 1.** *Complete the sentences based on the information found in the text above*.

1. The word “History” derives ………………………………………………………..……………………………………………
2. What ‘history’ means is ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………..
3. Social anthropology is the study of ……………………………………………………………….……………………..
4. Archaeology attempts to understand, describe and ………………………….…………………………
5. The scientific fields of history and archaeology are interrelated with …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..……………………………………
6. Mythology has seemingly played a role ……………………………………………………………………………..
7. Myth in ancient cultures represented …………………………………………………………………………….……
8. Mythology is also known to be associated with history and ………………………………….…..
9. History, archaeology and social-cultural anthropology are intertwined, broadening our …………………………………………………………….………………………………………………………………..

**Task 2.** *Find the derivatives of the following words*.

**NOUNS ADJECTIVES VERBS ADVERBS**

history \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ historically

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inquire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

documentation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ document \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recorded record off-the-record

archaeology \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ archaeologically

sociology \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

myth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

representation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ represent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ linguistic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ linguistically

**Task 3.** *Team Work*.

Work in pairs or groups of threes.

1. Use the internet to find some information/a video of your choice on History and/or Archaeology and/or Social Anthropology. Remember to make a note of the wording as well as the link you will use, in order to find the information/video. In this way, you will know how to retrieve it next time.

**(b)** Write down the words you wish to remember.

**(c)** Make an oral and/or written summary of the information/short video.

**Task 4.** *Gap-filling exercise*.

Fill in the blanks with the words below.

**absorption; fields; even; has; known; become; medium; into**

Myth is also **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be associated with history and religion, and **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tradition, all of which are areas in which memory **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a central function. As the origin of religion, history, and literature, myth is also the **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connecting these **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of study. By way of partial **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or incorporation of myth into religion of later times, myth came to pass **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the times of history; myth was preserved and ‘recorded’ by history, yet it did not **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ historicized, whereas religion did.

**Task 5.** *Study. Observe*. *Present*.

Study the myths, history and culture of one African or Native American tribe. See if there are differences and similarities to your native history and culture. Keep notes and present your observations.