

Archaeology Portfolio

by

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SBS 224, Professor Mendoza

Fall 2004

CSU Monterey Bay

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Tyler Treitman
SBS 224L: Map to Museum
September 2, 2004

Reader Response 1
Feder, Intro and Chapter 1

Abstract: In these sections, Feder tries to explain what archaeology is and what it is not. He goes into detail describing different incidents where people have mistaken archaeology for something that it is not. He also goes on to start explaining what garbology is.

Summary: **Feder** begins his discussion on archaeology by way of the giant oak tree. He tells us a story of his childhood and how he remembers a giant oak tree being cut down. He recalls seeing the rings o the stump of the tree, each representing a year of the trees life. Dendrochronologists analyze these rings to determine what happened in the world around the tree during any given year. For example if their was a drought or a flood the diameter of the tree rings would show it. He applies this to archaeology and anthropology by comparing the study of tree rings to the study of bones. Bones tell stories too, they tell us about physical problems with an individual like injuries and nutrition. He then moves on to tell us that some trees like the bristle cone live up to 5000 years and how they serve as a great source of environmental data. To end his introduction Feder adds that out of all the species on the planet we are the only ones to realize that there is a time outside of our own.

Now Feder plows into the archaeology. He begins by telling a story about how a confused reporter apparently thought archaeologist dug up dinosaurs. The mistake cost the newspaper an article containing a quote by a “professional” who had no idea what he was talking about in the first place. Feder continues to point out the common misconceptions of what archaeologists are throughout the chapter. Apart from thinking

they are the same as paleontologists, people often think of archaeologists as the Hollywood heroes, like Indiana Jones, Lara Croft, and heroes from various other action movies. Some think that they are dry old men with white beards and glasses who drag their beautiful daughters around the world with them. Another misconception is not the character but the place. Many people who know what an archaeologist is often immediately think they are Egyptologists. That's not true, any place in the world where there has been a human dwelling in the past is a place where archaeologists can be found.

Archaeology is primarily based off of man's material culture, anything that man manufactured is material remains of his culture and is an artifact, and a testament to culture. Culture is man's primary means by which we adapt to our surroundings. For example, the polar bear has many ways it adapts to its surroundings, nearly all of them have to do with each animal's anatomy, like the thick layers of blubber and the pigmentless fur. While humans on the other hand, in this case Eskimos, have to change their environment to survive. They must create tools and other necessities for survival in a hostile environment.

No one knows for sure when man first started looking into his past, so we can't tell when archaeology started, but written records tell us that during the Renaissance man began to look back at the classical cultures of Greece and Rome. This "golden age of wisdom" made people look again at the crumbling buildings of their ancestors, they realized what they were losing and began to resurrect the past through art styles and documentation. Men began to ask questions, like how old is the earth? In 1650, archbishop James Ussher had an answer. He deduced from his study of the Bible that the world is only 5,600 years old.

References Sited:

Feder, Kenneth L., 2004, Linking to the Past: A Brief Introduction to Archaeology,
Oxford, New York, Oxford university press

Reader 1 SBS 224s FO3 RR1 Mendoza, Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224, Professor Mendoza
Sept 7, 2004

Reader Response 2
Feder, Chapter 2 and 3

Abstract: In this section Feder talks about what an archaeologist determines as a site of significance, and he tells us the difference between an ecofact and an artifact. He also tells us more about the fine print archaeologists have to follow. He also tells us how a site is made along with explaining the difference between an obtrusive and in obtrusive archaeological site is.

Summary: In first section that Feder wrights, he emphasizes the facts that archaeologists are not CSI detectives and cannot just go and dig wherever they think there is some possible site of significance, especially when it is on private property. But if a body is ever found then the state medical examiners must be notified who will come and determine if it is a murder. If it is a not a murder then the state archaeologists are called in to examine the bones and determine the affiliation of the person. Basically the land owner can always legally deny an archaeologist access to his property of digging proposes unless there are human remains found. As far as public land goes the Archaeological Recourses Protection Act of 1979 lays down specific rules to any archaeologist working on state property. In 1906 the American Antiquities Act was established setting a fine of 500 dollars and a max of 90 days in jail to any one who dug on federal land without permission. That was later updated in 1979 to a 10,000 dollar fine and as much as a year in jail.

He goes on to tell us what is deemed as a site of significance. He defines a site as a place where any material remains of human cultures or activities can be found. These

could be any number of villages, quarries, cemeteries, hunting camps, mill towns, sacred locations, battle fields and other places where human activity took place.

In Chapter 3 Feder starts by breaking down the different categories of finds. He breaks them down in to three categories, artifacts, ecofacts and features. Artifacts are any thing made and used by people. Artifacts are also generally set apart by their portability. Ecofacts are any environmental element used to come by a goal, such as the kindling used to help start a fire. An ecofact can also be described as human bi-products such as fragments of seed or pollen, or nut shells, even unused animal bones. This is different than a feature though; a feature is a characteristic of a certain area. The wood chips on the floor of a carpenter's house or workshop could be one feature, or ash in a fire pit.

With an acceptance of someone placing a time capsule in the ground archaeological sites are generally accidentally created. Sites are usually remains or defrauded human material possessions, even lost possessions. Later on Feder explains the difference between two different types of dig sites. There are obtrusive and unobtrusive, obtrusive is any thing like gorges or structures disturbing the landscape, such as the pyramids, Stonehenge, great wall or man made caves (such as tombs). There is no fine line between obtrusive and in obtrusive sites though in obtrusively can be based on one's perspective. For example the lost temple of the Angkor Wat was only lost because people could not see it from the ground because the jungle covered it up. It was not until man could get a new perspective from the air that he could find it and cut back the jungle revealing a massive temple.

To round off the section Feder answers the question of how old does something have to be to be considered Archaeological? To answer that question in 1966 the

National Historic Preservation Act was instituted. This act established that in order for a site to be considered archaeological it would have to be a minimum of 50 years old, that rule can be debated if the site is of “exceptional significance”. He also tells us that archaeologists don’t always have to dig; some finds do not require much searching at all, others you have to dig down deep, sifting through the sands of time as they say.

References Sited:

Feder, Kenneth L., 2004, Linking to the Past: A Brief Introduction to Archaeology, Oxford, New York, Oxford university press

Tyler Treitman
SBS 200, Professor Mendoza
September 16, 2004

Reader Response 3
Feder, Chapter 5

Abstract: In this chapter Feder talks primarily about how archaeological sites are found. He also talks about digging sampling and different unobtrusive ways of seeing what is buried. One is an electrical resistivity survey and the other is ground penetrating radar. Later he talks about the lab work involved with studying the artifacts.

Summary: This time, the author goes deeper in to teaching us how sites are found. Alto of sites are found because the previous dwellers left a settlement pattern or a landscape signature which consists of all of the different structures that are commonly used by any society. He talks about one site that he predicted successfully by looking at the landscape and features. Then he talks about sampling strategies; remote sensing, test pitting, and shovel test pits. These strategies are often very time consuming but are necessary to finding a site. There is also the electric resistivity survey and ground penetrating radar which can help dramatically at giving archaeologists a view of what's underneath the ground. There is also one called a Proton Magnetometry survey that works almost like the ERS except with magnets. Generally the first steps in archaeology are running a literature search for as much content about the culture or environment, basically anything that will give the archaeologist clues to the dig. Many sites are usually found by accident though, many times it is a farmer and he plough or an animal or a contractor building something. Back to STPs, they don't really have a regulatory size, it all depends on the archaeologist, but they will generally use a transect to organize the test pits and keep them in straight lines. Finally he goes on to tell us how great the invention of GPS is for marking and locating sites in modern Archaeology.

References Cited

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004, Linking to the Past, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press.

Reader 3: SBS 224sF03RR3Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224s, Professor Mendoza
September 23, 2004

Reader Response 4
Feder, Chapter 5

Abstract: This chapter talks about what the goals are for an archaeologist. Feder tells us that nothing on a dig site is not a total loss. Then he talks about how archaeology is funded. Then he goes on to explain to us the level of danger that comes from being an archaeologist in the field.

Summary: In the introduction, Feder teaches us from a story that finding nothing on a dig site can be just as important as finding something. It may be more boring and you do not obtain as much information but you do have conclusions that help you get closer to finding the site you are looking for. The main goal for an archaeologist, as Feder describes is “constructing, modifying and fine tuning the culture history” (Feder 108). Another goal he says is to earn a better understanding of cultural adaptation and how man’s tools and creations have evolved. He tells us what Ethnographical research is which is basically studying a group of people and then trying to figure out how they adapted to their environment to get to the point of which they are currently at.

There are many ways a dig can be financed. One way is for a wealthy benefactor come and fund your dig like Howard Carter being financed by the Earl of Carnarvon when he found the tomb of Tutankhamen. Another way that is very common today is that the archaeologist is funded by universities, museums, private institutions, societies, or governments. Is archaeology really as dangerous as Hollywood depicts, no, however there are hazards? It might just be sunburn, and bug bites or it could be worse like having a bear come through camp or other wildlife like snakes, but for the most part archaeology is relatively safe. One acceptance is viruses carried in mosquitoes such as

West Nile Virus. Another danger that most people don't realize would be in battlefield archaeology, where unexploded munitions can make the archaeologist the last casualty of the Civil War.

References Cited

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004, Linking to the Past, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press.

Reader 4: SBS 224sF03RR4Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS224s, Mendoza
October 6, 2004

Reader Response 5
Feder, Chapters 6-7

Abstract: The first chapter of what Feder writes is primarily about the way we date sites or materials found at a site. He goes over numerous ways of getting the job done from C14 dating to tree ring analysis. The second chapter is about the locating and the naming of an archaeological site.

Synopsis: As far as dating an object goes, we start out by looking at relative which is basically just putting things in chronological order. It isn't very specific but it is a good way of finding how old something is if you know that dates of something older and more recent. The key to working this method is in using the strata and different layers or colors in the soil. Generally the deeper something is the older it is. This is called the law of superposition. Another form of dating is by style or by level of technology. An example of this can be seen in the evolution of the soda can. First there was the flat top can, then the pop top can, then there is the push-in can. Each of these cans we used, but each in their own time period with little overlap. This makes dating each of these cans relatively simple. The same goes with Headstone styles.

Then there are the more absolute forms of dating an artifact. One is radiocarbon dating or C-14 dating. This is a complex method where the radioactive half-life of C-14 is measured in an object that was once living. Basically, after an object dies its levels of C14 which are in all living things begins to decrease. C-14 leaves an object at a constant rate. So all they have to do is measure the levels of C14 that are left and place that against the known rate of deterioration of C14 in an object. Then there is another method you can choose, you can measure the

levels of Potassium/argon in the rocks. The amount of argon build up will tell you when the rock was formed by a volcano.

Then there are three more methods; electron spin resonance, Thermo luminescence, and Optically Simulated Luminescence. Electron spin resonance has something to do with counting the amount of extra electrons that an object has collected over the years. TL and OSL are radiation damaging techniques though. These methods have to do with creating heat and measuring the amount of energy that is released. Then there is the dendrochronology method where trees are dated by their rings. You can actually go back in time by looking at different trees killed at different times and look at similarities in the ring patterns. But the reason tree dating can be important is if for example a tree was used in a log cabin you can take ring patterns in it and match them up with a still living tree and find out how long ago the tree was cut down and used in the house.

In the second chapter he talks about finding a site. Various ways are through site a site survey, following settlement patters, or landscape signature. Another method is the Global Information System which is a place where you can find out things about the land in question like its contours and pH levels and evidence of water.

Naming an archaeological site generally comes down to the land owner's preference. Sometimes the name takes on his last name along with something descriptive about the site. Other time they take the last name of the person who found the site and do the same thing. Occasionally they will just give the site some kind of whimsical name that describes the people or a vision of the site.

References Cited

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004, Linking to the Past, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press.

Reader 3: SBS 224sF03RR5Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224s, Mendoza
October 13, 2004

Reader Response 6
Feder, Chapter 8

Abstract: This chapter primarily compares an archaeological site to a crime scene. He starts out talking about pollen and how it provides both a nuisance and a clue. Then he says that the site is similar to a crime scene because of the fact that the CSI detective and the archaeologist are both trying to paint a picture of what the happened in a place at a time that has passed. He goes on to tell us how careful we have to be when working on or around a site and how easy it is for us to contaminate the site. Next he talks about how artifacts are recorded and tracked once it is found. He ends telling us the different ways of marking the depth of an object found at a site.

Synopsis: Feder opens this chapter talking about all of the pollen and allergies and asthma problems that people tend to suffer from when on a dig and how much they bother us. But, these hindrances are actually clues into the past. They as we dig down through the different layers of strata, we come across accumulations of pollen often from different plants than on the surface. We can identify the different pollen samples and find out what kinds of plant life were around during the time periods we are looking into thus telling us a whole cache of information about what the inhabitants encountered and used in their daily life. We learn that what their cloths were made from, what they ate, what they could have used for construction and medical purposes and the list goes on.

Archaeology is like detective work. This is because almost all of the same things can be found at an archaeological site as a crime scene, there are weapons, body, and evidence pointing to why the subject died or why he was killed. It is also treated like a crime scene, we are very careful not to contaminate the site because if something is thrown in or is tracked in that doesn't belong, the results can be thrown off and the wrong conclusion can be drawn. Even if a bullet is tapped to the side then the trajectory is

thrown off possibly showing that the subject in question was killed by someone else.

This same kind of thing happens in archaeology.

Marking where artifacts are found is a very important and time consuming procedure. This is so that we can create an accurate presentation of a story or painting left to us. If we did not do this, we would have a painting where all of the objects in it are all mixed up, then we don't have an accurate presentation of what the artist had. An important aspect to placing these objects we need to record the stratum of depth of an artifact. There are three methods of doing this. One low tech way is by using a carpenter's level and a ruler to find the depth. The second way is by using an alidade or a transit. The third high tech way is by using a laser transit

References Cited

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004, Linking to the Past, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press.

Reader 3: SBS 224sF03RR6Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224, Mendoza
October 21, 2004

Reader Response 7

Feder, Chapters 9 and 10

Abstract: In these chapters Feder talks about the grid of an excavation and how a site is labeled along with some of the tools used and their purposes. He also talks about a lot of the painstaking processes that involved with classifying and categorizing all the different small artifacts found at a site. In the second half he primarily talks about the tools of the ancients often found on a site.

Synopsis: Feder opens this first chapter by drawing an analogy between the re-appearance of the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland and an artifact being uncovered at a site. He then goes on to explain the system of excavation units appropriately called “squares”. These squares that the site is divided up into were traditionally 6 foot by six foot, now archaeologists use the metric system and the squares are 2 meters by 2 meters. These squares form a grid. The square in the south west corner is labeled 0,0 and you would branch out from there with x,y coordinates.

Feder changes the subject to talk about how archaeologists are commonly thought of as people who are obsessive compulsive toward the smallest and seemingly insignificant artifacts. Feder wonders about what the ancients would think of him as he searches through their trash. He reminds us though that archaeology is not the search for beautiful artifacts but it is the search for knowledge so that we can create an accurate picture of the past.

Next Feder tells us what tools are commonly used by an archaeologist. He says the most valuable tool is the spade. In addition to the spade they use mason’s trowels for

scraping and cutting out thin slices of soil. Other tools include a variety of brushes an array of dental tools tape measures, bubble levels, tweezers, compasses, magnifying glasses, and root cutters.

The second section that Feder writes has a lot to do with ancient tools and tool making. The creation of stone tools is commonly know as knapping known as knapping. The best types of materials used for knapping are those rocks that are vitreous, or glasslike. They would strike the vitreous rock with another rock at a less than 90 degree angle to got shards to flake off leaving a sharp edge. A common material used for this practice is the volcanic obsidian. An interesting fact about obsidian is that it can be traced be region and the volcano that created it because the unique chemical signature in each piece. Sometimes archaeologists will attempt to recreate the stone tools they found so that they can better understand how they were made, this is called experimental archaeology.

People often wonder why archaeology is so slow and monotonous. Feder uses the example of a construction worker offering to excavate a mammoth skeleton with his backhoe and that it would only take a minute. Besides the reason that the bones are thousands of years old and would fracture even more archaeologists must consider the strata and other things in the soil. They also wonder how archaeologists know the functions of a tool in question. The answers to that are often found in the different forms of wear and tear done on the tool.

References Cited:

Feder, Kenneth L.2004. Linking to the Past. Oxford, New York: Oxford university Press.

Reader7: SBS224s Fo3 RR7 Treitman

Tyler Treitman

SBS 224, Mendoza

October 28, 2004

Reader Response 8
Feder, Chapter 10

Abstract: This chapter of Feder primarily talks about ancient tools. First it talks about the material used for a lot of tools, then how archaeologists know how they made the tools, then how they made, then how they know the function of the tools. He also talks about the functions of a site and the importance of pottery found at a site. Finally he talks about the spread of ideas in the ancient world.

Synopsis: Feder tells us what tools are commonly used by an archaeologist. He says the most valuable tool is the spade. In addition to the spade they use mason's trowels for scraping and cutting out thin slices of soil. Other tools include a variety of brushes an array of dentil tools tape measures, bubble levels, tweezers, compasses, magnifying glasses, and root cutters.

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Each culture does not keep to its own ideas, there is always going to be a mix if ideas and inventions. Often the way ideas and inventions spread is between cultures is by way of war and conquest. Another way is through trade. This exchange of ideas between cultures is called diffusion. Some believe that there was some diffusion between the pyramid builders of Egypt and Mesoamerica but in actuality they are quite different in style purpose and construction.

References Cited:

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004. Linking to the Past. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224, Professor Mendoza
November 3, 2004

Reader Response # 9
Feder, Chapter 11

Abstract: This chapter mostly talks about how an archaeologist goes about finding the dietary habits of the inhabitants of a site. It also talks about how they are able to tell what kinds of animals they hunted. Also Feder talks about how archaeologists are able to determine what season of the year they are currently digging through.

Synopsis: Feder begins his discussion by talking to us about how we know what the ancients ate. One indication is cut or slice marks in animal bones, another is finding culinary byproducts (i.e. nut shells, corn cobs, kernels, stalks, rinds, or grains) on a site. Places where these materials are often found are an ancient equivalent of a landfill commonly known as a midden. These middens are generally close to a kitchen on a site since most of their materials are often kitchen related. One process used to find small evidence such as nutshells very effectively is to use a process called flotation where a basket of debris collected at a site is submerged in water; this causes the nutshells which are lighter than water to float to the surface leaving the dirt to sink. With animal bones archaeologists use their knowledge of osteo-archaeology to determine what exact species of animal they were hunting. Plants will often leave behind inorganic mineral particles called phytoliths which will hint at what kind of plant was there.

Discovering what season the archaeologist is currently digging through can be a tricky process. One way of determining the season is by looking at what kinds of fruit core or pits are found, but even some fruit can be kept for a while. One interesting method is by looking at the migration patterns of fish and comparing it to the fish bones found on a site. Along with observing the age of an animal with reference to the mating season

References Cited:

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004. Linking to the Past. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Reader7: SBS224s Fo3 RR7 Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS 200, Professor Mendoza
November 11, 2004

Reader Response 10
Feder, Chapter 12

Abstract: In this chapter Feder mostly hits on the subject of how archaeologists build up a picture of what social interactions were going on within a society. He talks about how we know what role gender played in a society. Moving on to talk about the religious practices. Finally he compares their thinking to our own.

Synopsis: Feder opens his discussion on social interaction by talking about how from birth we are becoming more and more encultured and how as we grow the traditions right down to the way that we think are passed down and become a part of us. He tells us about the mixing of traditions by way of moving between villages when married, patrilocality for men and matrilocality for women. He goes on to talk about how we know if a tool was created by a male or female. One way we can tell is with pottery if there are finger prints left in the clay we can identify sex based on the size on the ridges, males have larger ridges than females.

Most societies of the ancient world are egalitarian. In an egalitarian society everyone is more or less equal, but each person may have different responsibilities or jobs to do. On the other end there are complex societies which have higher levels of society and have classes. As for religion and other practices, Feder believes that societies come up with these to explain or to give meaning to unexplained events and it makes people feel as if they are in control.

Our idea and image of reality differs from that of the ancients, one way to understand their idea of reality is to create an ethnographic analogy. We need to say “this concept in our time equals to them a different concept in their minds”.

References Cited:

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004. Linking to the Past. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Reader10: SBS224s Fo3 RR10 Treitman

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224, Professor Mendoza
November 19, 2004

Reader Response 11

Feder, Chapter 13

Abstract: In this chapter Feder primarily focuses his writing on the human skeleton. He talks about why they are valuable to an archaeologist and what we can learn from them. The first thing we can find is a personal history of the skeleton provided by markings due to violence and accidental injuries. We also can learn the sex of the subject, health, race, and degree of physical development or age.

Synopsis: Archaeologists collect and analyze skeletons to create a demographic of the people who had lived there. The process makes the like census takers for an unrecorded undocumented time. Many communities object to the process though as they do not wish for archaeologists to disturb the remains of their ancestors.

As far as identifying sex goes, humans are pretty unique. We do not have the same differences as animals, but the males are generally taller and heavier than the females. There are some subtle differences such as the shape of a piece of your jaw called the mastoid process. The real giveaway is the size of the sciatic notch in the pelvis; women have a wider notch to allow for the space needed for childbirth.

Then comes age and level of development. One important factor in identifying a person's age if they are young is their dental development. The younger they are the more of their deciduous teeth they will have. Then as they get older you observe as to whether or not certain bones have their end caps. Finally, if the person is over 20 you can identify their age by the markings by which their skull plates have fused.

Race occasionally be identified. One way to judge race is by the shape of their incisors. If they are scooped then they are probably Asian. If their jaw is more rounded at the chin then they are probably from African descent. But with regard to race we can only identify between the subject being Asian, African, or European.

References Cited:

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004. Linking to the Past. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Reader11: SBS224s Fo3 RR11 Treitman

Tyler Treitman

SBS 224, Professor Mendoza

December 3, 2004

Reader Response: 12

Feder, Chapters 14 and 15

Abstract: Chapter 14 deal primarily with the wildlife found in a setting and how archaeologists use this knowledge to understand the predecessors. Chapter 15 has to do with stone tools found on a site.

Synopsis: Feder explains that besides pollen analysis there is many other ways to analyze what the wild life and fauna was like for previous inhabitants. One way is to look at art from that era; this would give us clues to lived there before. There is also bone fragments and clothing remnants, these both are strong indicators. We can also see how they used tools for pressure flaking (often antlers).

Feder then goes to talk about stone tool and how their creation contributes a good deal to archaeology. Stone tools are nearly everything to those who are lived in ancient communities. During the manufacture of this tool there is a lot of debris called debitage that is a byproduct. This debitage is often found in a pattern that suggests where the creator to the tool was standing during its creation. The also find hammer stones which are used for the unrefined fracturing. Some times one particular person will go chipping away a piece of obsidian and not like the way the result is looking and discard the piece, this is called an exhausted core. Then there are stones that are started but not refined but put away for use when needed these are called performs. Finally there are ground stones which are stones that have been ground down by extensive use in chipping away other stones.

References Cited:

Feder, Kenneth L. 2004. Linking to the Past. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

Reader12: SBS224s Fo3 RR12 Treitman

Online Journals

Introduction: Meet the Mentor Video (DaUberCadillac)



1 most of the Trash or garbage found can be considered artifacts because any thing that the ancients left or disgarded can is trash but is still an artifact to us.

2 I dont understand the question.

3 They are cleaned and catalogued by the students.

4 It was that he was interseed in his families past and is diven by his curiosity.

Myths and Mound builders



1 Most of the myths of the moundbuliders are completely radicle and irrational, they range from jewish arian vikings, to lost tribes of Israel. The reason people would come up with and belive in these myths is because of the racial bias by the American archaeologists toward the Native Americans. Most Americans went to theis belifes because they wanted to belive that the indians could not have possibly created the mounds because they were tought of as "too uncivilised"

2 The new systematic unbiased approach to archaeology helped bring closure to the issure of who built the mounds because the archaeologist is no longer looking to prove his own opinion but is diven to discover the past. It gave the archaeologist more of an open mind and allowed him to see all of the evidence more clearly.

4 "Mound Reconstruction" is an elightening aspect to the archaeology surrounding the moundbuilders. it not only gives the workers on the dig a window into the past but it also gives archaeologists a chance to prove their theories about how they were constructed, how long it would take, how many people were needed, and if the process would be draining or overly time consuming on a community.

CNN: Crescent Rockshelter Reply



1. What essential methods were utilized in this instance? What primary questions guided the explorations in question?

One of the essential methods used by the archaeologists was augering the soil. An auger is a tool used to drill down and sample the soil at different levels. The goal of the archaeologist was to find out if their had been pervious human ancient native american activity at the site where a golf course was planned.

2. What information might darkened soils from an appreciable stratigraphic depth provide for the interpretation of human cultures and settlements?

Darkend soil would show a possibly more acidic soil content whioch means that their could have been human activity there, a fire pit used for cooking might have this affect.

3. How did the students in the video respond to the work undertaken...did their responses inspire interest in pursuing such study?

The students seemed excited about the work being done and were anxious to find proof that humans had been there.

Video Review "Secrets of Lost Empires - Inca"



1. How did the Inca carve and move the massive stones of such sites as those of INca era Cuzco?

The Inca would carve the stones from quarries then would drag them down the stone roads that they built.

4. What did the archaeology team do to determine whether or not an ancient road was used to transport stones across the valley floor? What elements of the experiment were most convincing?

They excavated under a stone that looked like it had been abandoned by the workers, they found elements of a road underneath. Then they had a village of people drag a 10 ton stone across a road that the inca could have constructed. I thought it was interesting that the stone roads served to inhibit the boulder from ploughing up the ground.

6. How did Inca stonemasons carve and set the massive stones with which their architecture was erected? Does the experiment documented in this video resolve the question of how such work was conducted, or do you feel that additional study will be required?

They just used simple tools (no steel tools) to shape the stones along with a tool called the scribe which allowed them to very precisely fit the giant stones in an interlocking random pattern.

Map Sampling, Surveys and Settlement Patterns



Alisa Smith, Mario Romo, Tyler Treitman, and Kelly Bresanello
Sept. 28, 2004
SBS 224/324

1. What logic or organizational strategy did your group devise in order to maximize the effectiveness of your sampling strategy at Xochicalco?
Our strategy was based upon the positioning of rivers and valleys for places of settlement.

2. Do you feel that every member of your group contributed to the larger goal of maximizing the effectiveness of your sampling strategy?
Yes, everyone participated equally in the reasoning for choosing various possible sites.

3. If provided with \$50,000, and only two weeks to conduct a survey based on your sampling strategy, what would you do to maximize the likelihood that your archaeological investigation would produce a representative sample of the Epiclassic period (AD 600-900) remains of the site of Xochicalco?
We would use the Non-Random unit selection to maximize our likelihood to produce a representative sample of the Epiclassic period in such a short period of time.

4. Irrespective the results obtained in this one instance, which of the sampling strategies noted do you believe provides the best prospects for obtaining a representative sample of the contents of an archaeological site and or region?
From our observations, we discovered that in the Classic, Epi-Classic, and Post-Classic eras, the random transect was the most effective in finding residential and ceremonial sites. In the

Epi-Classic, the non-random units were equally effective to the transect line method. In both the Classic and Post-Classic eras, the transect method was the dominant form of finding sites. In the Post-Classic, the non-random is almost half that of the transect method, being the second most effective. In all cases, the Random and Stratified Sampling methods were the least effective in comparison to Non-Random and Transect. [/b]

Video Review "Ancient Cultures and Modern Chemistry"



1. Briefly define radiocarbon dating, or C14, and comment on how such an absolute method of dating might be used to calibrate the stratigraphy of an archaeological site?

Carbon dating is a way of determining age of an object. By taking once living substances and observing the C14 levels that are released the age can be judged.

3. How might one use stratigraphy, and those artifacts found therein, to determine whether or not the cultural layer in question has been contaminated?

You can tell if a site has been contaminated if for example, a hubcap from a 67 chevy is found in the same layer of stratigraphy as an ancient arrowhead.

I WAS ABSENT FOR THE FOOD TO DIE FOR VIDEO

Video Review "Tombs of Sipan"



3. Who is Walter Alva and how was he involved in the work at the site of Sipan?

Walter Was the archaeologist that the police called in after they raided a home and found some golden moche artifacts.

4. Who was the Lord of Sipan, and what sorts of materials were recovered with him that provide clues to his identity and role among the Moche nobility?

The Lord of Sipan was thought to be a warrior priest and leader of the moche civilization. He was found with alot of gold, a couple specific items were his cepter and a "back flap". These were objects that were depicted in moche art as belonging to a king like character.

9. Ultimately, what reasons are given to account for human sacrifice among the Moche? What does Christopher Donnan have to say about the prevalence and nature of human sacrifice among the Moche?

They belive that the moche engaged in mas human sacrifice because they were diving souls to their gods to appease them and to stop the heavy rains that were destroying their towns.

Video Review "Xochicalco & Xochitecatl"



1. How are the sites of Xochicalco and Xochitecatl alike, and at the same time, different? Provide at least two distinct examples of said differences and similarities.

These two sites are similar in terms of their nature, they both look to be of military significance in that they both look very defendable, and they both seemed to be protecting the way to Teotihuacan. However they have their differences, for example Xochitecatl worshiped primarily a Goddess and had many female symbols and would portray women as warriors, Xochicalco did not. Also Xochitecatl did not have the ball

courts that Xochitecalco had.

2. What predominant theme recurs within the architecture and iconography or symbolism of the site of Xochicalco?

[b]The Predominant theme at Xochicalco was the military theme. It was positioned up on a hill with only two entrances made to keep access to the site very easy to control and defend.

3. What significant findings about the evolution and collapse of Xochicalco was borne of recent investigations at said site? What specific evidence did archaeologists use to interpret the site's history and evolution

The archaeologists working on Xochicalco found a lot of abandoned vessels and items that were left behind in a hurry suggesting an invasion or an insurrection, then they found evidence of the place being burnt down which supports the fact that the site was overrun.[/b]

American Cities of the 31st Century



Kelly Bresanello
Tyler Treitman
Veronica Gonzalez
Alisa Smith
Mario Romo

Lab Deliverable 6: American Cities of the 31st Century

Our team selected the city of Las Vegas, Nevada for this project.

Within a thousand years what we anticipate finding is that mostly commercial and ceremonial centers such as churches and government buildings would be intact due to the durability of the materials used in their construction such as marble, etc. Residential, domestic and industrial structures would be left to their foundations.

The overall climate is desertic and arid through most of the year. There also are occasional flash floods due to strong rains. Without people to maintain the drainage system this would start decaying and eventually it would break down.

Our sample strategy would be to use transect survey.

American Cities of the 31st Century



Questions continued

Tyler Treitman
Veronica Gonzalez

5 Our method of excavating will be stratified sampling. We think that that will deliver the best results because the structures that are most intact would yield the most results about what went on in Vegas

6 It would be very confusing because all of the structures are themed differently but you would be able to understand that the site may have been for entertainment because of all of the theaters and swimming pools and rooms. We would also find protected currency in vaults and other places, which is another clue to entertainment.

7 We would assume it is a vacation or recreational spot due to the excessive amounts of

currency and venues for entertainment. It is possible however that the big theaters could be lecture halls community meeting rooms or governmental fourms even court rooms.

Video Review "Africa: A History Denied"



1. What significance did the discovery of early radiocarbon dates (ca. 12th century) and gold artifacts have for challenges to prevailing stereotypes about the Great Zimbabwe?

The Radio carbon dating done shows proof that white people were not in africa before black people, i beieve they said that the blacks arrived 400 years before the first white man. The gold artifacts offer more information about the past of africa but they are locked up and rarely seen by the public.

5. How were the walls of the Great Zimbabwe constructed, and what theories have arisen about why the walls were constructed so tall? What ideas did Victorian era peoples have about the tower at said site?

The locals would first pour hot and colld water over ganite, this would cause it to fracture into slabs when pounded. Then they would begin to cut the slabs into manageable pieces for builders to place (it was done with no mortar). Their are two theories as to why the walls were so tall, one for military protection, and the other is for protecting the privacy of a royal household. As for the tower, some thought it was a symbol of masulinity in form of a penis, but nowadays we belive that it is a monument in the shape of a grain silo showing the ruler as the one who holds it for his people, in other words a symbol of power.

6. What was the source of the wealth of the peoples of Great Zimbabwe? What might such an economic base suggest for how the elite of Zimbabwe society lived?

The Local ruler would own many head of cattle. He would use these cattle as a payment or as the video said "a bribe" for the townspeople to go down and in the mines and dig for gold. The ruler would use the gold in trading with foreign lands in the east. So the ellite would have recieved fine perfumes, jewels and other luxuy items of the ancient world.

Cultural Resources Assessment



Kelly Bresanello
Tyler Treitman
Mario Romo

Part I: Themes from the Codices

1. What is the primary social, religious, or other cultural theme represented by the individual manuscript or manuscripts that you had the opportunity to study this day?

There is a reoccurring theme of sacrifice, as well as organization by the calendar represented on each manuscript. There are feelings of man kinds fall from grace, as well as remorse twords failures.

2. Does the manuscript present only one primary narrative or discourse or are there several sub-themes represented?

There are several themes represented, such as sacrifice, sorrow, creation, death, and happiness. The manuscript is almost like an almanac for priest to determine the life of an individual once they are born.

3. What literary details or symbolic devices or graphic content presented in the codices provide evidence of (a) the primary theme, and (b) sub-themes?

(a) The primary theme is human emotions and the trials one goes through everyday of life.
 (b) The subthemes are such items as friendships being broken because of greed, individuals falling from grace due to alcoholism, sacrifice, relationships, sorrow, death, and happiness.

4. How much of the content can you identify from close visual inspection alone?

You can identify a lot from simply looking at the manuscripts. Some are harder than others, and jumbled conveying too much happening at once. However, you can look at some and identify the events occurring. From just looking at it, we saw animals (such as rabbits and jaguars), plants, trees, an item that looked like an eclipse. We figured the animals in boxes along each page represented a calendar. We saw bloody daggers, and snakes eating people which looked like a sacrifice. There was also boxes that looked as though they contained earth, and Gods perhaps, determined from the way they were dressed.

5. Do you feel that without further background in the study of the codices or cultures in question that you would be prepared to identify at least one dozen individual items of content from the world of animals, plants, people, and things portrayed?

No, we would not be prepared, we would need more information.

6. Given the contexts within which particular images – such as felines or specific plants – are repeated, please attempt to interpret or provide an explanation for what such individual images may represent based on contextual representations alone. Can you identify the context specific symbolism of at least three animals, plants, people or things?

Each item represents its own context. Some examples are the Jaguar God, which represents the Animal Kingdom and the caves. The Turkey God who is a manifestation of the deceit God, and can represent witchcraft. There is often the plant of Pulque, which makes an alcoholic drink and is often shown in a sacrificial way. On one manuscript (66), it shows a wounded tree which is broken, representing a broken friendship, where one friend is blindfolded showing his greed. There is also talk about the cosmos within their culture. Also, to determine the destiny of an individual, an eclipse is found throughout the manuscripts to determine what happens to one born on particular days.

Part II: Themes from Aztec Poetry

1. What are the primary themes represented in at least five of the thirteen poems provided by way of the handouts or texts distributed this day?

The primary themes are religion, death, creation, rules of life, and a strong sense of ancestry.

2. What do you believe was the Aztec view of life and fate given the analysis of at least three narratives or poems?

The view of life was one that there are certain rules one must follow throughout life. These rules were a predetermined destiny before one is born.

3. What do you believe any one or more of those poems presented have to say about the Aztec as a people and as a culture?

The Aztecs as a people and a culture were a very lawful one. They had large amounts of pride for their culture, but under oppression. They were very religious and dedicated to their Lords.

4. Given your interpretations, how might you use selected examples of American material culture or poetry or related literary forms to interpret the American people and their respective culture?

Examples we would choose would be video games, music, People magazine, fast food wrappers, action movies, credit cards, the internet, CDs, other trendy magazines, and reality television.

5. If you were to select three items of material culture, and any three literary works in order to represent American society, which three examples of material culture,

and which three literary works would you choose?

Material Culture: Credit cards, fast food wrappers, CDs

Literary Works: People magazine, Da Vinci Code, Wired magazine

Flintknapping with Bruce Bradley...



1. What angle of percussion is most critical to the production of stone tools? Why is said angle critical to producing stone tools?

The angle of percussion needs to be less than 90 degrees. this is is be cause you need to angle the cone of energy toward the side a bit so that you will knock off a long sliver.

2. What specific tools were used by Bruce Bradley to produce the various tools produce in his demonstration? Name two specific tools, and how and why each tool was used for a specific stone tool reduction process.

He used a hammer stone and an antler. The hammer stone was for the breaking off just a raw un refined piece, while the antle was soft and used for more delicate shaping of the obsidian. It also dulls the blade but makes it stronger

4. Why might an antler tine be used -- over the use of a stone tool -- in flaking tools? What properties does the antler lend to the reduction process?

The antler is a softer material and is better for fine shaping also it is btter suited for createing the notches in a spearhead.

7. How many different types of tools did Bruce Bradley produce from the single piece of material that he began with in his demonstration? Name at least three of those tools produced!

He created an original spearhead
a skinner
a meat cutter
a scrapper
and a new spearhead to replace the broken one.

8. What procedure and tool was used by Bradley in order to notch the base of the projectile point? What precautions or principles were used in order to assure that the notches were successfully completed?

He was useing an antler that was cut to have a flat head screwdriver type shape. this and the softness of the antler was ideal for createing a narrow notch in the spearhead. he would hold onto the blade with a pice of leather and he would keep rotating the spearhead so what ever he did to one side he could easily duplicate on the other side.

Media Review "Slides of Crescent Rockshelter"



1. Define the following terms as per cultural association and date range: Paleoindian, Clovis, Folsom, Jomon, and Beringia.

Paleoindian= ancient indians, befoer they spread out over america

Clovis and Folsom were two different styles of points used in the hunting of animals like the mammoth and bison

Jamon= an ancient group of mariners that were the precursor to the Japanese

Beringia= another word for the Bering land bridge that crossed from Alaska to Russia.

2. Where is the Crescent Rockshelter located, and what does the location suggest about human relations with the region's subsistence and human settlement strategies?

The rock shelter is located in Colorado. The region is covered with giant rock formations that jut up from the ground and are worn away by weather to form caves and shelters which the Native Americans adopted as their dwellings.

3. What was the altithermal, and how does it figure into human settlement and subsistence on the High Plains of Colorado for the period so identified?

The altithermal was a period of 1000 years where the climate changed and made the land dry.

4. What is the site datum, and how did it figure into the development of the Crescent Rockshelter Project and site excavation?

The site datum is the center of the site which everything is referenced from. In this case it was the rock overhang.

9. How does rodent disturbance play a role in the interpretation or misinterpretation of an archaeological site?

The rodents dig and move site materials away from the site and move off-site materials such as cigarette butts into the site.

Stone Tools



Kelly Bresanello
Tyler Treitman,
Veronica Gonzalez
Alisa Smith
Mario Romo

Part 1: Interpreting Functional Attributes

1. Please record the bag or catalog number for each specimen used by your group here along with the names of all members of your group. Along with each catalog number please provide the following info:

1.15- We believe this is a projectile point, which was created around 1,000 A.D. We were unable to identify the material

#3.09- We believe this is a knife, due to the edgewear on the item. The material is sandstone and the date it was created was between 2,000 B.C. to 1,000 A.D.

#4.37- This item is debitage from a larger point, the material is obsidian and it was created about 5 years ago.

#4.6- This item is a spear, the material is believed to be petrified wood and was created 1,000 BC to 2000 AD.

#4.16- This item was used as a knife, and may even be a hand axe. We believe the material to be agate, and was created 500-11,000 years ago.

3. Proceed to discuss among yourselves the possible interpretation of how specific stone tool types may have been used, and why you believe certain functions might be most characteristic of particular types.

With looking at the tools, we believe a few of them were used for cutting, due to the edges being worn. Many of the knives and projectiles have bi-facial flaking.

4. Having established interpretations of the functions of particular tools, please assign a label or type name for the tool (e.g., projectile point, scraper, knife, blade, hand axe, etc.).

See Above

5. Be prepared to defend your interpretations as a group based on those specific details or attributes of the artifact that you believe serve as diagnostic attributes or signatures of prior use function.

We can defend our findings, by looking at the flaking points, which make it seem as though they are used as a knife. Also, the shape of the projectile point creates the use of it for hunting.

Part 2: Establishing a Typology via Seriation

2. Having perused the collection, you and your group are to order the collection in terms of a "chronology" of types based on a simple seriation ranging from what you construe to constitute the most basic or "primitive" forms through to the most sophisticated types based on inherent styles and forms.

3.09
4.6
1.15
4.16
4.37

3. Be prepared to defend your type sequence or seriation based on that logic, or rationale, used to infer the degree of sophistication of each specimen so interpreted.

Due to the creation, and the dates we believe the items were created, we made the chronological list.

Video Review 11 "This Old Pyramid"



1. Which of the proposed reconstructions of the Great Pyramid did you feel held the greatest potential for an accurate reconstruction? Which of the proposals appeared the least likely?

i believe the method of using the ramp that circles the pyramid is the best and most effective while the pouring of limestone is the worst.

2. How did the team in question manage their approach to the reconstruction as per the variety of proposals offered? Did the team remain committed to only one of the various models presented?

They were committed to using the sleds and lubrication, there were many ideas that began to

look really bad like the levering

3. When conflicts or debates ensued between participants in the project, how did team members resolve their differences?

The language barrier between the workers and instructors was a bit troubling but it could be overcome. There were more issues between the different instructors all presenting different theories and slowing the process down.

Tyler Treitman

SBS 200, Professor Mendoza

December 7, 2004

Archaeology Notes

Video Notes; Secretes of Lost Empires: Inca

- 500 years ago the Inca empire stretched over all the Andes
- No writing or unique tools.
- Interlocking blocks, worshiped stone
- Columns - "hitching posts of the sun" astronomy.
- Sun temple sight abandoned in progress, stones were left unplaced, "weary stones"
- Some stones were up to 70 tons
- Inca had no wheel or strong animals
- They were able to move the stones much easier with the use of stone roads
- Built terraces for irrigation
- Machu Pichu- Unknown until later part of the last century
- One theory for carving right angles is by using amplified light, proven "ridiculous"
- Grass bridges span 150 feet and take three days to make

Video Notes; Mesoamerica

- Teotihuacán= Sun temple, images of the sun as a scull, over a ¼ million inhabitants
- Toltec civilization was revered by Aztecs
- Stepped fret= symbol of imperial power
- Mat Symbol= authority of classic Maya
- Each corner of the ball court has a reptile to symbolize the underworld
- Cleft in each side of the ball court symbolizes the sun coming up from the underworld.
- Losing team Captain was executed
- Female blood luting pierces tongue male pierces foreskin
- Incas used two inch diameter stones (bolas) in their sling shots

- Cultures began to mix in Mesoamerica, art symbols began to mix
- Some military emplacements had giant moats dug around them, the moats could have a big rig drive through them
- Elongating heads in art is a symbol of classic Maya, they also carry square shields
- Wearing a jaguar pelt is a symbol of the sun
- Chambers were created for killing individuals (star chamber)
- Crossing of the arms = sign of surrender
- Wearing various back packs were for protection and for rank.
- The underworld is depicted with double headed sea serpents, symbol of status
- Geomancy= taking knowledge of the earth placement of buildings, cities or anything
- Geomantín= by proximity to the spirituality of the location.

Video Notes: Xochicalco

- Military nature
- One of the most important cities of its time
- The rise and collapse of the Xochicalco was over 200 years
- Military, urban & civic center
- Plumed Serpent, conch shells = iconology
- Restoration methods in the city have changed and evolved over the years.
- People in the community have been fundamental in the reconstruction
- From the size and grandeur of the site it must have been a very important place
- The village was moved to fill in the canyons to provide a hilltop place for the city center
- 15000 people built it
- The city had all the elements necessary to be self sufficient
- Had a drainage system for catching rain
- Ball court hoops were found
- Many vessels and works were left abandoned which suggests an attack or revolution
- Evidence of burning on the site
- Tunnels interpret the movements of the sun

Video Notes: Xochicatl

- Constructed over a very fertile valley with 4 volcanoes
- Strategic Military importance
- Protected a pass up to Teotihuacán
- Original inhabitants left a lot of art
- Pyramid of Flowers: biggest, size of pyramid of the moon
- Pyramid of the Serpent
- Built without mortar, stone just well placed.

- 4 large sculptures, virtually all objects are floral ,many feminine elements, females portrayed as warriors
- Goddess Xochicatl= flower woman
- Abandoned when Teotihuacán was in full glory
- Agglutination = architectural add on
- This happened with Tracatzingo at Xochicalco
- Where the town expanded with different settlement.
- Xerophytic agriculture= cacti and other desert plants
- Stratigraphy= studying the layers of sediment whether natural or artificial

Natural and cultural ways of changing stratigraphy

- Solifcation= soil movement
- Varves= layers produced by movement of glaciers
- Buildings
- Sedimentation
- Coprolites= fossilized human fecies

Video Notes: Moche

- At the base of the pyramids they found 40 bodies of young men from 17- 30 years old. The bodies were taken apart
- The current land is not very different than it was back then
- Moche arose 100 years after the year of Christ's birth
- They ruled 350 miles up the cost of Peru
- Their art tell us what their words cannot
- The prisoners of war are taken and their blood is drank by the king then they are taken apart
- The "Lord of Sipan" was found with objects that resembled what had been seen in sacrificial art
- 130 foot pyramid of the sun made out of brick
- The ways are covered with similar pictures as on the pots
- The Moche god, "the Decapitator" one depiction is as a spider, he is found allover Moche art
- Skeletons were found in mud which suggests that they were trying to stop the rain
- The Moche civilization its peak during 500 bc
- In 536 bc el Niño came and would wipe out the Moche explains the sacrifice
- It happened for decades but by 800 bc they were gone

Video Notes: Africa History Defined

- People believed that Africa had no history no history
- No written records leaves kings forgotten
- The locals believe evil spirits are incased in a hill tomb
- Gold items were found on this hill be Van Graan

- The artifacts at Marpongumbue are locked up in file rooms for institutes
- The civilization was ancient and prosperous and black, Africans arrived 400 years before white people
- Zimbabwe means “Great House of Stones”
- Mouch believes he found temple of the queen of Sheba
- Early excavations destroyed a lot of evidence of who built the complex
- Stone birds are symbols of psychological power, they are spiritual mechanisms
- The source of wealth for the kings was their cattle
- The king paid his workers in cattle his workers often dug in gold mines
- With the gold the king would trade with foreign lands

Flint Knapping

- Material doesn’t matter as long as it has some qualities
- Brittle
- Glasslike
- Bends a bit
- Pure
- No internal fracture plains

Tools required for going out on a hunt

- Spear
- Skinner
- Cutter
- Protection
- Spares

Paleo-Indian

- Pleistocene= ice age
- Holocene= melting of glaciers
- Bering land bridge AKA Beringia
- Jamon= Asian society, first to create multi-component harpoons and were the first to create ceramics
- Miden =trash mound

Video Notes: Egypt

- The Pharaoh would provide a path way for all of his people into the afterlife
- All of his people were buried in mastabas
- The experimental archaeologists tried tumbling the blocks but it was too slow and hard. Then they tried using rollers but those didn’t work on sand then they try to oil the sled and use it in conjunction with clay roads
- The Sphinx has Kafre’s face on it and it is the guardian of the entire plateau

- Workers may sleep and live out in their quarries during construction katre's pyramid had a block laid every 3 minutes
- 2700bc Zoser built the first pyramid a stepped pyramid a Saquara with the help of the chief architect Imhotep.
- Corbelled Ceilings prevented collapse
- The outside of later pyramids were cased in white limestone
- They had no iron tools they had to use copper and bronze
- Copper would dull easily and have to be re-sharpened often
- Some believe they used ramps to construct the pyramids the pyramids others believe they used levers; one guy believes that they used liquid limestone.
- They move on and are trying the idea of having the ramps wrap around the pyramid
- They use pulleys in the form of poles to toe the blocks up the ramps and around the corners
- They can continue wrapping the ramp higher and higher they continue wrapping the ramps higher and higher if they leave some of the casing tones un shaved for support
- The casing stones are all cut at a ration of 11/14
- Tombs had elaborate antitheft devices that all failed

Flint Knapping Experiment

- Rub edges to remove the weak areas and to expose the core
- Harder hammer stones tend to bounce more and create secondary fractures
- Avoid the fracture lines
- Hit at an angle less than 90 degrees
- Pressure flaking
- Obsidian was used by the Aztecs to cut and peel away the skin from bodies

Tyler Treitman
SBS 224s, Professor Mendoza
October 1, 2004

Death by Theory

Abstract: This book by Adrian Praetzelis is an informative study on archaeology presented in a unique and fun to read way. He use's a method of communicating where by he teaches text book information while telling a story about archaeologists unearthing a find.

Summary: The story begins talking about Hannah and Sean sitting at a seminar on ecofeminist archaeology. The presentation and the feminist aspect seen to bore them so they leave Later on they have a discussion about how archaeologists don't really find the truth, they look for possible explanations and personal theories about what happened in the past. Later a man named Tuliver invites them to come with on a dig for 6 weeks, he shows them potsherds which look like they came from Europe according to Hannah but Tuliver says they come from North America. That gets their attention. Then they hop on a plane to Washington State to see this site. In transit they talk about how archaeology has changed over the years and how it is now more like an industry with committees, councils and organizations. Upon arrival they meet Claude, an archeologist that tends to make extravagant claims and sometimes sees only the evidence in objects that only he

wants to see such as seeing a picture on a stone that is made of scratches. He ignores all the scratches that are not part of the picture he sees. As they unload their luggage Sean begins to talk with Hannah about theories. Sean asks why people treat the theory of evolution as a fact. Is it a fact or a theory? Hannah answers that it is a theory, people take it as a fact because they think that see evidence of it, but because no one witnessed it will still always be a theory. In the next chapter Sean meets a native woman named Freya who claims to be one of the “Children of Odin”. Sean and Hannah talk about New Archaeology and how its more than finding facts and data but it asks the question of why, it deals a lot more with understanding and interpretation. Later they talk about Ethno archaeology which is when someone studies the current people living in a certain location to help understand the pervious people who lived there. While teaching Sean what cultural Ecology is, Hanna also defines Determinism, she says it is “a certain set of ideas that will always result in a certain outcome” (51).

That night we learn that the rooming conditions are terrible as Hanna describes the bed. In the morning she goes for her routine run and sees an old light house but doesn't approach it. On the way back she trips on something that appears to be a photographic scale. That told her that the site the professor was talking about must be nearby. When she found the site she realized why the professor had kept the sites location a secrete to them, the site had been identified to be from the Stone Age and their was a carving on a rock that appeared to look like a Neolithic Goddess.

Freya comes over to visit Sean Working o the dig and they talk about how the site could prove to be a fake like the Hebrew letters carved in Ohio (apparently they were modern Hebrew and not ancient Hebrew). After digging for a while Hanna is introduced

to Mr. Bott who is a local to the island who wants an update on the project and wants to manage it because he believes that is it his heritage. While at dinner the archeologists tell Mr. Bott what the different levels of complexity are. There are Band Societies with no permanent architecture and no leadership, then there are sedentary societies with a permanent residence and consist of up to a thousand, then there are Chiefdoms with groups of several thousand ruled by hereditary leaders, and finally there are State Societies which have a massive population with a very complex infrastructure.

The next day Hanna goes on her run and notices Claude in a tent at the base of the tower. He begins to talk to her about his views which make her want to just leave. They talk about anthropology and cannibalism. Claude comes out and says that we cannot apply our ethics on the ancient people who practiced it because socially they are different and have a different view of what right and wrong are. Such as how he believes that the Aztecs committed so much cannibalism because they a diet that was almost devoid of protein and fats. He believed that the priests came up with the religious “mumbo-jumbo” to justify this act.

The next day they were digging again but this time a beneficial accident occurred. While carrying dirt away from the site Tuliver walked too close to the edge of the pit and caused the side wall to collapse. Tuliver fell and Terry who was in the pit at the time was covered in dirt. Afterward they realized that in fact a cyst was opened up and they discovered that there was a small burial chamber with dirt inside. Shocked all of the diggers gathered around to see the discovery while Tuliver left. Ten minutes later he came back to tell them all to stop digging there because he wanted to open it up when *International Geographic* could be there to take pictures.

As soon as this discovery was made and word got out that a body was unearthed their locals started coming around and gave the archaeologists a hard time. One was a nosy cop and another was Mr. Bott who wanted them to stop their work. Sandra got upset at that and thought that they were trying to stop the pursuit of knowledge. Sean corrected her and said that these people the Hopi actually like archaeology and how it helps them to understand their past, but they object to someone digging on sacred ground.

Later on they start talking about Gender and sex. They talk about how there is a big difference between the two. Sex is what you are biologically while gender is what you make yourself to be. For example in San Francisco, four genders can be seen; men, women, men acting like women, and women acting like men. To Apply this to archaeology there is a group of Native Americans on the Californian coast named the Chumash which have a separate gender called the “*Aqi*: men who took on some of the gender roles of women as well as being the groups undertakers”(105).

Back on the subject of the dig, “bd” as the author calls him compares the site to Catalhoyuk, a well known site in Turkey where a Neolithic town was found. The next day the remains were gone, someone had stolen them and Sean goes to spy on the Children of Odin to see if it was them who did it. It was actually bd who was also invited to the dig. Bd took the bones to be analyzed and to be carbon dated without consulting with Tuliver. Meanwhile, Dave Terry Sandra and Alasdair are looking for the bones in the home of the rock man who lives in the old lighthouse. Inside they find hanging mutilated rabbits, and get locked in; this is where the title *Death by Theory* is worked.

Back at the site the adults think that they are just off partying. With people missing and a skeleton taken they don't know what to say to the *Geographic* people who

are on their way. When they arrive and begin to ask questions for the article Hanna decides to protect the natives their from the publicity and says that the bone sample she sent off to be carbon dated was actually Mr. Bott's grandmothers skeleton. With this the people from International Graphic laugh at Tuliver and call him a fraud for trying to come up with a site by planting evidence and throwing around pot sherds to earn himself publicity and fame.

Reference Cited:

Praetzellis, Adrian. 2000. Death by Theory. Lanham, Maryland: AltaMira Press

Death by Theory: SBS224s FO3 Mid Term Paper Treitman

Garbology Project
(AKA)
GARBAGE FEST 5000

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction Today we started our Garbology research project. The area team Garbage Fest 5000 is concentrating it's research in dorm 206, the substance free dorm. The goal of our research is to document the trash we find in order to observe what their eating, daily and social activities. Each week we will be taking a sample from dorm 206 but from a different residence each time to observe their lifestyle. What type of foods do they eat? Do they have any signs of drugs and alcohol? We wanted to learn what type of lifestyle these substance free students have.

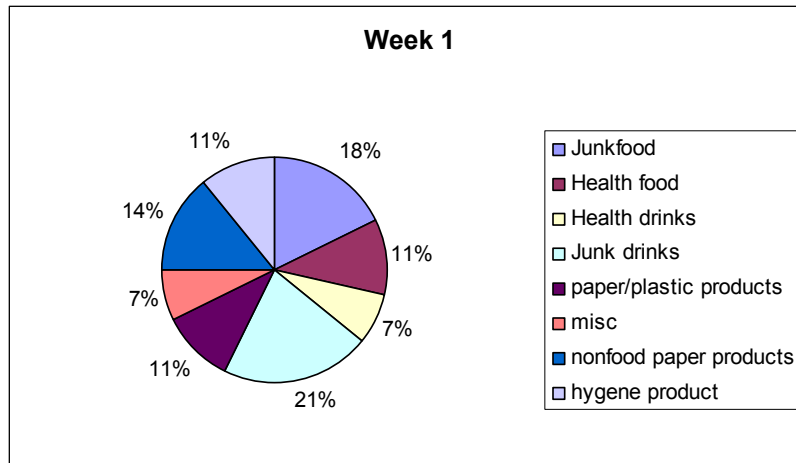
Hypothesis: Garbage Fest 5000 believe that there is substance being used, in the substance free dorms.

WEEK 1

Trash Bag = 4 ½ lbs. The trash that we observed this week consisted recycling, and old food wrappers. After documenting each piece and coding it, according to the garbage item code list from the Garbage Project of Arizona we have come to the following conclusion: According to the hand writing, q-tips with excess makeup on it, long, dark, hairballs, and pink utensils, we have come to the conclusion that the subject is female. There was a lot of tissues, with cans of chicken noodle soup, and juice which leads us to believe that she was sick. Also she was taking anti-acids so this could mean that she wasn't feeling well. We found other foods such as Flaming Hot Cheetos, potato wedges, loafs of bread, muffins, unfinished Twix, and a large amount of juice containers. Which could mean that she is attempting to eat healthy but the occasional slip of excess sugar and carbohydrates haunt her. And from this sample it look like she is substance free.

Week One

Junkfood	18%
Health food	11%
Health drinks	7%
Junk drinks	21%
paper/plastic products	11%
Misc	7%
nonfood paper products	14%
hygiene product	11%



WEEK 2 and 3

Day 2 and 3 In our random selection of garbage donators from the substance bldg. dorm 206, today we found that there was a lot of juices and liquids, as well as a good amount of wrappers from food and candy bought from the dining commons Also, a lot of what we found were plates, bowls and utensils which brings us to believe that they eat at the dining commons and the otter express often. But, the interesting part of our research today was that we found more personal articles such as a ripped up photograph of a unknown blonde female. We also found a love letter written by a person named Whit. This was found in a room a few doors down from the other subject. We also found a burned CD with "play me " written on it. We listened to the CD and it consisted of sad love songs. In conclusion we have found both of these subjects are experiencing some hardships with love of some sort.

Week Two

Junkfood
Health food
Health drinks
Junk drinks
paper/plastic products
Misc

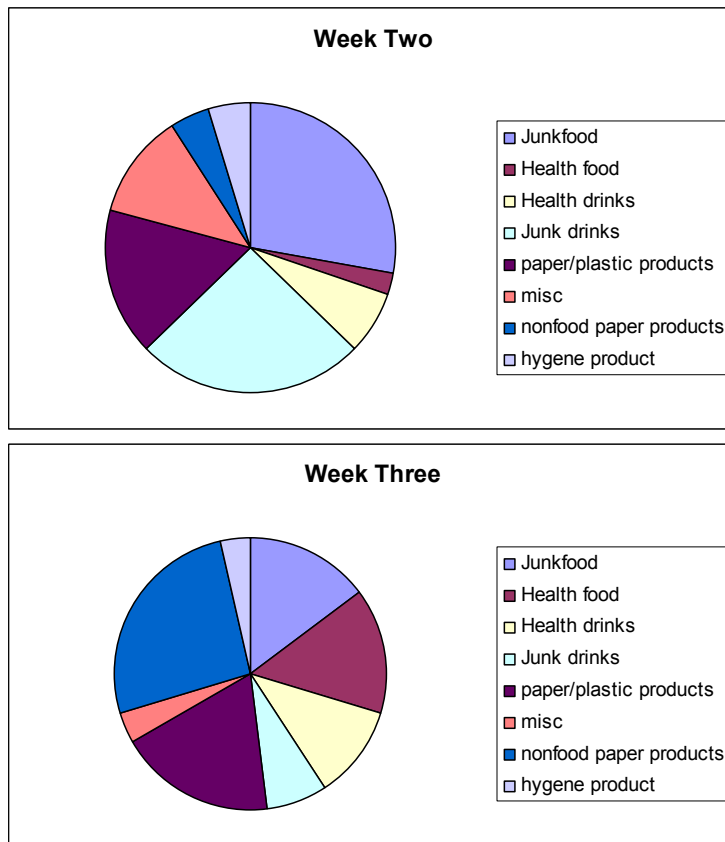
28%
2%
7%
26%
16%
12%

Week Three

Junkfood
Health food
Health drinks
Junk drinks
paper/plastic products
misc

15%
15%
11%
7%
19%
4%

nonfood paper products	5%	nonfood paper products	26%
hygiene product	5%	hygiene product	4%

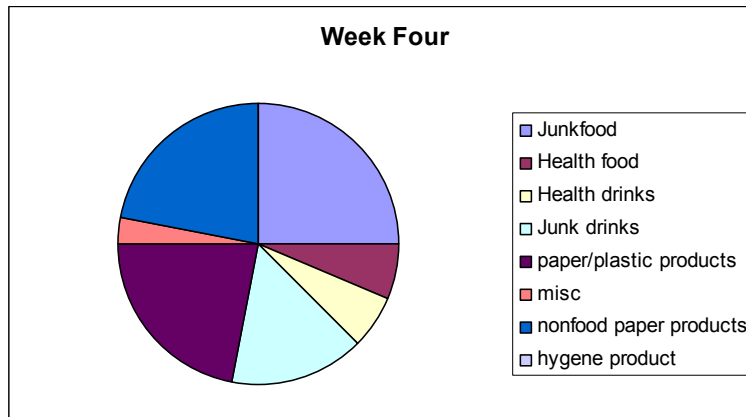


WEEK 4

We found numerous tissues and a tissue box, also we found lots of chewed gum. We found her age by a recent birthday card, she is 18. a lot of candy...possibly from Halloween because we also found lots of healthy fruits and vegetables. we found homework from her MPA 233 class. we know that she wears the 2 week disposable Accuvue contacts because we found a rapper. we also found a few band-aids...maybe she recently cut herself. we found lots of unfinished food, gum, and tissues...we think she is substance free, she eats pretty healthy, and is concerned with her breath. have found both of these subjects are experiencing some hardships with love of some sort.

Week Four

Junkfood	32%
Health food	8%
Health drinks	8%
Junk drinks	20%
paper/plastic products	28%
misc	4%
nonfood paper products	28%
hygene product	0%



Through the investigations we have conducted, some of the students in the Substance-Free Res Halls do not use substance. We have also found garbology to be one of the most accurate form of gaining knowledge of a person and their lifestyle without actually knowing them. In regards to diet and the food consumed by those being investigated. The students ate healthy but not consistently. The dinning commons was a large influence on the subjects eating habits; making healthier choices less available. Sugared drinks seemed to be the most popular and prevalent product in our findings. The trash also revealed torn a torn up love letter, picture, and a compact disc entitled "Play Me". When played the CD was a compilation of sad break up songs. As these sort of items appeared, the diet did go through change from healthier choices to less healthier choices. There is an immense amount of over

packaging for food purchased at grocery stores. This really adds to the trash and causes the amounts to increase greatly.

Although we did not find the substance ourselves. From the information we collected through the residents of the Substance-Free Res Hall, there are a great number of students who use substance. They are just more clever about where they discard these items.

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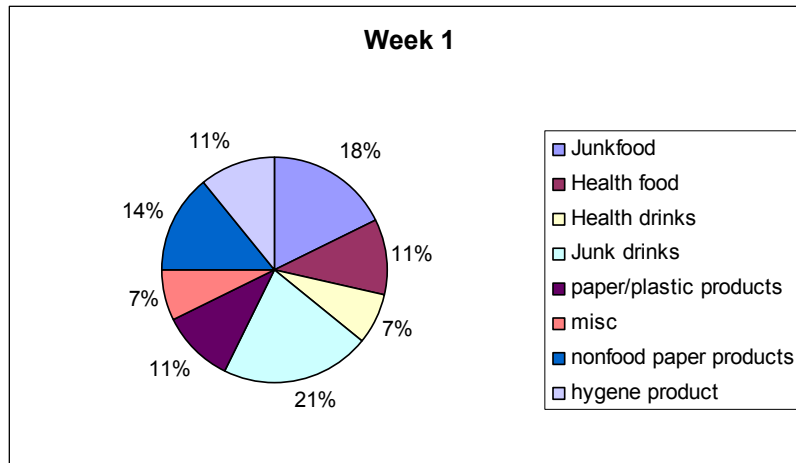
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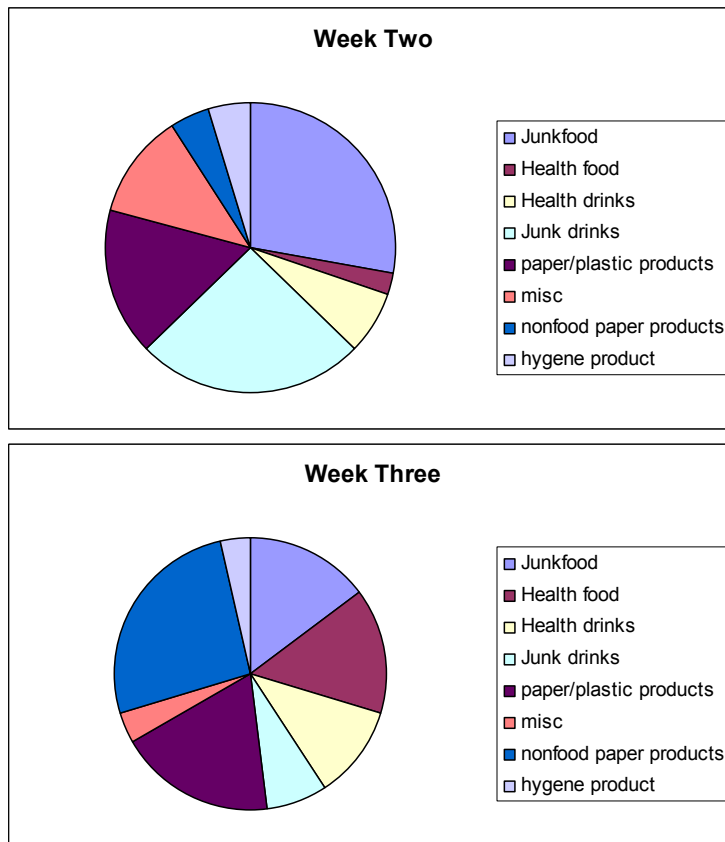
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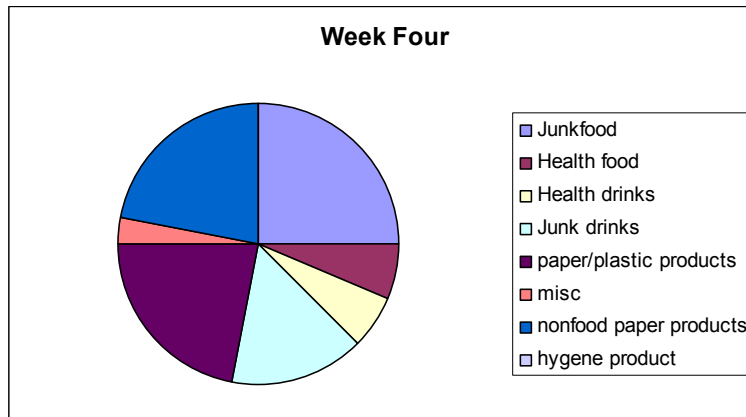


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Tyler Treitman

SBS 224, Professor Mendoza

December 16, 2004

Mid Term: Self Assessment

I enrolled in this archaeology class because I am drawn to archaeology; in fact these courses are my reason for attending this school. There are not many schools that offer archaeology to undergrads that are as easy in accepting students. That's why I choose Monterey Bay. I have been interested in ancient cultures and archaeology since I was a small child and never grew out of it. I also liked the fact that this school had some connections to dig sites such as the ones at the California Missions; it wasn't till after I came here that I found out that we also have connections to a dig site in Menorca, Spain. I believe that I have learned a lot about archaeology over the past semester and therefore I have accomplished my goal of expanding my knowledge in the field of archaeology. Now all I need is some experience *in* the actual field. I would have liked to actually get out to a site and have some first hand experience, but I'm sure that will come.

I have attended all of the class meetings that I can remember. Their may have been one or two that I was late for or missed from when I was sick in bed with a terrible

fever. I was almost unable to move so I figured that I wouldn't have really been able to focus in class. I have participated in all lab deliverables and I have contributed to all group activities and projects.

As far as the online journal goes I believe I have filled out all of the forums that have been posted. There may have been one that I missed while I was sick though. I am satisfied with my comments although some of them I felt pressured for time and only managed to fill out the bare minimum of questions, that doesn't mean I couldn't fill out more though.

I choose to do my final paper on the Garbology lab. Our study of garbology in the labs has been pretty interesting. I was amazed at all the information we could find out about these people. We could not make too many assumptions though because we do not have all of the trash disposed by a certain individual we only have a portion.

The flint knapping labs seemed interesting as well. I was amazed at the skill required to produce a piece that would prove an effective tool. The professionals make the process look simple. They would predict exactly where the stone would fracture and how much pressure it would take to do it. We had a hard enough time trying to get the stone fracture much less be able to predict where and how it would happen. But I still think that garbology is more fascinating because it tells us so much more about people and their lives as well as acting as a summary for archaeology in general. This is because archaeology is essentially the study of other people's trash, remains, or any thing that is left discarded.

If I were to take this class again or take another related class I would probably take notes differently. I would bring my laptop or would have used the computer to put notes on. This is because electronic information has so much more importance these days. I would have also answered more questions on the case studies. All together this class has been great though, it has really impacted my education and expanded my knowledge of archaeology.