

Ancient Foundations (Pre-1500s)

- c. 2400 BCE In ancient Egypt, the restoration of older monuments by pharaohs begins, such as the repairs to the Great Pyramid by Pharaoh Kufu. This can be seen as an early form of preservation.
- c. 500 BCE In Greece, Herodotus, often considered the "Father of History," travels extensively and records descriptions of ancient sites and monuments, providing an early form of antiquarian interest.
- c. 200 BCE The Chinese scholar Sima Qian writes the Records of the Grand Historian, which includes descriptions of ancient Chinese sites, artifacts, and tombs.
- c. 79 CE The eruption of Mount Vesuvius buries Pompeii and Herculaneum, which would become critical sites for future archaeological study.

Renaissance & Early Modern Period (1500s-1700s)

- 1420s The rediscovery of ancient Roman statues and artifacts in Italy during the Renaissance sparks renewed interest in antiquities, influencing artists like Michelangelo and Raphael.
- 1453 The fall of Constantinople leads to the migration of Greek scholars to Italy, bringing with them ancient manuscripts that inspire European interest in classical antiquity.

Renaissance & Early Modern Period (1500s-1700s) (cont)

- 1533 The discovery of the Inca city of Machu Picchu by Spanish explorers introduces the Western world to ancient Andean civilizations.
- 1575 The excavation of the Domus Aurea (Golden House) of Emperor Nero in Rome sparks an interest in Roman architecture and art, influencing the Renaissance style.
- 1586 Pope Sixtus V orders the excavation and re-erection of the Vatican Obelisk, an ancient Egyptian artifact, marking one of the earliest examples of archaeology used to recover monumental structures.
- 1600s Antiquarians in Europe begin to systematically collect, study, and catalogue ancient artifacts, particularly in Britain and Italy. This period sees the beginning of the organized study of ancient history and artifacts.
- 1620 William Camden's Britannia is published, a topographical and historical survey of Great Britain that includes early efforts to document ancient sites and monuments.
- 1699 The first recorded excavation in North America occurs at the Spiro Mounds in present-day Oklahoma by French explorer Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville.

18th Century: Birth of Scientific Archaeology

- 1717 The Society of Antiquaries of London is founded, one of the earliest societies dedicated to the study of history and archaeology.
- 1738 Excavations at Herculaneum begin under the direction of Rocque Joaquin de Alcubierre, marking the start of the first systematic archaeological excavation in history.
- 1748 Pompeii is rediscovered and excavated, providing unprecedented insight into Roman life and leading to the development of modern archaeological methods.
- 1764 Johann Joachim Winckelmann publishes History of the Art of Antiquity, which is considered the foundation of modern art history and archaeology, emphasizing the importance of context in the study of ancient artifacts.
- 1784 Thomas Jefferson conducts a systematic excavation of a Native American burial mound on his property in Virginia, often cited as the first scientific archaeological investigation in North America.

19th Century: Major Discoveries

- 1801-1805 The British Museum acquires the Elgin Marbles, ancient sculptures from the Parthenon in Athens, sparking debates about the ethics of artifact removal and ownership.



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19th Century: Major Discoveries (cont)

- 1808- The Rosetta Stone, discovered by
- 1813 French soldiers in 1799, is translated by Jean-François Champollion, allowing for the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs and revolutionizing the study of ancient Egypt.
- 1820 Heinrich Schliemann, a German archaeologist, discovers the site of ancient Troy, previously thought to be only a legend, using Homer's Iliad as a guide.
- 1824 The publication of John Lloyd Stephens' Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatán brings attention to the ancient Maya civilization, spurring interest and further exploration.
- 1828 The first archaeological journal, Archaeologia, is published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, reflecting the growing professionalization of the field.
- 1839 Austen Henry Layard begins his excavations at Nimrud and Nineveh in Mesopotamia, leading to the discovery of the Assyrian civilization and its magnificent palaces.
- 1842 The first detailed map of Stonehenge is created by British antiquarian William Stukeley, leading to a better understanding of the site's structure and significance.

19th Century: Major Discoveries (cont)

- 1851 The discovery of the prehistoric mounds in the Ohio Valley by Ephraim Squier and Edwin Davis leads to the publication of Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, the first book on American archaeology.
- 1857 The first meeting of the International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology is held in Paris, signaling the internationalization of archaeological research.
- 1870 Schliemann begins his excavations at Mycenae, uncovering the famous "Mask of Agamemnon" and other significant artifacts, validating the historical basis of some Greek myths.
- 1871 The discovery of the Minoan civilization at Knossos by Sir Arthur Evans provides the first evidence of a complex pre-Greek civilization in the Aegean.
- 1882 The British archaeologist Flinders Petrie introduces the concept of stratigraphy to archaeology during his excavations in Egypt, revolutionizing the field by emphasizing the importance of context in artifact recovery.
- 1884 The Antiquities Act is passed in the United States, providing federal protection for archaeological sites and establishing the framework for archaeological preservation.

20th Century: Methodology & Global Expansion

- 1902 The discovery of the Palace of Knossos by Sir Arthur Evans in Crete marks the beginning of systematic archaeology in the Aegean region.
- 1911 Hiram Bingham rediscovers Machu Picchu in Peru, bringing global attention to the Inca civilization and raising questions about preservation and excavation ethics.
- 1922 Howard Carter discovers the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, one of the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century, sparking a worldwide fascination with ancient Egypt.
- 1926 V. Gordon Childe publishes The Dawn of European Civilization, introducing the concept of "archaeological cultures" and influencing the development of processual archaeology.
- 1932 The discovery of the Harappan civilization at Mohenjo-Daro in present-day Pakistan by John Marshall provides the first evidence of a highly developed urban civilization in the Indus Valley.
- 1941 The advent of radiocarbon dating by Willard Libby revolutionizes archaeology by allowing for more precise dating of artifacts and sites.
- 1947 The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Qumran Caves near the Dead Sea provides significant insights into ancient Jewish culture and early Christianity.



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20th Century: Methodology & Global Expansion (cont)

- 1954 The publication of *Archaeology from the Earth* by Sir Mortimer Wheeler introduces the Wheeler-Kenyon method of excavation, emphasizing the importance of stratigraphy and grid-based excavation.
- 1959 The discovery of hominid fossils at Olduvai Gorge by Mary and Louis Leakey provides crucial evidence for human evolution in Africa.
- 1960s The rise of processual archaeology, led by Lewis Binford, emphasizes a scientific approach to archaeology, focusing on understanding the processes behind cultural change.
- 1962 The Archaeological Resources Protection Act is passed in the United States, strengthening laws against looting and unauthorized excavation of archaeological sites.
- 1970 The UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property is adopted, addressing the growing problem of artifact looting and illegal trade.
- 1974 The discovery of the Terracotta Army near the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, by local farmers, becomes one of the most significant archaeological finds in China.

20th Century: Methodology & Global Expansion (cont)

- 1978 The adoption of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention leads to the designation of World Heritage Sites, promoting the preservation of cultural and natural heritage globally.
- 1980s The development of archaeogenetics, using DNA analysis to study ancient populations, opens new avenues for understanding human history and migrations.
- 1986 The site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey, one of the oldest known human settlements, is excavated by James Mellaart, providing insight into early Neolithic life.
- 1989 The introduction of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in archaeology allows for advanced spatial analysis of archaeological sites.

21st Century: Advancements & Ethical Issues

- 2000s The use of satellite imagery and remote sensing in archaeology expands, allowing for the discovery and analysis of sites in inaccessible or politically sensitive areas.
- 2003 The discovery of *Homo floresiensis*, a new species of hominid in Indonesia, challenges established theories about human evolution.
- 2010s The application of ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis in archaeology revolutionizes our understanding of prehistoric human migrations, population interactions, and the spread of agriculture.

21st Century: Advancements & Ethical Issues (cont)

- 2011 The Arab Spring leads to widespread looting and destruction of archaeological sites in the Middle East, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage protection during times of conflict.
- 2014 The discovery of a vast network of previously unknown Mayan cities in Guatemala using LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology reveals the complexity of ancient Maya civilization.
- 2020 The COVID-19 pandemic forces archaeologists to adapt to new methods, including increased reliance on digital tools, remote analysis, and virtual collaboration.
- 2020s Advances in AI and machine learning begin to be applied in archaeology, improving artifact recognition, site prediction, and analysis of large datasets.
- 2023 Ongoing debates over the repatriation of artifacts, such as the Benin Bronzes and the Parthenon Marbles, reflect the increasing emphasis on ethical considerations in archaeology.



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