Chapter 1 Questions

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1. Who is considered to be the first person to have conducted a scientific excavation of an ancient site?
a) Thomas Jefferson
b) General Pitt-Rivers
c) Sir William Flinders Petrie
d) Willard Libby
e) Charles Darwin

2. Only just a century and a half ago, before the development of modern archaeology, most well-read people in the Western world thought the world had been created
a) in the year 1 AD
b) in the year 1000 AD
c) 4.54 billion years ago
d) 2 million years ago
e) in 4004 BC

3. The ecological approach to archaeology developed by Grahame Clark and his contemporaries could not only build up a picture of what prehistoric environments were like, but could also provide information about human activities such as
a) what language people spoke in the past
b) why people believed in certain gods
c) what style of clothing people wore
d) what people ate in the past
e) all of the above

4. Many 19th century scholars were obsessed with the Moundbuilders, a mythical civilization that supposedly built the mounds and earthworks located in what is now
a) the United States
b) Greece
c) Eastern Europe
d) China
e) South Africa

5. Who formed the first cabinets of curiosities?
a) Sigmund Freud
b) Renaissance princes
c) Sir John Soane
d) the Aztecs
e) none of the above

6. After 14 years of work, this scholar was able to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphs in 1822
a) Ephraim Squier
b) Gordon Childe
c) Jean-François Champollion
d) General Pitt-Rivers
e) C.J. Thomsen

7. “Survival of the fittest”, a key mechanism in Darwin’s theory of evolution, is also known as

a) natural selection
b) uniformitarianism
c) stratification
d) classification
e) ethnology

8. A late 19th-century pioneer in organized, precise excavation and total recording methods was

a) Mortimer Wheeler
b) Charles Darwin
c) Gordon Childe
d) General Pitt-Rivers
e) Alfred Kidder

9. The Rosetta Stone was found to be the key to

a) deciphering Aramaic
b) deciphering ancient Hebrew
c) deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs
d) deciphering Linear A
e) deciphering ancient Greek

10. The study of the arrangement of superimposed layers of rocks or soil is called

a) processualism
b) the Three Age system
c) cultural ecology
d) stratigraphy
e) the praxis approach

11. Although it was less applicable in places where bronze or iron were not used, the Three Age System was conceptually significant to the study of the prehistory of

a) North America
b) Europe
c) South America
d) Africa
e) Mesoamerica

12. In North America, the influential anthropologist Julian Steward emphasized the importance of environmental adaptation in cultural change. This approach was termed

a) environmentalism
b) cultural ecology
c) eco-archaeology
d) diffusionism
e) processualism

13. A key breakthrough in the use of scientific methods to date archaeological remains was Willard Libby’s 1949 invention of

a) neutron activation analysis
b) dendrochronology
c) radiocarbon dating

d) potassium-argon dating
e) trace-element analysis

14. Proponents of the New Archaeology argued that archaeology should do which of the following?
a) explain rather than describe
b) test hypotheses
c) use scientific approaches
d) design research to answer specific questions
e) all of the above

15. The widespread acceptance in the later 20th century that the material remains of the past should be protected and conserved has inspired the development of
a) public archaeology
b) cultural ecology
c) typology
d) sequence dating
e) dendrochronology

16. C.J. Thomsen, a Danish scholar, was responsible for classifying artifact collections and, based on those classifications, he created a conceptual scheme known as
a) uniformitarianism
b) the Three Age system
c) cultural ecology
d) processualism
e) none of the above

17. Considered a useful starting point for archaeologists who wish to understand the lifestyles of people who lived in the past, the study of living human cultures and communities is called
a) post-processualism
b) evolution
c) ethnography
d) environmental archaeology
e) Marxist archaeology

18. Marija Gimbutas is considered a pioneer in the field of _____ because of her emphasis on the importance of women in prehistory
a) androcentrism
b) feminist archaeology
c) cultural relativism
d) the New archaeology
e) cultural-historic archaeology

19. Influenced by Darwin's ideas about evolution, Edward Tylor and Lewis Henry Morgan argued that human societies evolved through stages, from
a) savagery to barbarism to civilization.
b) barbarism to agriculturalism to civilization
c) australopithecines to *Homo erectus* to *Homo sapiens*
d) hunter to gatherer to agriculturalist

e) savagery to peasantry to capitalist

20. The travel writing of American lawyer and diplomat John Lloyd Stephens, published in the 1840s, revealed the ruined cities of what civilization for the first time
a) the Ancient Egyptians
b) the Romans
c) the Druids
d) the Maya
e) the Barbarians

21. The central concern of the "classificatory-historical period" of archaeological thought, which lasted until 1960, was
a) the use of scientific dating methods
b) the incorporation of alternative interpretations of the past
c) processualism
d) chronology
e) all of the above

22. Darwin's work on evolution, in particular the mechanism of "natural selection," served as an important catalyst to the concept
a) that humans had emerged as part of the same process.
b) that living things do not really change
c) that human origins were much too early for archaeology to have any relevance
d) none of the above
e) all of the above

23. The efforts of marginalized groups in the territory of former European colonies to have more of an influence on the management of their heritage has resulted in the development of
a) the New archaeology
b) speculative archaeology
c) archaeobotany
d) Indigenous archaeologies
e) the cultural-historical approach

24. Scholars began to study and collect the relics of Greece and Rome
a) during the Renaissance
b) after the discovery of radiocarbon dating
c) in the 1960s
d) after World War I
e) after the publication of John Lloyd Stephens's travel accounts

25. The fundamental complaint among proponents of the New Archaeology in the 1960s was that traditional archaeological methods
a) were too focused on science
b) did not incorporate Indigenous or feminist voices
c) relied too heavily on sources such as the Bible
d) did not include enough focus on migration, typology, and classification
e) never seemed to explain anything

26. _____ trained under Mortimer Wheeler, adopted his excavation method, and is best known for excavations at Jericho and Jerusalem

a) Kathleen Kenyon
b) Gertrude Caton-Thompson
c) Anna O. Shepard
d) Mary Leakey
e) none of the above

27. Ian Hodder and his students were some of the first to advance influential arguments for the school of archaeological thought called
a) the New Archaeology
b) ethnology
c) cultural ecology
d) postprocessual archaeology
e) processual archaeology

28. Contradicting the prevailing wisdom of the time, excavations led by _____ at Great Zimbabwe (1929) confirmed that the site represented a major culture of African origin
a) Louis Leakey
b) Gertrude Caton-Thompson
c) Harriet Boyd Hawes
d) Kathleen Kenyon
e) none of the above

29. A leading thinker on Old World history who was heavily influenced by Marxist ideal, Gordon Childe moved beyond simply describing cultural sequences by seeking to understand
a) the origins of civilization
b) the origins of the Neolithic Revolution
c) the origins of the Urban Revolution
d) all of the above
e) none of the above

30. The site of Çatalhöyük, an early farming site made famous by archaeologist Ian Hodders's use of interpretive archaeology approaches, is located in
a) England
b) Australia
c) Italy
d) Turkey
e) India

31. Whose work at Pecos Ruin, New Mexico was largely responsible for putting the archaeology of the Southwest on the map?
a) Max Uhle
b) Alfred Maudslay
c) Flinders Petrie
d) Leonard Woolley
e) Alfred Kidder

32. What is androcentrism?
a) male bias
b) the study of females

c) the study of males
d) female bias
e) none of the above

33. During the 18th century, _____ was one of the first archaeological sites to be excavated
a) Çatalhöyük
b) Pompeii
c) Cramborne Chase
d) Tutankhamen's Tomb
e) Pecos Ruin

True or False Questions

1. Many aspects of archaeology at the start of the new millennium emphasize the importance of the past for the contemporary world.

2. "Preventative archaeology," "rescue archaeology," and "cultural resource management" are terms that are used to describe various countries' legal frameworks for public archaeology.

3. The Rosetta Stone was discovered during Pitt-Rivers's military expedition to India (1798–1800).

4. The Moundbuilders, long thought to be a "vanished race," were actually the ancestors of modern Native Americans.

5. Like anthropologist Julian Steward, British archaeologist Grahame Clark broke away from the dependence on artifacts and argued for an ecological approach to how human populations adapted to their environments.

6. One of the weaknesses of the interpretive approach to archaeology is that the actions and thoughts of individuals in the past are not brought into central focus.

7. "The Speculative Phase" is a term used to describe an archaeological school of thought that sought to employ scientific methods to explain archaeological evidence.

8. Reflecting many other aspects of modern life in the 1960s, the New Archaeology was more pessimistic than earlier, traditional approaches to archaeology.

9. The New Archaeology is sometimes referred to as processual archaeology.

10. Darwin's work on evolution did not have a large or immediate impact on archaeologists.

Essay questions

1. Starting in the 1980s some scholars began to critique what they saw as male bias in the interpretation of the past. What were the key issues behind the development of feminist archaeology?

2. Discuss the key concepts that proponents of “the New Archaeology” argued distinguished their analysis from traditional archaeological approaches.
3. Why was Darwin’s work on evolution so important for the development of archaeology?
4. What are the distinctions between postprocessual (or interpretive) archaeologies and the New Archaeology?
5. Why is the invention of radiocarbon dating considered to be one of the most important archaeological advances of the 20th century?

ANSWER KEY: Chapter 1 Difficulty Ratings (1-5) 1=least difficult; 5=most difficult

1. a The First Excavations, p.17. Difficulty Rating=2
2. e The History of Archaeology, p.15. Difficulty Rating=3
3. d The Ecological Approach, pp.26–27. Difficulty Rating=3
4. a 19th-Century North American pioneers, pp.21–22. Difficulty Rating=2
5. b The Speculative Phase, p.16. Difficulty Rating=4
6. c Discovering Early Civilizations, p.20. Difficulty Rating=3
7. a The Antiquity of Humankind and the Concept of Evolution, p.19. Difficulty Rating=2/3
8. d The Development of Field Techniques, pp.22–23. Difficulty Rating=3/4
9. c Discovering the Early Civilizations, p.20. Difficulty Rating=3
10. d The Beginnings of Modern Archaeology, p.18. Difficulty Rating=3
11. b The Three Age System, p.19. Difficulty Rating=3/4
12. b The Ecological Approach, p.26. Difficulty Rating=4
13. c The Rise of Archaeological Science, p.27. Difficulty Rating=3
14. e The Birth of the New Archaeology, pp.28–30. Difficulty Rating=3
15. a The Development of Public Archaeology, p.33. Difficulty Rating=3
16. b The Three Age System, p.19. Difficulty Rating=3
17. c Ethnography and Archaeology, p.20. Difficulty Rating=3
18. b Pluralizing Pasts, p.32. Difficulty Rating=2
19. a Ethnography and Archaeology, p.20. Difficulty Rating=3
20. d Discovering the Early Civilizations, p.20. Difficulty Rating=3
21. d Classification and Consolidation, p.25. Difficulty Rating=4
22. a The Antiquity of Humankind and the Concept of Evolution, p.19. Difficulty Rating=4
23. d Indigenous Archaeologies, p.36. Difficulty Rating=3
24. a The Speculative Phase, p.16. Difficulty Rating=2/3
25. e A Turning Point in Archaeology, p.28. Difficulty Rating=3
26. a Women Pioneers of Archaeology, p.35. Difficulty Rating=3
27. d The Postprocessual Debate of the 1980s and 1990s, p.30. Difficulty Rating=3
28. b Women Pioneers of Archaeology, p.35. Difficulty Rating=4
29. d Classification and Consolidation, p.26 Difficulty Rating=4
30. d The Postprocessual Debate of the 1980s and 1990s, pp.31–32, 30. Difficulty Rating=3/4
31. e The Development of Field Techniques, p.24. Difficulty Rating=3
32. a Pluralizing Pasts, p.32. Difficulty Rating=1
33. b The First Excavations, p.17. Difficulty Rating=2

True or False Questions

1. True Indigenous Archaeologies, p.36
2. True North American Archaeological Pioneers, pp.33
3. False Discovering the Early Civilizations, p.20
4. True 19th-Century North American Pioneers, pp.21–22
5. True The Ecological Approach, pp.26–27
6. False The Postprocessual Debate of the 1980s and 1990s, p.30
7. False The Speculative Phase, p.16

8.	False	The Birth of the New Archaeology, pp.28–29
9.	True	Processual Archaeology, p.28
10.	False	The Antiquity of Humankind and the Concept of Evolution, p.19