

**TEST BANK**



# Archaeology

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Archaeology:  
Theories,  
Methods and  
Practice  
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Thames & Hudson

**COLLEGE EDITION**  
Includes Online  
Study Guide and  
Website

## Chapter 2 Questions

1. Objects used, modified or made by people are known as \_\_\_\_\_ to archaeologists.
  - a) artifacts
  - b) geofacts
  - c) ecofacts
  - d) doodads
  - e) none of the above
2. The material immediately surrounding an artifact, usually some sediment such as gravel, sand, or clay, is known as the
  - a) dirt.
  - b) find spot.
  - c) site.
  - d) matrix.
3. Archaeological sites may be defined quite simply as
  - a) places where people once lived.
  - b) places where butchering and food preparation took place.
  - c) places where significant traces of human activity are identified.
  - d) locales where things were made.
  - e) none of the above
4. Non-artifactual organic and environmental remains, or **ecofacts**, include items such as
  - a) animal bones, plant remains, pottery fragments.
  - b) soils, sediments, animal bones, plant remains .
  - c) stone tools, weapons, pottery.
  - d) soils sediments, animal bones, stone tools, weapons, pottery.
  - e) none of the above
5. **Features**, essentially non-portable artifacts, include such things as
  - a) hammers, chisels, and arrowheads.
  - b) ceramic pots, arrowheads, basketry, and flint tools.
  - c) small villages, houses, and palaces.
  - d) post-trailers and advertisements, the main presentation.
  - e) postholes, hearths, floors and ditches.
6. An artifact's **context** includes its
  - a) matrix.
  - b) provenience.
  - c) matrix, provenience, and association with other finds.
  - d) taphonomic condition and current price.
  - e) none of the above

7. Formation processes affect the way in which finds came to be buried and what happened to them after their burial. A good example of a natural transformation process would be
- gradual burial of a feature by wind-borne soil.
  - the sudden fall of ash over Pompeii.
  - slow accumulation of river sediment over a feature.
  - gradual burial of an artifact by sand.
  - all of the above
8. **Inorganic** materials that frequently survive well archaeologically are
- plant fibers.
  - stone tools.
  - animal bones.
  - wood tools.
  - none of the above
9. Typically, the most destructive type of climate for organic materials tends to be
- tropical.
  - polar.
  - temperate.
  - it makes little difference.
10. Temperate climates are not usually conducive to organic preservation at archaeological sites because of
- variable temperatures and fluctuating precipitation.
  - steady humidity.
  - hyper-aridity.
  - water saturation.
11. At Ozette, the extraordinary preservation of organic materials such as wooden containers, baskets, weaving equipment, and fishing and hunting equipment, was the result of
- a glacier covering the village.
  - a mudslide covering the settlement.
  - a volcano burying the settlement in ash.
  - a lava flow burying the village.
12. The Pazyryk bodies, found in the Altai of \_\_\_\_\_, were burials placed inside log coffins about 400 BC and so well preserved by their constant frozen state that archaeologists recovered not only linen shirts, aprons, and stockings but could also see tattoos.
- southern Siberia
  - southern Sinai
  - southern Sahara
  - southern Botswana
  - South Carolina

13. Exceptional preservation of “Ötzi,” or the “Iceman,” found in the Alps in 1991, allowed documentation of his health, past injuries, tattoos, and diet. Radiocarbon dates suggest he lived at about \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) 1300 BC
- b) 300 AD
- c) 3300 BC
- d) 10,000 BC
- e) 13,000 BC

14. Artifacts found with “Ötzi” or the “Iceman” discovered in the Alps in 1991 included

- a) a long bow, wooden backpack, copper axe.
- b) a flint dagger, skin shoes (filled with grass), birchbark containers.
- c) a leather belt, bone awl, leather leggings.
- d) all of the above
- e) none of the above

15. Excellent preservation of organic materials at wetland sites occurs because of the anaerobic, or \_\_\_\_\_ environment, which inhibits the activities of micro-organisms that need oxygen.

- a) anoxic
- b) apoxic
- c) hydroxic
- d) noxious
- e) none of the above

16. Anaerobic, or anoxic, conditions preserve organic materials well and such conditions are often present in

- a) swamps.
- b) bogs.
- c) fens.
- d) marshes.
- e) all of the above

17. The mummies of the Andes are a good example of exceptional preservation of organic material resulting from its location in a

- a) cold climate.
- b) bog.
- c) dry cave.
- d) sandy desert.
- e) swamp.

18. Isotopes in the hair of the child mummies found on the peak of Lulllaillaco, Peru suggest that before they died they

- a) ate guinea pig.
- b) consumed marijuana.
- c) sacrificed a llama.
- d) chewed coca leaves.

- e) drank corn beer known as chicha.

19. Although not true humanly created mummies as in Egypt, the arid environment in the American Southwest promoted exceptional preservation when the pueblo dwellers buried their dead

- a) in deep pits.
- b) in special kivas.
- c) in dry caves.
- d) under the floors.

20. Bog bodies, primarily individuals who met a violent death (such as Tollund Man, from Denmark), are best known from northwest Europe and typically date to the

- a) Stone Age.
- b) Bronze Age.
- c) Iron Age.
- d) Industrial Age.
- e) Medieval Age.

21. The long-term study of an earthwork constructed at Overton Down, England, as experimental archaeology indicates that

- a) preservation was better in the chalk bank, and preservation of leather and pottery was unchanged after 4 years.
- b) preservation was superior in the turf core, and preservation of textiles and bones had changed little after 4 years.
- c) preservation was quite poor regardless of whether artifacts were in chalk or turf, primarily because of rodent and earthworm activity.
- d) archaeologists have been underestimating the effects of earthworm activity on preservation and site formation processes.

### **True or False Questions**

1. Protected from outside climatic effects, caves may act as natural “conservatories,” creating local climates that can promote the preservation of organic remains.
2. Natural formation processes include such activities as plowing, building structures, or making tools.
3. Sea water is one of the most destructive forces, but artifacts recovered from under the sea which are coated with a thick hard casing of metallic salts (e.g., chlorides, sulphides and carbonates) can often be restored.
4. Survival of organic materials is typically limited to cases of extreme moisture, such as very arid or waterlogged conditions.
5. Fired clay, such as pottery or baked mud-brick, is virtually indestructible if well fired.

6. Metals such as gold, silver, and lead survive well.
7. One of the remarkable points about Ötzi, the Iceman found in the Alps, is that he was a prehistoric human accidentally preserved with his everyday clothing and equipment, rather than carefully buried or sacrificed.
8. Provenience is the horizontal and vertical position of an artifact within the matrix.
9. Stone tools typically survive very poorly in the archaeological record, and rarely date beyond approximately 5000 years ago.
10. Arid conditions prevent decay through the shortage of water, which limits the ability of micro-organisms to survive.

### **Essay Questions**

Compare Michael Schiffer's concept of C-transforms and N-transforms in formation processes. Define what is meant by each concept, and then provide two examples of each and how each example would be affected by preservation conditions.

The discovery of "Ötzi" or the Iceman in 1991 in an alpine glacier revealed to the world the oldest fully preserved human body. What made this such a remarkable find to archaeologists? What specifically did we learn about this man; how he lived, why he died, his health and his possessions?

What types of environmental conditions lead to exceptional preservation of ancient remains? In your answer, include discussion about why such radically different conditions might produce exceptional preservation. Include specific examples of different types of preservation.

**KEY:**

1. a Basic Categories of Archaeological Evidence, p.51. Difficulty Rating=1
2. d The Importance of Context, p.52. Difficulty Rating=2
3. c Basic Categories of Archaeological Evidence, p.52. Difficulty Rating=2
4. b Basic Categories of Archaeological Evidence, p.52. Difficulty Rating=3
5. e Basic Categories of Archaeological Evidence, p.52. Difficulty Rating=3
6. c The Importance of Context, p.52. Difficulty Rating=3
7. e Formation Processes, p.55. Difficulty Rating=4
8. b Natural Formation Processes, Inorganic Materials, pp. 57-59. Difficulty Rating=2
9. a Natural Formation Processes, Organic Materials, p.61. Difficulty Rating=2
10. a Natural Formation Processes, Organic Materials, p.61. Difficulty Rating=3
11. b Wet Preservation: The Ozette Site, pp.62-63. Difficulty Rating=2
12. a Preservation of Organic Materials: Extreme Conditions, Cold Environments. p.66. Difficulty Rating=2
13. c Cold Preservation 2: The Iceman, pp.68-69. Difficulty Rating=4.
14. d Cold Preservation 2: The Iceman, pp.68-69. Difficulty Rating=3.
15. a Preservation of Organic Materials: Extreme Conditions, Waterlogged Environments, p.70-71. Difficulty Rating=3.
16. e Preservation of Organic Materials: Extreme Conditions, Cold Environments, p.66. Difficulty Rating=3.
17. a Cold Preservation 1: Mountain Mummies, p.67. Difficulty Rating=2
18. d Cold Preservation 1: Mountain Mummies, p.67. Difficulty Rating=4
19. c Preservation of Organic Materials: Extreme Conditions, Dry Environments, p.67. Difficulty Rating=4.
20. c Preservation of Organic Materials: Extreme Conditions, Waterlogged Environments, p.70. Difficulty Rating=4.
21. a Experimental Archaeology, p.55. Difficulty Rating=5.

**True or False Questions**

1. True Organic Materials, p. 61
2. False Formation Processes, p. 54
3. True Inorganic materials, p. 57-59
4. True Organic materials, p. 61
5. True Inorganic materials, pp. 57-59
6. True Inorganic materials, pp. 57-59
7. True Cold Preservation 2: The Iceman pp. 68-69
8. True The Importance of Context, p. 52
9. False Inorganic Materials, pp.57-59
10. True Preservation of Organic Materials: Extreme Conditions, p. 64.